

SEATON SLUICE MIDDLE SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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Executive Headteacher: John Barnes **Head of School:** Karen McSparron

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Dear parents/carers,

I hope this email finds you and your families well.

I just wanted to give you an update on life in school this week. We have had close to 60 pupils in and they have been working on their Google Classroom work, supported by teachers and teaching assistants. Each day they complete 6 lessons including a PE lesson. From next week, due to growing numbers, we will have two groups in each of Y6, Y7 and Y8.

In addition to that, most pupils at home seem to be managing to do more of their Google Classroom work. I have been really impressed at the tasks being set for students and some of the results of these. This week, I have seen photos of pupils who have been sewing puppets, completed research projects and seen a demonstration lesson on how to make sausage rolls!

We do accept that working on Google Classroom is challenging for some children (and parents and carers), so the advice is for them to do the best they can and not to get too anxious if circumstances mean that not everything gets handed in. As a school, we are trying to find a balance of ensuring children are working at home on their remote learning, but recognising that there may be times when it is not possible for everything to be completed.

This week we have also set up our Lateral Flow Device covid testing facility. We conducted our first tests in a practise run on staff this morning, which were completed successfully. We intend to begin testing the pupils in KS3, whose parents have completed the consent form, on Monday, January, 25th. Having been concerned about the process initially, now it is in place, we are confident we will be able to provide an efficient weekly testing service for our staff and KS3 pupils.

Please remember that we are always at the end of the phone if you have any queries or concerns. We are trying to check in with students, either through form teachers or through office staff as often as possible but anyone feels their child needs any extra support, please get in touch.

Best wishes for a lovely weekend,

Karen McSparron Head of School