

Monthly Head Teacher Newsletter

Dear Families,

What a brilliant first term we have had back this academic year. We have already had so much going on in school during September and October!

We have lots planned for November; what's on this month can be found in our dates as well as on our website.

On a personal note, I am happy to say I am fully recovered from my latest surgery. Moving forwards, I should not require any more surgery. I would like to personally thank Mr Kinnear and all staff for filling in when I have been absent; having treatment and recovering from surgery. I am looking forward to getting some normality back and being stuck back into school life!

Staff News: Mr Johnson will sadly be leaving us at the end of this term. He has secured an Assistant Headship at another school. Everyone will hugely miss him and I know you will join me in wishing him all the best in his new role at his new school.

To replace Mr Johnson we have employed Mr Robert Prior a brilliant experienced teacher who really impressed us on his interview. He will be visiting school this term and we will ensure to give parents an opportunity to meet him on one of his visit days.

Scooters and Bikes

Please encourage children to dismount their bikes and scooters before coming or leaving through the gate.

Homework

Please ensure you are supporting your child at home with their homework.

All children should be reading at home daily, practising their spellings and practising their number bonds or times tables. Please check your children's class newsletters for further information.

Wellies & Jumpers

The field is increasingly muddy. We are keen to let the children play on the grass but when it is too muddy we will only let those children with wellies go on. Please send a **named** pair of wellies in with your child if you want them to be able to play on the field. Also, please, please put your child's name in their jumpers – we have so many lost ones at the end of a term! Even a first name in biro on a label is useful.



Key Dates

November

31st October– Authors Week

4th– Book Character Fancy Dress

9th– Year 6 trip

W/C 14th– Anti-bullying Week (ABW)
(wear odd socks with uniform on Tuesday)

14th– INSET Day

15th– Parent's Evening and wear odd socks with uniform for ABW

17th – Y1 local walk to Sea Mills Library

18th – Children in Need £1.00
Non-uniform day

23rd– Parent's Evening

December

14th– Year 6 Height and Weight checks

13th – Y1 Christmas Play 2pm

15th – Y1 Christmas Play 4pm

16th– Last day of term



Friday 18th November
£1.00
Non-Uniform Day

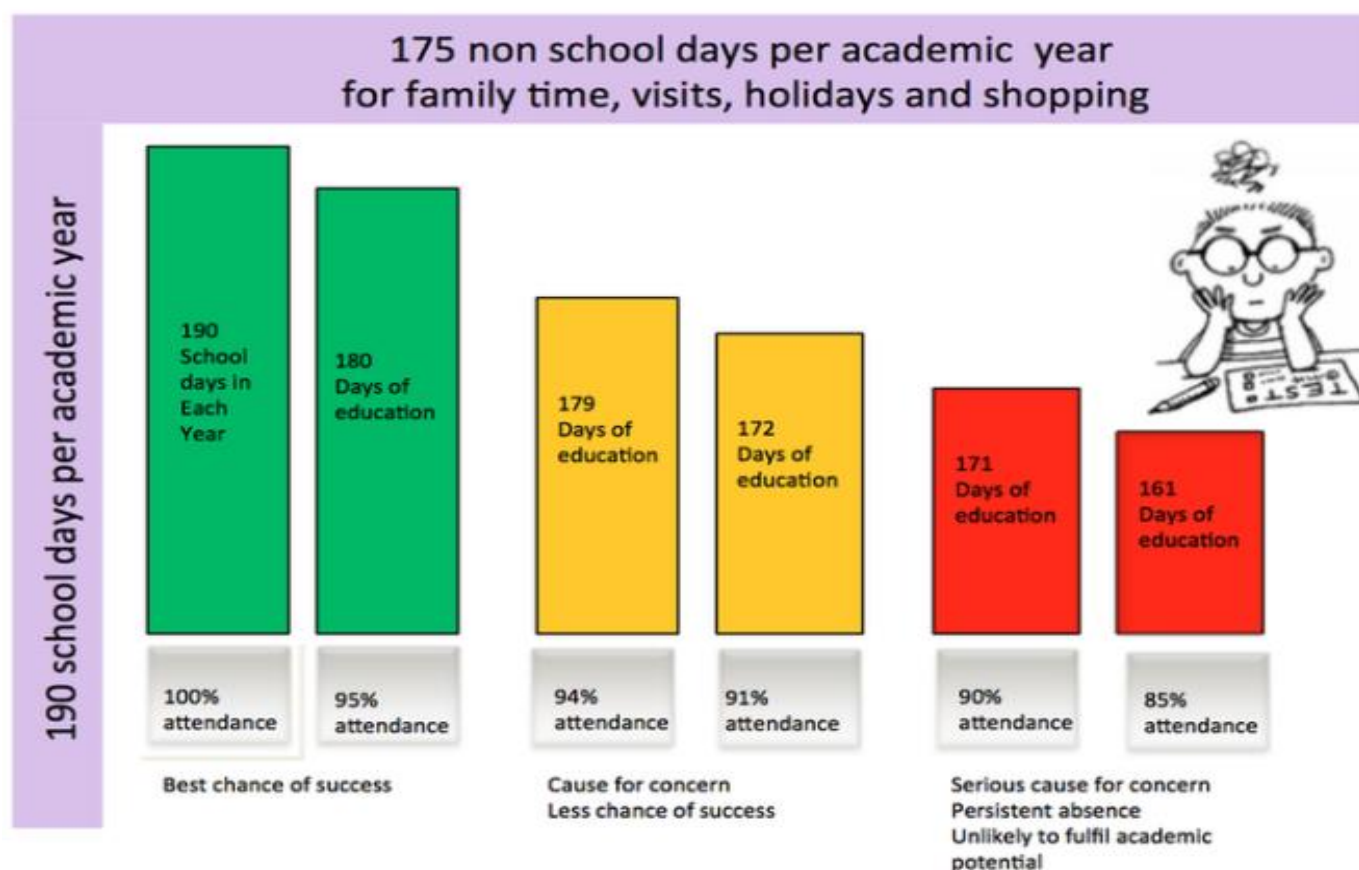
Attendance

Our school target for attendance is **96%** and we know that **every day in school counts**. Unfortunately, a large number of children are consistently not meeting this target and worryingly some children have attendance **below 90%** which puts them in the risk bracket of 'persistent absentees' and means they have **missed 4 weeks of school over the school year**. If you need support with getting your child into school please ask – we are here to help.

