



# 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

5/2/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are in February, difficult as that is to believe, being battered by some dreadful weather and all wishing we could get back to some normality. I think we are all finding this lockdown much harder than last year's but we are trying to stay focused and positive and continuing to do our best to provide a good quality education to those pupils in and out of school.

Here in school our numbers are up to 70+ per week and we continue to have two classes in each year group apart from Year 5, which has one. Weekly testing of staff, and pupils coming back into school, is continuing successfully and we have had no positive cases so far.

This week we have had the extra addition of Sports coaches to take PE lessons for each class every day. The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed this and it will continue hopefully until we return to full-school opening.

I also wanted to give you some feedback from the parents and carers Remote Learning Survey that we sent out a couple of weeks ago. We had 148 responses to our survey out of a possible 319 and we were pleased with the engagement. The responses were overwhelmingly positive and the majority of parents said they were very happy with the remote learning the school is providing. I would, as I do every week, like to say a huge thank you to the staff, who are continuing to work really hard, under challenging circumstances, to give our pupils the best learning experiences they can in the current situation.

The small number of comments that were suggestions of how we could improve have been shared with staff and, as always, we will review our practices and see how we can take on board some of these suggestions; the staff are learning new things and investigating new ways of working daily. Any individual comments will be responded to by staff as required.

Many thanks to all parents for their very positive comments, not just in the survey, but generally. It gives staff a huge boost when they feel their efforts have been appreciated.

In terms of continued support for children working at home, please do contact school at any time if you feel there is any help we can give. We understand how difficult and challenging home-schooling is. The children are getting tired now and may lack focus or motivation. Just encourage them to do what they can and try not to worry too much. Across the country, children will be at very different stages in their learning and schools will have to put things in place to organise the catch-up when we return.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Regards,

Karen McSparron

