



Monthly Head Teacher Newsletter

Dear Families,

We have had a wonderful start to the school year. The staff and children are really enjoying getting back into the school routine and I am continuously seeing heart-warming examples of children enjoying their learning, socialising with friends and generally having a wonderful time being back at school.

We are continuously improving and adapting the general running of the school day firstly to prioritise safety and secondly to ensure that the children's school experience is positive overall and that they are not being disadvantaged in any way due to health and safety restrictions. All children are still taking part in all the subjects in the National Curriculum, which holds true to our school's curriculum 'Intent'. Our full curriculum intent statement can be found here:

<https://www.seamillsprimary.org.uk/curriculum-our-intent>

Key Dates in October 2020

Monday 5th - Individual class photographs (siblings will be done later in the year)

Monday 12th – African drumming workshops

Wednesday 14th – Full Governing Body Meeting

Monday 26th to Friday 30th – Half Term Break

Announcements

Breakfast Club will NOT be offered in T2 (this is to further reduce the risk of transmission into class bubbles)



Health and Safety Reminders

Key School safety measures for drop off and collection

- Please stick to the one way systems in place throughout the school site
- Please sanitise hands as soon as you enter the site using the sanitisers available
- Please ensure you are entering and exiting through the correct gates and at the right times to minimise traffic of people (please refer to the reopening plan guidance if you are unsure on where and when)
- Please ensure you **do not** allow you child/ren to play on the equipment before and after school (this includes swing ball and the trim trial)
- Please **do not** sit on the picnic benches as they will have been sanitised for the children's use
- On collection please stand on the playground and **NOT** outside classroom doors, steps and grass slope
- Only **URGENT** enquires will be answered at the school office otherwise this is closed to parents and queries will be answered via telephone or email (please visit the contact us page for details)
- **Masks!** We are not enforcing the wearing of marks on drop off and collection as the outside space is big and open however we do encourage it to reduce transmission.

More safety information can be found on our COVID19 Safety information page of our website: <https://www.seamillsprimary.org.uk/covid-19-safety-information/>

Symptoms	Coronavirus <small>Symptoms range from mild to severe</small>	Cold <small>Gradual onset of symptoms</small>	Flu <small>Abrupt onset of symptoms</small>
 Fever	Common	Rare	Common
 Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 Cough	Common* (usually dry)	Mild	Common* (usually dry)
 Sneezing	No	Common	No
 Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
 Runny or stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes
 Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
 Diarrhea	Rare	No	Sometimes for children
 Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common
 Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No

Sources: World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A note from our new SENCO Miss Billingham



Dear Families,

I am really happy to be joining Sea Mills as Inclusion Leader and SENCO and it has been lovely to meet so many of you already at the gate. I can tell already that Sea Mills is an inclusive and welcoming school and I am excited to become part of the community.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have anything you wish to discuss with me about your child with special educational needs or disabilities, or if you feel you or your child is in need of any additional support. I will currently be offering meetings as phone or video calls.

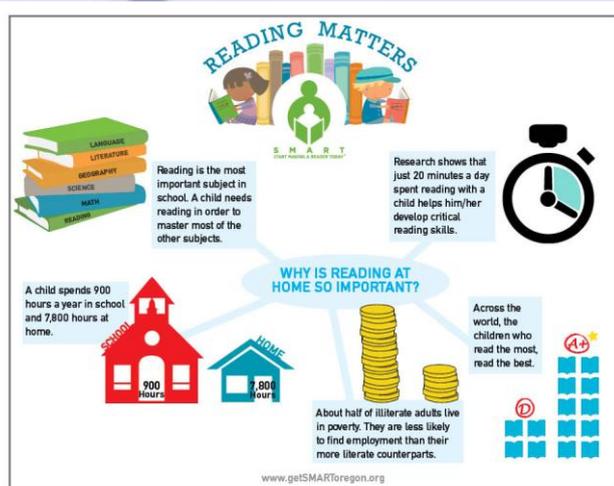
You can find useful information about SEND on the school website and also on Bristol's Local Offer: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/web/bristol-local-offer>

Please also see the attached flyer for Bristol SEND Information, Advice and Support service (SENDIAS) which has a list of events you may find useful if you have a child with SEND.

I look forward to continuing to get to know you and your children over the coming weeks and months.

The importance of reading at home

Reading at home has never been more important! Reading at home and reading for pleasure can have a massive impact on a child's education, social skills, wellbeing and mental health. So much research has been conducted which proves that reading is the key to unlocking learning across all subjects.



Mark Making



We started the year with a daily focus on mark-making in all classes expressed through art work. Pencil control, handwriting and presentation are all improved by a focus on developing fine motor control and it's a lot of fun too! Beautiful mark-making from different classes and handwriting samples are now on display in the corridor.

At Sea Mills all children have reading journals that should be used to record their reading at home. Never seen it? Ask you children where they are as they have them and should be using them everyday.

You should aim to read with your child every day or at least 3 x per week, logging this in their reading journal. All children across the school have access to reading rewards such as lucky dip prizes and free books! In a nutshell the more they read at home the more they win and benefit educationally which surely is enough of an incentive!

WHY READING TO KIDS IS IMPORTANT

Below are some of the invaluable benefits of reading to your child between the ages of two and five.

- 1 A STRONGER RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU
- 2 A FOUNDATION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
- 3 STRONGER BASIC SPEECH SKILLS
- 4 UNDERSTANDING HOW A BOOK IS READ
- 5 BETTER COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- 6 MASTERY OF LANGUAGE
- 7 SHARPER LOGICAL THINKING SKILLS
- 8 EXPOSURE TO NEW EXPERIENCES
- 9 ENHANCED CONCENTRATION & DISCIPLINE
- 10 THE KNOWLEDGE THAT READING IS FUN!

AND LASTLY, QUALITY TIME SPENT TOGETHER!

BLOG.EARLYMOMENTS.COM