If your child's attendance is significantly below our school target we will be in contact to offer support and you will be required to **provide medical evidence for any illness**. If attendance does not improve for your child you will be invited to a meeting with the head or deputy where we can look in more depth at any barriers to attending school.

If your child is absent for an unauthorised reason, for example a holiday, for 4 days within a 10 week period you are likely to receive a **penalty notice and fine**.

We really want the best for every single child at Sea Mills and good attendance is directly linked to a child's achievement, happiness and success in school.



Every Minute Counts

Lateness = Lost Learning (the figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 minutes late each day = 3 days lost!

10 minutes late each day = 6.5 days lost!

15 minutes late each day = 10 days lost!

20 minutes late each day = 13 days lost!

30 minutes late each day = 19 days lost!

How we communicate with families

- **Termly Class Newsletters-** this covers what is coming up in your child's class that term. It will have information on the curriculum, homework, dates as well as reminders about PE days and anything else that goes on in the classroom
- **Monthly Head Teachers Newsletter-** This will share important information with parents such as: up and coming changes to school life and policy, inform parents how they can support children at home, remind parents about what the school offers, review special events of the month that has passed, share dates of the coming month and much more
- **Website-** The school's website is kept as up to date as possible and holds a wealth of information such as: our values, our intent, our policies, our classes, our curriculum. Most of our parent's questions about what happens and our approaches in school can be found here. On our community and signposting pages, you can find information on activities happening in the community. Our website can also be translated in to most languages.
- **Email–** Our main mode of communication is via email. This may be the newsletters or correspondence relating to a specific trip, event, health and safety matter etc. Please ensure we hold a **valid and up to date email address** for you so you do not miss out on vital communication.
- **SMS-** We sometime need to urgently alert or remind parents about events so occasionally we will send an SMS. Please ensure we hold your up to date mobile number so you do not miss out on vital communication.
- **Phone call –** We will only call parents in response to a communication or in an emergency. Please ensure we hold your up to date number as well as at least 2 emergency contacts so you do not miss out on emergency communication. This is **essential for health and safety reasons**.
- **In person-** We operate an open door policy and are always willing to talk to parents. If you need to speak with a member of staff a good time for this is drop off or collections as during the day most staff will be busy teaching. During the pandemic, we have had to postpone our coffee mornings. From Term 2 we will be starting these again on Thursdays; this is a good time to catch up with senior leaders.

Our School Improvement Plan

Here at Sea Mills Primary School, we are always ready to find new ways to better the teaching and learning experience we provide in order to improve the outcomes of those in our care. If you would like to know more about our aims for the academic year and how we will go about achieving these, please come in and ask a member of staff.

Objective 1	To close gaps in R, W and M especially for disadvantaged children to ensure no one is left behind (post pandemic)
Objective 2	To embed reading approaches across the school to ensure children are able to access the full curriculum
Objective 3	To develop the 'Sea Mills Super Skills' curriculum to help foster resilient learners and to uphold our intent
Objective 4	Subject Champions take responsibility and leadership of supporting teaching staff so they are able to develop Curious City enquiries ensuring they are child led, represent diversity and are localized

Hand-picked information, advice and resources for parents/carers on how to support your child's needs.



Parents Book Swap

Do not forget we have a parent's book swap bookshelf in our office area. Please feel free to donate books and take books for your own reading! Please just help yourself.



PTFA News

Meet the Team:

Chair: Jen and Niles

Vice Chair: Yasmine and Katie

Secretary: Josie

Treasurer: Suzanne

The PTFA are a friendly and welcoming group who would love more help from all families! Their next meeting is tomorrow, Thursday 3rd from 5pm – 6pm in school and will be focused on planning the Christmas Fayre in early December. Don't worry if you can't attend meetings just let the office know that you would like to help out and someone will be in touch – all offers of help, for example helping on a stall for an hour, are most welcome!

SEA MILLS PRIMARY IS

RESPECT
RESPONSIBILITY
ASPIRATION

UNITED AGAINST BULLYING

When someone says or does something unintentionally hurtful and they do it once, that's **UNKIND**.

When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they do it once, that's **MEAN**.

When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they keep doing it, even when you tell them to stop or show them you're upset, that's **BULLYING**.

Choose to be **KIND**

If you are being bullied or see someone being bullied talk to someone you trust.

Bullying could be:



Physical



Emotional



Social



Cyber

More information about Anti Bullying Week for parents can be found on our website in the Announcement section: [Sea Mills Primary School, Bristol - Welcome](#)

SEA MILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

TIME TO GET MERRY!

**SPARKLE AND SHINE AT OUR
WINTER FAMILY DISCO!**

**CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN
ADULT**

**WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO WEAR
SOMETHING SPARKLY!**

DECEMBER 15, 2022 | 5PM - 6.30PM

FREE ENTRY

HOT DOGS £2.00

DRINKS 50P (UNLIMITED REFILLS)