

September 2021



# Monthly Head Teacher Newsletter

Dear Families,

**Welcome Back!** We hope you have all had a wonderful Summer break and are ready to begin a new academic year. All of the staff here are so excited to welcome the children to a new school year and have been hard at work planning rich learning experiences to start the year. Disruption is still possible due to Covid but should be less with the updated guidance and though we may need to use supply teachers to cover staff absence we hope that this will continue to be a rare occurrence.

As communicated in my letter last week, we are reverting back to pre-Covid routines. We are still prioritising the safety of all school members whilst on site. We will continue to encourage regular hand washing, have an increased cleaning schedule and encourage regular Lateral Flow Testing of all our school community [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). An up to date risk assessment can be found on our dedicated [Covid](#) page on the school website.

On a more positive note, the staff and children are really enjoying getting back into the 'normal' school routine. Over the last couple of years we have continued to increase our mental health and wellbeing support for children, families and staff. We continue to have a brilliant pastoral team offering support and guidance to all our school community. Please visit the schools website for more information on how to access this. [Families and Community - Sea Mills Primary School](#)

Our full curriculum continues to be offered and I know teachers have planned some spectacular learning this year with the full return of: school trips, visitors, swimming, after school clubs (coming soon), theme days etc. If you need a reminder of our school's **intent** statement it can be found here: <https://www.seamillsprimary.org.uk/curriculum-our-intent>

## KEY DATES

### September and October 2021

#### September

- 15<sup>th</sup> – Meet the Teacher
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Standards Governors Meeting 6pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> - Y6 Bikeability Group 1
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Y6 Bikeability Group 2
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Resources Governors Meeting 6pm
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Y6 Trip Connecting to Nature Day

#### October

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Diversity Month Begins
- 1<sup>st</sup> - Y6 Bikeability Group 2
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Harvest Festival @ St Edyths
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Full Governing Body Meeting 6pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Diversity Month Celebration
- 22<sup>nd</sup> –Half Term Begins

## Free School Meals

The circumstances of many families have changed over the course of the pandemic and more children may now be entitled to free school meals. The school receives a significant 'chunk' of funding from the government to support 'pupil premium' children (£1345 for each child receiving free school meals or who has received free school meals in the last 6 years). Since all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal it may not have occurred to families to apply whilst they already have lunch provided. We would urge you to register your child as it is massively important to the provision we can offer the children at our school. If you need any help with applying let the office know and we can give you all the help you need!

## An update from Mrs Randall (me)

All of you will have noticed my absence at the end of last academic year. Mr Kinnear, the SLT team and the staff at Sea Mills did a brilliant job at taking the school to the end of the school year in my absence. I know it was not without its challenges.

Some of you may have noticed that I am currently not on school site, I am unfortunately recovering from more surgery I had towards the end of the summer holiday. I am however working full time and in constant contact with the staff and children. As we know, working from home has become easier over the last 2 years but I am keenly aware it does not replicate me being on school site. I will be returning in stages onto school site in the next fortnight and simply cannot wait to be back.

Unfortunately, I am expecting to have more surgery in the next couple of months. I will do everything I can to reduce the impact of my absence. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful deputy and staff team! The governors and local authority have been fully informed and have offered additional support to Mr Kinnear and the SLT team should they require it while I am not in school.

During my absences, I have continued to check in with school regularly and give my support and guidance when required. The staff also keep me updated with the children's learning, news and allow me to join lessons and activities using technology.

I continue to be fully committed to Sea Mills and your children. I must however prioritise my health initially so I am able to do this. I will see you all very shortly in person. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch via the normal methods.

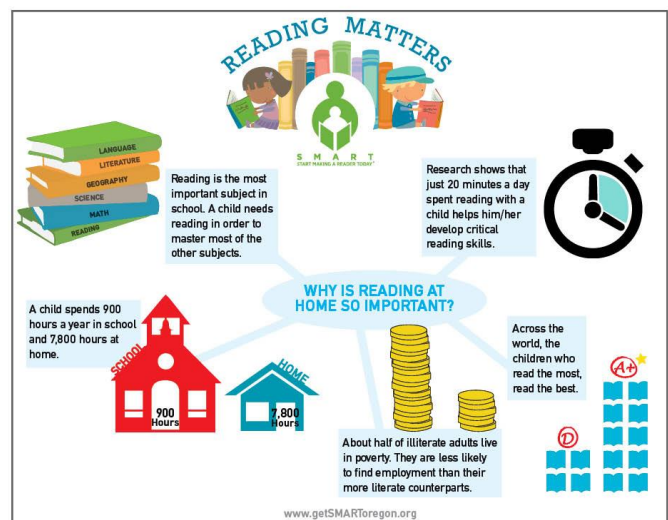
## Reading at Home!

**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.

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 they have them and should be using them every day.

You should be aiming to reading with your child at least 3 x per week and 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!





# Sunday Fun Day and Breakfast Club

During the Summer break, some of you will have taken advantage of the **free** summer activities we had on offer at Sea Mills Primary.

Our family support worker Nicky planned and organised not only Sunday Fun Day but also a twice-weekly **free** breakfast club on a Tuesday and Thursday. We had a spectacular turn out to all events we had on offer.

I am sure you will all join me in thanking all those individuals who helped during those events. A particular thank you goes to St Edyths and the Children's Centre who helped plan and support the events. Of course also a **HUGE** thank you to Nicky who always gives a massive amount of her time, energy to support our school community.

Here are some highlights!



## Other Notices and reminders

- Make sure your child has a water bottle in school. We have some hot weather on the way!
- Children in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit to school for a break time snack (only fruit) to keep them going until lunch. Fruit will be on sale to Key Stage 2 children at break time for 20 pence **starting next week**.
- Please encourage your child to wear a helmet if they cycle or scoot to school.
- To support creative play at lunchtime we would welcome any donations of scooters, small word play (playmobil, figures etc), dinosaurs, animals, plastic play mats and books or comics.
- We have an updated Home School Agreement (please see the other attachment with this newsletter)

## Meet the Teacher Y1-Y6

Come in and have the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, learn all about class routines, curriculum, homework and much more!

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

(in classrooms, entrance via outer classroom doors)

Session 1: 3.15pm- 3.30pm

Session 2: 3.35pm – 3.45pm

