



# SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland NE25 0BP

Tel: 0191 2371505 Fax: 0191 2376891

Email: [reception@svf.org.uk](mailto:reception@svf.org.uk)

[www.svf.org.uk](http://www.svf.org.uk)

**Chair of Governors:** Susan Dungworth

**Executive Headteacher:** John Barnes

5 January 2021

Good afternoon.

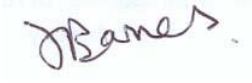
I hope this letter finds you well? It does not seem possible that 24 hours ago I was writing to you with a plan for the next few weeks only for the announcement last night to change all our plans. Not only that it raised a number of other questions. So I will try and clarify what we know to try and help you and your children over the next few weeks.

1. All 3 schools are now closed to pupils unless you have identified that you are a key worker or your child has been identified as being vulnerable. If this is the case then you can apply for your child to come into school and you do this by contacting the head of school. Most of you who apply have done this already.
2. Work for all pupils will be set via google classroom and staff will use this to pass messages onto pupils. If you have an issue with google classroom please contact the head of school.
3. We will be monitoring the work pupils are doing on google classroom from next week and if there is not enough being done we will contact you and let you know.
4. We will also contact your children on a regular basis via phone or email to see how they are doing.
5. If you are in receipt of free school meals we have yet to hear how this money will be paid to you, but we imagine it will be via a voucher system as before. When we hear anything we will let you know.
6. Each head of school will write to you with the times of the day that the school is open for the vulnerable/key workers group (VKW)
7. With regard to lunches, we are asking that if your child is in school they provide their own packed lunch and water to drink. The school kitchens will be closed until further notice.
8. For those pupils who are due to do exams this week and next, the government is currently saying they are still going ahead. So please continue to revise for them. If anything changes we will let you know.
9. For pupils in years 11 and 13, there has been mention of examinations in the Summer being cancelled. **However, there has been a lack of clarity** on this, and we are awaiting further announcements to see exactly how grades will be established. Whatever is decided upon, **it is very important that you do all the work that is set via Google Classroom so that you are well prepared regardless of whether examinations take place or if we use Centre Assessed Grades like last year.** For Year 13 students, trial examinations will still go ahead when we return to school, and students should continue to prepare for these.
10. At the moment there is no end date officially for this lockdown. February half term has been mentioned but that is not 100% certain. I do believe however that we will not return before then.
11. With regards to ICT equipment we are waiting to see if the government sends us any more ICT equipment that we can lend to pupils. If they do we will be in contact. However if you are struggling with ICT equipment please let us know and we will see what we can do to help.
12. I know this lockdown is going to be hard on the pupils so if you feel that your child is having mental health issues please let us know and we will see how we can support them and you.
13. In school pupils will be expected to follow the strict covid safety guidelines please ensure that they understand this.
14. With regard to the lockdown we really need the pupils to follow the guidance of staying at home and not being around others and potentially catching or spreading the virus. Please can everyone support us with this.

In order to keep things as simple as possible we will share a daily bulletin with parents in the same way as we did in the first lockdown and I will write to you every Friday just to keep you informed of anything. If there are any urgent messages I will obviously write and inform you that day.

If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to contact the federation. Like most of us I did not think we would end up back in a situation like this. However that has happened so once again all of us will work together to make sure that we do the best for the young people of our federation. As always please keep safe and stay well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light blue rectangular background.

John Barnes  
Executive Headteacher