



Autumn (1) Newsletter 2020

PTFA News!

New Benches and Picnic tables

Prior to lockdown, the PTFA raised a significant amount of money to buy new picnic tables and bench seats for our pupils to use. These make a very welcome addition to our school grounds. A big thank you to the PTFA and all who were involved in the fundraising. A special thank you to Mr Barkley for putting them all together!

Rewards Update:

We are trialling a new reward system in school. This involves children gaining merits, as they usually do, but these will go towards Achievement points. (Achievement points are Merits minus demerits.) The number of points they gain will allow them to 'buy into' rewards at the end of term, depending on how many achievement points they have earned.

The rewards the children will be able to buy will range from visits to the cinema or the ice-rink, cooking, archery, sports, computer time and DVD time. Children need to start earning merits now to be in with a chance of earning the reward they want.

In addition, the class in each year group with the most achievement points at the end of a half-term, will get a non-uniform day.

Reflection Time

We are also trialling making detention time into reflection time. This will be a consequence for negative actions and poor behaviour choices and will be during a lunchtime or after school but will focus more on self-reflection and what could be done differently.

This is the first newsletter of the new academic year and it has been an extraordinary beginning of term for our pupils and staff. Life at school is very different to the way it has been in the past and we have put in a lot of routines and guidance to keep ourselves safe in school, with reminders of social distancing, restricted use of corridor/toilet areas, increased use of sanitisers etc.. On the whole, we have been really impressed with the children and how well they have adapted to the new protocols. I would like to say well done to them all, particularly Year 5 who have newly arrived into school without their normal transition period and have settled extremely well.

Despite the current restrictions, we have had a busy half-term and, hopefully this newsletter will give you a flavour of what has been happening.

Virtual Open Evening

We were unable to hold our normal Y4 Open Evening to welcome prospective parents this year so instead, videos were recorded of staff and pupils talking about the school. These have been added to a presentation about the school, available to view on the Seaton Valley Federation website. Well done to Molly and Ciaran in Year 8 and Jessica, Charlie and Matilda in Y5 for being brave enough to do this!!

Macmillan Cancer Care

We were really disappointed not to be able to hold our Macmillan coffee morning this year. We always enjoy hosting this event and inviting parents/carers and people from the local community. To make sure we still raised some money for this excellent charity, we held a non-uniform day and made the grand total of £315.76. Many thanks to all involved.



The School Library is now fully functioning following a refurbishment and a £5000 grant for new books. All pupils will have the opportunity to change their library books every fortnight.

Children in Need 2020

On Friday 13th November, pupils are invited to come to school in whatever clothes they feel comfortable in, in return for a £1 donation. The money will go towards supporting mental health charities and the whole day is about encouraging young people to feel better about themselves.



Green Flag Award

This year we are working towards gaining the Green Flag Award for our school.

We have completed an audit in school of what we are currently doing well and what we need to improve.

With the help of Mrs Pawsey from ACHS, we reviewed the school building and grounds.

We have decided to focus on three key areas:

Litter, Reducing non-essential energy use and Education about Biodiversity and encouraging wildlife into our school grounds.

Our team of Y6 Eco-warriors carried out the audit and while they were completing it, they found an injured hedgehog in the school grounds. We gave him shelter and food for the night and on Friday a representative from Blyth Wildlife Rescue came to pick him up. The children have nicknamed him 'Sonic'! He will be returned to our school grounds once he is well enough.



Annual Sponsored Fun-Run

We are disappointed to announce that this year's Fun Run has been postponed due to the current Covid restrictions. We hope to be able to hold this in the Spring.



Dates for the diary

Thursday, October 22nd—Non-uniform day for classes with the most achievement points (further info to follow)

Friday, October 23rd— Spooky non-uniform day and Halloween activities

Friday, October 23rd- Close for half-term holiday

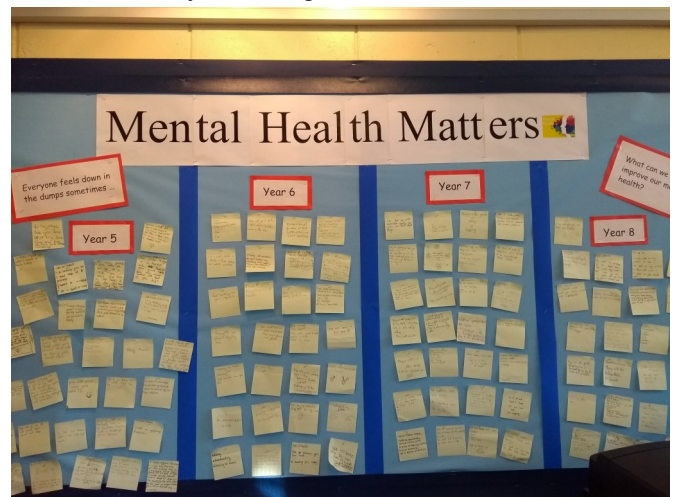
Monday, November 2nd— School reopens

Friday, November 13th— 'Come as Yourself' Children in Need Day 2020

Mental Health Matters

October 10th was World Mental Health Day and the staff did a series of assemblies and activities throughout the week based on the importance of looking after our mental health and well-being.

Children had to write down one thing that they would recommend to someone of their age to do if they were feeling lonely and unhappy. We created a whole school board of suggestions that people can use when they're feeling a little bit down.



Heating Update:

The school ducted-air heating system is having all of its filters replaced during the half-term break. This will mean we will be able to put our heating back on after the holidays!

And finally...a happy half-term holiday to everyone. Stay well and keep safe!