

Seghill First School Newsletter September 2024 edition 3

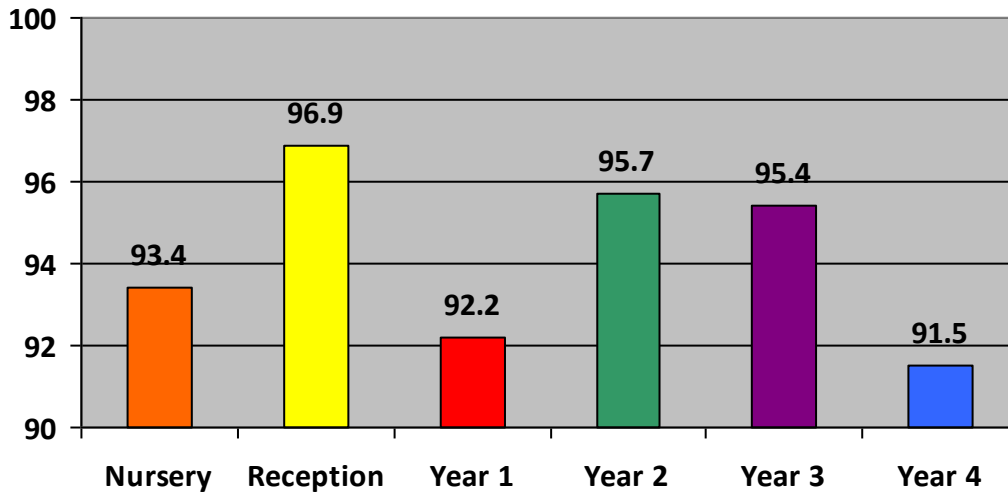
Attendance

Whole school attendance year to date 94.5%

National average attendance 2023 – 2024 94.5%

Whole school attendance this week 94.2%

Whole school attendance this week was 94.2%. Class of the week for this week is **Yellow class** with 96.9% attendance. Well done **Yellow class**. You have the attendance octopus and you have had a dip in the sweet box. Our winner for a **dip in the attendance prize box** as a reward for having 100% attendance and no late marks for the week is **Faye** in Yellow class. Well done **Faye**.



Star of the week

Our Stars of the Week are-



WOW winners

Our Writers of the Week are-

Mrs Lyons	Parker	Mrs Lyons	Owen
Mrs Watson and Mrs Thomas	Leila	Mrs Watson and Mrs Thomas	Freya
Miss Winter	Jorja	Miss Winter	Harry
Mrs Bell	Gracie	Mrs Bell	Brogan
Mrs Kembrey	Megan	Mrs Kembrey	Alice
Mrs Askew	Kaia	Mrs Askew	Jessica
Miss Chappell	Jorja	Mrs Jose	Carter M
Staff star	Miss Welton	Mrs Miller	Finnlugh
		Mrs Ellison	Edison
		Miss Welton	Evaya

Jeans for Genes no uniform

Thank you to all staff and children who wore **denim** today and made a donation to support the Jeans for Genes charity. This charity does amazing work to support families where a child has a genetic disorder. We raised £91. Well done everyone.

No dogs on the school site

Dogs are not allowed on our school grounds. Our school grounds include the drive, the yard, all path around school and the area next to Cheviot View which is inside the red pencil bollards.

Please do not bring your dog onto our school site, even if they are in your bag, being carried or they are super cute.



Seghill First School annual calendar autumn 2024

Christmas	Fundraising and community events
Christmas post boxes open - Monday 16 th December	Jeans for Genes non uniform day – Friday 20 th September
Year 1 to Year 4 Christmas concert – Monday 16 th December 9.00am and 2.30pm	MacMillan coffee morning – Friday 27 th September 9.00am
Nursery and Reception Christmas performance – Tuesday 17 th December 9.00am	Non uniform for Christmas fayre – Friday 8 th November
Nursery and Reception Christmas party – Tuesday 17 th December 1.00pm	Children in Need – Friday 15 th November
Christmas lunch all year groups – Wednesday 18 th December	Non uniform for Christmas fayre – Friday 22 nd November
Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas party – Wednesday 18 th December 1.00pm	Non uniform for Christmas Fayre – Friday 6 th December
Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas party – Thursday 19 th December 1.00pm	Christmas Fayre – Friday 13 th December from 3.15pm
	Film night Year 1 to Year 4 – Wednesday 18 th December 3.30pm
Autumn term meetings for parents and children with class teachers	Other school events
Monday 21 st October from 3.30pm	Santa’s reading challenge – Monday 2 nd December
Wednesday 23 th October from 2.30pm	
Celebration assemblies	
Friday 25 th October 2.30pm	
Friday 20 th December 9.00am	

School is closed on these dates-

Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November for the half term holidays.

Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January for the Christmas holidays.

Monday 06 January 2025 due to a staff training day.

