



# SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland NE25 0BP

Tel: 0191 2371505 Fax: 0191 2376891

Email: [reception@svf.org.uk](mailto:reception@svf.org.uk)

[www.svf.org.uk](http://www.svf.org.uk)

**Chair of Governors:** Susan Dungworth

**Executive Headteacher:** John Barnes

28 May 2021

Good afternoon.

I am wondering if everyone is a bit like me wondering how can we possibly be breaking up for May half term today. This week has seen our year 11s and year 13 leave school as well? I am left wondering where has this year gone too?

I must admit I am quite glad that next week is a holiday. I feel we are all ready for it. Yet again this half term has been a very tough half term in what has been a very tough year! However, the majority of our young people have been fabulous. The staff have worked very hard and the support form you is still very important to us.

There are some young people who have found it hard to settle back into the way the schools are run and our expectations of them but we will continue to support them with their transition back into "normal" schooling. There is no doubt the more we can return to our normal way of doing things the better it will be for everyone. The easing of the face coverings rule for pupils has been a great help and we are planning more gradual changes over the course of the next half term.

There can be no doubt that all of us have been affected by the pandemic in one way or another and we must continue to work together to tackle its effects and impacts on us. I think it is safe to say that Covid will continue to play a part in our lives for some time to come. However, we cannot allow it to be the "thing" that holds control over our lives. We are working very hard with the young people in our schools to say you cannot let Covid or the pandemic be what defines you. We all must look to the future and what will come next. All of us must focus on what we can make of ourselves and be the very best version of that. That will be the message that we give to the young people of the federation and I hope you will support us with that messaging.

Normally at this time of year we would be celebrating the young people who are leaving us, preparing for the next generation joining us. We will continue to do that but not in the usual ways. For those pupils who are with us after the half term holiday I hope that they have a great last 6 weeks of the year. Whatever happens in these 6 weeks sets the foundation for next year.

I would like to thank all my staff for their efforts this half term. The work that they put in for our young people is amazing.

I hope that all of you have a fab half term break please make sure it is a safe one and I look forward to seeing everyone for the last half term of the year!

Thank you to you as parents and carers for your support, help and understanding as we try and do our best for your children.

Take care and be safe and all the very best.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Barnes'.

John Barnes  
Executive Headteacher