



# SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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**Chair of Governors:** Susan Dungworth

**Executive Headteacher:** John Barnes

20 November 2020

Good afternoon

I hope this letter finds you all well? As you will be aware this week we saw Covid 19 hit Seaton Sluice Middle School hard. This resulted in 2 year groups having to be sent home and a number of pupils in other year groups having to self isolate. I must be clear and say that this was not the result of any poor practice or unsafe working practices. A number of pupils and some staff were in school with Covid but they did not have any of the classic symptoms. In fact most of them had bad headaches and stomach pains. I think it is fair to say that Covid 19 is proving very difficult to identify!

However, once we knew about the situation we took action and as always were guided by the advice from public health England. I know some people have asked why the school has not been closed. The simple reason is because the advice was not to and also we are still able to provide education for those pupils who are able to attend. I am sorry that some letters have not got out to people as fast as they would have wanted them but the simple fact is that we have got the letters out as quickly as we can.

What I have learnt from this week is that we all need to be aware that the symptoms are so variable we all need to be on our guard and secondly once the virus gets into school it can have a devastating impact so we must do all we can to keep it out. So please encourage your children to follow all our safety measures at all times.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the admin staff who have dealt with this matter so well and also praise Mrs McSparron for her cool calm leadership and handling of the situation. Can I also say thank you to the parents who supported us in such a great way this week.

As I write this letter I can't believe that we are 4 weeks away from breaking up for Christmas. I think it is safe to say that the Christmas period in school will not be the same this year. We will try and make it as good an experience as possible in these Covid times. However there is still a lot for all of us to do before we get to the festive period as always I am grateful for your support.

On non Covid issues the year 11 have finished their mocks and their behaviour was very good. We have had our visits from the local authority and they are pleased with what we are doing which is good to know. Whenever I walk around all 3 schools I am constantly amazed and very happy at the quality of teaching and learning that is going on in all year groups.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Barnes'.

John Barnes  
Executive Headteacher