



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

September 10th 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and have enjoyed the unexpected September sunshine this week.

I just wanted to give you some updates now that we have returned to school.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for all your support in getting the children to school in the correct uniform. We have been very impressed at how smart they all look. I know there have been some delays in getting uniform items, but hopefully these will be resolved as soon as possible.

Our new Y5 pupils and the new pupils in Y6,7 and 8 all seem to have settled really well, despite not having their usual transition time and activities. A big well done to them for this, as it is always daunting coming to a new school and getting used to different surroundings and expectations. Please remember that, if you have any questions or concerns, to contact your child's form teacher initially, or their Head of Year.

School has been able to be much more 'normal' this week and we have seen lots of smiling faces - children and staff - as children are allowed to move around the school to different classrooms and to all eat lunch in the dining hall etc.

In terms of lunches, we have a new payment system in operation. There have been a few teething issues but these are almost sorted now. The menus will also be uploaded to the website within the next few days. Please be advised that we are a nut-free school and children must not bring any items containing nuts or nut products into school.

There have also been a few issues with School Transport this week and confusion about which children should get on which bus etc. I have been in touch with the County Council about this and it is being dealt with.

After school clubs are starting to be planned and further information will be coming out about these in the coming weeks. It would be great to see pupils involving themselves in some of these extra-curricular activities.

Our pupils have all been given their own planner, which should go between home and school every day. Merits and Demerits will both be collected and recorded in this. Children should get into the habit of writing in their homework, or any other reminders, every day, and it is expected to be signed by parents/carers once a week. The planners can also be used for you to communicate messages to individual teachers. We want this to be a home-school working document.



Your child will be receiving a Reading Record in the next week. Reading is an essential skill in our modern world and arguably the most important. At Seaton Sluice, we aim to foster a love of reading in our young people and encourage them to read as much as possible, out of school. This should be reading material of their choice and age-appropriate. They will be given the opportunity to get a book from the school library and to change it weekly. The reading they do at home will be classed as homework, and it is expected that parents and carers will sign the Reading Record each week. Your child's English teacher will check it each week to make sure they are completing this homework.

Finally, and most importantly, we are very aware that covid has not gone away. We are encouraging children in school to remember good personal hygiene habits, and to maintain distances where possible. There are opportunities to sanitise hands regularly and equipment in classrooms is cleaned, where appropriate, between lessons. KS3 children have all been given enough LFD tests to test twice a week until the end of this half-term. Can I please encourage you to keep testing on Wednesdays and Sundays so that we can maintain our new found 'normality'. None of us wants to see a return to restrictions.

Many thanks for your continued support.

KMcSparron
Head of School