Asda cashpot

Between 2nd September and 30th November 2024, every time customers shop with **Asda** using their **Rewards app**, they can choose a school to receive a percentage of their spend. And that’s not all — every time a customer chooses our school, Asda will donate £1 to our school’s Cashpot, plus a further £50 when our first customer shops. We would be very grateful if you would help us to raise a bit of extra money by using the Rewards app if shopping at Asda.



Birthdays

We have had only one birthday in school this week. **Francesca** in Blue class is now 9. Happy birthday Francesca. We hope your birthday was special and fun.



Macmillan Coffee afternoon

We will be holding our annual Macmillan Coffee afternoon on **Friday 27 September from 2:15pm.**

This is always an excellent event while raising money for a fantastic charity. We would like to welcome as many of you as possible. Please feel free to ask family and friends to come along too. The children will be joining us in the hall for the coffee afternoon.

We would be delighted to receive **donations of cakes and goodies** on Thursday and Friday before the event.

This year we are asking for an **entry fee into the coffee afternoon of £3.00 per adult.** This will include-

- a raffle ticket for our free raffle;
- unlimited cakes and cuppas for each paying adult;
- juice and cakes for any children you bring with you and all of our children who are in school.

There will be **no cost for drinks or cakes** when you have paid your entry fee. We will also have an additional **raffle** going on, with tickets costing **£1 per strip.**

Doors will open from **2:15pm** at the school office. Please bring £3.00 entry fee in **cash.** It will really help if you have the correct money.

All of the money raised from the entry fee and the raffle will go directly to Macmillan. We really hope that you will be able to join us.



Covid-19 advice

Respiratory infections, including the common cold and COVID-19, are common in children and young people, particularly during the winter months. For most children these illnesses will not be serious, and they will soon recover following rest and plenty of fluids.

Routine testing for COVID-19 ended in April 2022 and UK Health and Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance says that it is **not recommended** that children are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.

As COVID-19 presents a low risk to children and young people, combined with high vaccination rates in the population, there are **no longer specific rules** relating to it in schools.

Children with **mild symptoms** of COVID-19 such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, **can continue to go to school.** However, those who are **unwell** and have a **high temperature** should **stay at home** and avoid contact with other people where they can. They can go back to school, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend. Please click this [link](#) if you wish to read further information.

Individual pupil news

Noah was delighted to receive a certificate and trophy for being the **Senior Crafter of the Year** from the Krazeee Krafters. He also took part in the **Junior Great North Run.** Well done, Noah.



If you would like to share news of your **child's achievements** in our newsletter, please send in a picture and a brief description to schooladmin@seghillschool.co.uk We will try to publish as many as we can. Please note our newsletters are published on our school website. If you don't want your child's picture to be visible on the internet via our newsletter, please don't send in their picture.

Leave of absence during term time requests

We do completely understand that the cost of family holidays during the school holidays can be astronomical. However, we have a **legal duty** to follow the law around attendance, including only authorising leave of absence requests during term time where **evidence of exceptional circumstances is provided**. It is also our school policy to refer to the Local Authority for a **fixed penalty notice** to be issued for all unauthorised leave of absence requests for 5 days or more and where evidence of exceptional circumstances have not been provided.

How to apply for leave of absence during term time

Parents and carers requesting leave of absence during term time must **submit the request at least two weeks in advance** using the **leave of absence during term time form**.

Authorised leave of absence during term time

The only leave of absence during term time requests that will be authorised are those where **evidence of exceptional circumstances** is provided.

Unauthorised leave of absence during term time

On the leave of absence during term time form we do receive lots of reasons why parents and carers feel their request should be authorised. However, many of the reasons given are not evidence of exceptional circumstances. Examples of reasons which are not evidence of exceptional circumstances are-

- “we didn’t know when the school holidays were”;
- “we cannot afford to go during the school holidays”;
- “someone else booked the holiday for us as a treat / gift”;

We also receive information from parents and carers about their child’s current attendance and attainment on the leave of absence request forms. Children with very good attendance and who are doing well in school are not more entitled to have their leave of absence request during term time to be authorised than any other children. Again, the only reason we can authorise a leave of absence in term time request is when evidence of exceptional circumstances is provided.

Leave of absence that is taken **which has not been authorised** will trigger an application from school to the Local Authority for a **fixed penalty notice** to be issued.

Holiday taken but no leave of absence during term time applied for

Leave of absence during term time that is taken **without a leave of absence request form being submitted** will not be authorised and will trigger an application from school to the Local Authority for a **fixed penalty notice** to be issued.

Fixed penalty notices

You may have seen in the media that there has been a change to the cost of a fixed penalty notice. For a first offence, the Penalty Notice will be £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days rising to £160 if paid after the 21 days – it must be paid within 28 days.

For a second offence, the amount is £160 per parent per child to be paid within 28 days.

Summary

The Department for Education has a clear policy on improving school attendance. We have a **legal duty** to follow the law around attendance, including only authorising leave of absence requests that have **evidence of exceptional circumstances**. It is also our school policy to refer to the Local Authority for a **fixed penalty notice** to be issued for all unauthorised leave of absence requests for 5 days or more and where evidence of exceptional circumstances have not been provided.