



Monthly Head Teacher Newsletter

Dear Families,

We have had a brilliant first term and I am so proud of the resilience the children have shown by adapting to the changes we have had to make to the school day in order to keep everyone safe. That being said, we have still managed to offer the children a fantastic varied and full curriculum in line with our school's intent.

We are all adapting to the new ways of working and we are especially thankful to St Edyth's and Highgrove who are still delivering their assemblies at Sea Mills virtually. The children really appreciate it.

Assemblies are an important part of the curriculum and all our assemblies are being delivered virtually. Our reward assembly is uploaded onto our website every week so parents are still able to take part. Please ensure you take a look and celebrate at home!

African Drumming

On Monday 12th October, Reception to Year 6 took part in an African drumming workshop. All children enjoyed a 45-minute lesson which explored rhythm, tempo and the different sounds that can be achieved by hitting the drum in different ways. The instructor is a professional African drummer who has been trained over many years in Gambia by drumming masters; he even makes his own drums!

The children had a fantastic time in the lesson. Kalen in Year 6 said "It was really fun and I really liked the sound it made.

Shantay Year 1 said "I was enjoying that I put my hands on the drum but it was very loud!"

Key Dates in November 2020

Friday 23rd October – Fancy Dress Day

Monday 26th October – 30th Half Term

Wednesday 11th November – Scootability Y3 and Y4

Monday 16th – Celebration of Work (children bringing work home)

Wednesday 18th – Parents Evening and Resources Governors

Monday 23rd - Diwali

Tuesday 24th – Parents Evening (see email)

Announcements

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



Health and Safety: Collection at the end of day

Thank you all for following our health and safety measures we have in place it is really helping us minimise the risk of transmission.

We all need to continue working together with the continuation of cases rising in the local area.

For parents who are collecting children at both 3.00pm and 3.15pm:

- Please ensure your child/ren are not running around the school's outdoor site in between other parents and children
- Climbing trees
- Playing on the sanitised equipment

We realise this is a difficult 15 minute wait and children can easily become bored. However, it has become an increasing problem where parents arriving onto school site are having to dodge children who are not being supervised by parents. Once they are collected they are your responsibility. This is when mixing outside of bubbles or having contact with a greater number of people can happen.

If you are able to wait offsite please do so and return at 3.15pm.

Thank you for your support and understanding we totally appreciate that this is difficult to navigate. We are trying really hard to keep our school as safe as possible and open for all children for as long as possible.

More safety information can be found on our COVID19 Safety information page of our website:

<https://www.seamillsprimary.org.uk/covid-19-safety-information/>

Fancy Dress Day



Monies raised will go towards keeping our book corners stocked with the latest books.

Remote Learning Plan

It's really important than in the event of a class closure or lock down we are ready to ensure that learning can continue as smoothly as possible. We have been working hard during the summer break and the first few weeks of term to improve out remote learning plans so that all our families are able to access home learning in the event of a class closure.

Over the last few weeks, we have been fine-tuning our plans and have used the feedback from questionnaire to make our final adjustments. Our Remote Learning Policy and Acceptable Use Agreement can be found on our website in the policy section. I would encourage all our parents to have a look at our policy and make yourself familiar with it.

Last week I sent out a parent guide to **google classroom** - this only applies to parents of children in Y1- Y6. This is to ensure you have had time to digest the guidance and have it ready in the event of a class closure so you are not inundated with information when things may be slightly more stressful.



There are alternative arrangements in place for EYFS and these will be sent out to parents in the event of a class closure.

We hope you are finding the information helpful and supportive and would appreciate any feedback so we are able to improve our service to parents.

Black Lives Matter

At Sea Mills we want to spend every day educating ourselves and our children about equality. To end racism we must work together as a community. We need to talk to our children and educate them as respectful citizens of the world.

As a school family we are **all** one, we **all** belong, we are **all** equal and we are **all** important.

During the month of October we have had a particular focus on Black Lives not only to celebrate Black History Month but to ensure those important conversations and discussions are held with our community. We are continuously reviewing our curriculum and we always strive to ensure it is diverse and celebrates our diverse community and world. We already have made huge efforts to diversify our library books and this work is always continuing. If you have any book recommendations for our library please let us know.

Our website now has a dedicated page for Black Lives Matter and it holds a wealth of resources for parents to access so you are able to continue this important education at home.

If you'd like to find out more about our curriculum, please visit our school website pages and class pages to find out more. We'd also really appreciate input from parents so if you have any suggestions please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Opal and playtimes

We have improved our outdoor environment over the last couple of years with SNUG large play equipment, varied sports equipment (thanks PTFA!), willow sculptures, tree & hedge planting and wicker portable dens. The PTFA are also doing a fantastic job raising funds to pay for a more challenging and exciting extension to the 'Trym Trail'.

Alongside this, we are now starting an exciting new project with OPAL (outdoor play and learning) to create more creative and varied play and learning opportunities during break and lunchtimes. All staff have received training during the INSET day on play theory and organisation and there is lots of enthusiasm about the ideas and fun we will have with the children. It's an 18 month project and the OPAL working party have already met to audit our current provision. Look out for updates both in this newsletter and the school website. If you would like to know more about OPAL there is lots more information on their website:

outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk

