



# 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

29 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well at this time. We have had another busy week in school, with 65 pupils attending and testing of KS3 pupils and all staff taking place once or twice weekly.

I continue to be really grateful to all the staff, pupils and parents who are doing all they can to make the time, either in school or at home, as productive and successful as possible.

From Monday, February 1st, to make it easier for all, we are changing the timetable so that all classes in a particular year group follow the same one. I have included a copy of this timetable for pupils' to work from so children should begin to follow this next week. They should go into their lessons as normal but their lessons will potentially be on at a different time to their usual timetable.

As the weeks progress, staff are becoming more knowledgeable about materials available to be used for remote learning and have been experimenting with class Google Meets, recorded voice overs and even their own demonstrations of how to do things, to name but a few. This continues to be a work in progress, but having seen some of the high quality lessons staff are setting, I have been really impressed with the range of activities being set for pupils.

This week we have sent out Remote Learning Surveys for parents and carers. We would appreciate it if you would take a few moments to complete this. This will help us review, and hopefully improve, our remote learning provision. Many thanks to those who have already completed this. Our intention is to send one for pupils to complete also.

I would like to make you aware that staff are working really hard at this time. It is a very different type of working for all of us, so to take some of the pressure off them, I would like to make the following requests:

- Please ask children to read the instructions the teacher writes before going into the task set. We are getting children going straight to the task without reading what they have to do and then messaging the teacher with 'I don't get it'.
- Teachers will not necessarily respond to any questions about school work outside of normal school hours and will not be available to respond at weekends at all.
- Paper copies of work will only be given to children who have no internet access and cannot see the Google Classroom. If pupils can get into the Google Classroom but are unable to submit their work, they should try to do it on paper. Parents could bring this into school each week or it can be returned when the pupils finally return to school.
- Don't ask children to do extra school work to catch up at weekends (unless they really want to). Children need a break from their Google Classroom lessons as well as parents! Accept that it may not always be



possible to do everything set and children should do what they can. It is essential to get the balance right for your personal circumstances.

- There will be times, as in school, that only certain key pieces of work will be assessed. It is not possible for teachers to assess every single thing they are sent and I am very mindful of their workload and their own work/home-life balance.
- Work will have a due date. If work is handed in too much after the due date, unfortunately teachers will not have the time to mark it.
- Children should be encouraged to work through the tasks for a particular day and leave things and move on if they are getting too far behind.
- Oak Academy and BBC Bitesize are very good websites if you are looking for extra/alternative on-line resources, especially if children are getting stuck on particular aspects of their learning.

All of the above will hopefully help reduce the stresses placed on everyone in the current situation.

The news on Wednesday from the Prime Minister is that schools will not return to full opening until at least March 8th, so we are preparing for remote learning to continue for much longer than we expected (or wanted). We will continue to do everything we can to make sure the learning of our young people is as good as we can make it. We very much appreciate everything parents and carers are doing to support us with this. As always, please keep in touch and let us know if there is any further support we can give you or your child. We know this is a challenging time.

Have a very enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Karen McSparron  
Head of School

Timetable for week beginning 1.2.21

Mon					
	1	2	3	4	5
Y5	Eng	Maths	Sci	PE	PE
Y6	Maths	Eng	Tech	Sci	ICT
Y7	Sci	Maths	Fre	Eng	Mus
Y8	Mus	PE	Eng	Fre	His
Tues					
	1	2	3	4	5
Y5	Maths	Hum	Eng	Sci	SMSC



<b>Y6</b>	Hum	Maths	Eng	SMSC	Mus
<b>Y7</b>	Maths	Tech	Tech	His	Eng
<b>Y8</b>	Sci	Eng	ICT	Maths	Geog
<b>Wed</b>					
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Y5</b>	Eng	Fre	Maths	PE	Music
<b>Y6</b>	Maths	Eng	Sci	ICT	PE
<b>Y7</b>	ICT	PE	Eng	Sci	SMSC
<b>Y8</b>	Maths	ICT	Eng	Art	SMSC
<b>Thurs</b>					
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Y5</b>	Eng	Maths	Tech	Hum	Sci
<b>Y6</b>	Eng	Maths	Fre	Hum	PE
<b>Y7</b>	Maths	Eng	Geog	Art	Fre
<b>Y8</b>	Maths	Sci	Eng	Fre	PE
<b>Friday</b>					
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Y5</b>	Maths	Eng	ICT	Art	RE
<b>Y6</b>	Maths	Eng	Sci	PE	Art
<b>Y7</b>	Sci	Eng	Maths	ICT	PE
<b>Y8</b>	Eng	Maths	Sci	Tech	Tech

