



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland NE25 0BP

Tel: 0191 2371505

Fax: 0191 2376891

Email: reception@svf.org.uk

www.svf.org.uk

Chair of Governors: Susan Dungworth

Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

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Good afternoon.

I hope this letter finds you well? We are now into a new month and yet nothing seems to have changed and if anything, the weather seems to have got worse! As I write this letter to you the rain is lashing down and the wind is blowing hard and the weather forecaster is saying that snow is on its way again. In any normal year we would be worrying about whether we would have to close the school due to snow where the school buildings are leaking. This year things like that do not seem to matter as much.

In the week which has seen the 10 millionth person be vaccinated and a slowing of hospital admissions already there is talk of when will schools return and how soon that should happen. As it stands the earliest that this will happen is the 8th of March and, in all honesty, I don't think it will be any sooner than that. I think I can speak for all my staff and most likely most of you when I say when we return is not as important as how we return. We want it to be done properly and we want it to be for the last time. No one needs to return to school only for another lockdown to happen! Having the young people back is so important we all know that but having them back properly is just as important.

However, normal life still goes on as best as it can and this week, we received the numbers of pupils who are joining Astley from the 2 middle schools. For some reason not everyone is accounted for so if you have not applied for Astley, either because you forgot or you did not know how to, please contact us so we can help you. If you have decided to send your child to another high school, I would be grateful if you could let me know why just so I am aware of things that you may not be happy about.

For year 9 pupils, we will be launching the option process in the next few days. We know this will be hard for you as you have not had a "normal" year 9 to base your decisions on but we hope the information we give you will help you make your decisions. For year 11 pupils, Mr Ironside will be writing to you about what is happening with regards to the 6th form process and the next steps.

I am also aware that parents and pupils in year 11 and 13 will be wondering what is happening with regards to exams this year. The plans will not be shared with us until the end of February at the earliest.

In the last two weeks we have carried out some parental questionnaires regarding the online learning we are providing. Thank you to those parents who responded to the questionnaire. We will share with you a more detailed comments report after the half term holiday. Also, we will where possible respond to the comments you made and as always look to improve what our offer is.

The headline figures were as follows.

School	Number of responses.	Has your child been able to access google classroom work?	Has work been set for all the subjects?	Have they received feedback from all their subjects?
ACHS	190	99.5%	97.4%	87.9%
SSMS	148	100%	100%	83.8%
WMS	52	96.2%	98.1%	80.8%

I have also had the privilege this week of “visiting” some google classrooms and I have to say that the standard of work being set and done by staff and pupils is of a very high quality. So, thank you to everyone for all they are doing regarding online learning.

This week saw the sad death of Captain Sir Tom Moore. He really was an inspiration to so many people on so many different levels. However, he was not and is not the only inspiration and on a daily basis I am inspired by what I see our staff, young people and you as parents and carers do. I don't think we can say well done enough to each and every person associated with the federation for the way that we have continued to do what is right for our pupils and for each other. It's not easy but you are all doing really well so thank you for that. We have one week left of this half term and I think all of us should be very proud of what we have achieved. As always if there is anything, we can help you with please do not hesitate to contact us and we will see how we can help.

Have a great weekend and please take care and stay safe.

All the best.



John Barnes
Executive Headteacher