



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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Chair of Governors: Susan Dungworth

Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

26 March 2021

Good afternoon

I hope you are well and ready for the Easter break. It does not seem possible that we are starting the Easter Holidays today having only come back to full schooling 3 weeks ago! The last 3 weeks have been a challenge as we have had to get everyone back into the normal routines of being in school and understanding the expectations of them. I imagine all of us are ready for a break.

Just to keep you all informed of a number of ongoing situations. With regard to testing, the government made a change in its expectations with regard to home testing this week. There was a letter sent home and home test kits have also been sent home. I hope everything is clear but if not please do contact us.

After Easter we will return to school following our current systems. Potentially in the holidays we may receive advice with regard to face masks in classrooms and a few other areas. If there is a change in any advice which affects how we operate on a daily basis we will of course inform you. I am aware that all three Heads of School have written to you with information about what has happened this term and will be happening next term.

For parents and pupils in years 11 and 13 you should have received information about the assessment windows and assessment process. We are still receiving information from the DFE and exam boards which means we will continue to refine the proposed plan but we will let people know about any changes. I would like to take this opportunity to strongly recommend pupils in years 11 and 13 use the holidays to prepare for the assessments that are coming.

Parents of pupils who receive free school meals you should have received information about the system over the holidays - if you are having any issues please let us know.

With regard to the proposed new build, some parents have been in contact with me regarding information that has been shared recently about the new build and the opening in 2023.

I have always said that I would share any information I had with you about the new build. I have not shared anything with you yet as I have not been told anything about the proposed new build. I am aware that money has been allocated in the county council budget this year for the new build but as we all know there have been previous budgets that have had money allocated for a new school building project in the Seaton Valley, but sadly those projects have never materialised.

As it stands at the moment, I am not aware of any start date for the new build or any completion date either. I am sure that you like me can't wait for there to be a school built that allows the children in Seaton Valley the same opportunities that children in other areas of the county have. Our Chair of Governors and I are pushing hard to get confirmation on what is happening with regards the proposed new build and as soon as we hear anything you will be informed.

This week has been a strange week with it being the anniversary of the first lockdown. When I think back to that week last year it seems a totally different time. So much has happened in the year that has followed. I must admit I thought it would be over by now but it is clear that we will still be under the effects of Covid for quite some time and I feel we all need to get the right mindset for that continued Covid impacted time.

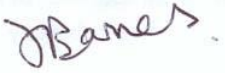
This last year has been hard and in some ways the 3 months since the start of the year have been the hardest. But we have survived them and we will move forward with a real purpose into the rest of the year. I feel that we should be proud of what we have done and aware that we are capable of doing just as well in the next term.

I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter and I hope that you all have a good break. To those pupils who are being assessed next term take this opportunity to prepare well for the assessments. However, all of us need to relax, rest and enjoy the holiday because I feel we have earned that.

Please remember that Monday 12th April is a training day so the schools are closed to pupils.

Please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



John Barnes
Executive Headteacher

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Partner School

