

Seghill First School Newsletter December 2023 edition 2

Attendance target 96.3%

Whole school attendance since 05 September 2023	92.8%
Whole school attendance this week	92.0%
83.6%	81.5%
95.2%	93.3%
96.8%	90.0%

Class of the week for this week is **Purple** class with 96.8% attendance. **Well done Purple 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 **Jimmy** in Red class.

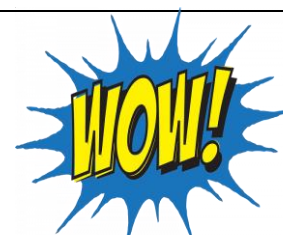
Star of the week

Our Stars of the Week are-



WOW winners

Our Writers of the Week are-



Mrs Lyons	William;	Mrs Lyons	Bailey;
Mrs Watson and Mrs Thomas	Marnie;	Mrs Watson and Mrs Thomas	Dominic;
Miss Winter	Emily;	Miss Winter	Freya;
Mrs Bell	Caleb;	Mrs Bell	Ollie;
Mrs Kembrey	Jaxson;	Mrs Kembrey	Edie R;
Mrs Askew	Alice;	Mrs Askew	Vinnie;
Miss Chappell	Orla;	Mrs Ellison	Edison;
Staff star	Mrs Mullen.	Mrs Miller and Mrs Jose	Edie C.

Birthdays

We had one birthday in school this week. **Manessa** in Red class is now 6.

Happy birthday to Manessa. We hope you enjoyed your birthday.



IMPORTANT Christmas raffle update

Raffle tickets were sent home last week. Please return the **right-hand side strips to school with £2.00** in the envelope provided by **Thursday 14 December**. Please see Miss Best in the office if you want extra raffle tickets.

The first prize in our raffle is **two tickets to the Newcastle United home match against Fulham on Saturday 16 December at 3:00pm**. The tickets for the match have been kindly donated to us by Newcastle United Foundation. The tickets will be **e-tickets**. As the raffle is being drawn at the Christmas fayre on the afternoon of Friday 15 December and the match is the following day, you must include your **name and email address** on the back of the raffle tickets. If a ticket is drawn with no email address on, we will draw again until we find a ticket with an email address. Please only put your email address on the raffle tickets if you want to go to the match and you are definitely available.

At the Christmas fayre we will have our tombolas set out in the hall and tickets arranged into packs of 5 in advance, which worked very well the last time. In addition to the tombolas, there will be other stalls and attractions. Refreshments will be available in the dining room.

Events coming up this term

Christmas	Fundraising and community events
Christmas treat for children in Nursery and Reception Wednesday 13 December afternoon	Christmas fayre Friday 15 December from 3:15pm
Christmas treat for children in key stages 1 and 2 Thursday 14 December morning	Film night Wednesday 20 December 3:15pm for Years 1 to 4
Years 1 to 4 Christmas concert Monday 18 Monday 18 December from 9:00am and 2:30pm	
Nursery and Reception Christmas concert Tuesday 19 December from 9:00am	Celebration assemblies
Year 1 and 2 Christmas party Tuesday 19 December from 1:30pm	Friday 22 December at 2:15pm
Christmas lunch all year groups Wednesday 20 December	
Nursery and Reception Christmas party Wednesday 20 December from 1:30pm	School is closed on these dates-
Year 3 and 4 Christmas party Thursday 21 December from 1:30pm	Monday 25 December 2022 to Friday 05 January 2023 for the Christmas holidays
	Monday 08 January 2024 due to a staff training day.

Tickets for Christmas performances

We are delighted to be able to invite parents and carers into school to watch our Christmas concerts this year.

The dates and times are-

- Monday 18 December Red, Green, Purple and Blue class concert at 9:00am (doors open at 8:45am).
- Monday 18 December Red, Green, Purple and Blue class concert at 2:30pm (doors open at 2:15pm).
- Tuesday 19 December Yellow and Orange class concert at 9:00am (doors open at 8:45am).

Attendance at the concert will be by ticket only so we adhere to the maximum capacity of the hall. Tickets cost 50p each. If you would like to attend, we have set up a payment portal on **School Gateway**. Click on **payments** and you will find the options for **Yellow and Orange concert 2023 and Red, Green, Purple and Blue concert 2023**. Specify the number of tickets you would like (maximum for 5 per family per concert), tick **add to basket** and pay via School Gateway. This portal will be open on School Gateway until **Thursday 14 December**, which is the deadline for bookings and payments.

Christmas treats

Thanks to our fundraisers, we are offering our special Christmas treats again this year. We have a pre-ordering service for our Christmas treats. This includes **reindeer dust, snowman poo, reindeer poo, hot chocolate reindeers, Grinch pills and sweet cones**. These items cost **50p each**. If you order all six of these items, we will provide them as a special **Christmas Eve pack** for **£2.50**.

If you would like to buy Christmas treats we have set up a payment portal on **School Gateway**. Click on **payments** and you will find the option for **Christmas treats 2023**. Pay 50p per item or £2.50 per pack, click **add to basket** and pay via School Gateway. This portal will be open on School Gateway until **Thursday 14 December**, which is the deadline for orders and payments so they can be processed, made up and sent home during the last week of term.

Non-uniform day

Thank you to everyone who wore non-uniform and brought in a donation for the bottle tombola today. Your donations are very much appreciated. The parent helpers are busy in school during the afternoon sessions sorting out the tombolas, raffle prizes and treats.

Countdown to Christmas

17 days

Christmas reminders

Christmas cards

Class teachers will provide a Christmas card box in each classroom which will be open from **Monday 18 December**. Please wait until this date before bringing your cards in.

Each teacher will arrange for the cards to be given out, including cards that are for children in other classes and for staff. Lists of **children's first names and surname initial** for your child's class will be sent home by Friday 15 December to use to address Christmas cards.

Movie night on Wednesday 20 December

Children in Red, Green, Purple and Blue class are invited to stay after school until 5:15pm for movie night on **Wednesday 20 December**. We will ask the children to pick two movies, and then to watch one of them. Tickets cost **£3.00** and include a film, sweets and a drink.

If your child would like to attend, we have set up a payment portal on **School Gateway**. Click on **payments** and you will find the option for **Movie night December 2023**. Tick the box to give consent for your child to attend, click **add to basket** and pay £3.00 via School Gateway. There will be no after school club on Wednesday 20 December. This portal will be open on School Gateway until **Thursday 14 December**, which is the deadline for permission and payments.

Arrangements for Christmas parties

We have organised parties for children in all year groups to take place in key stage groups. We will provide a treat for the children. Please do not send in any food or drinks for your child's party. All parties will take place after lunch in the hall and all children will go home at 3:15pm as normal.

Tuesday 19 December Red and Green class party

Children in Red and Green class will have their party on **Tuesday 19 December**. Children should come to school in **school uniform** and bring party clothes in a named bag to change into after lunch.

Wednesday 20 December Orange and Yellow class party

Children in Orange and Yellow class will have their party on **Wednesday 20 December**. Children should come to school in **party clothes**. 15-hour Nursery children should come to school at 1:00pm and attend for the afternoon session rather than the morning session on this day.

Thursday 21 December Purple and Blue class party

Children in Purple and Blue class will have their party on **Thursday 21 December**. Children should come to school in **school uniform** and bring party clothes in a named bag to change into after lunch.

Christmas lunch

We are delighted to be able to offer a traditional Christmas lunch to children this year on **Wednesday 20 December**. Our Christmas lunch is always extremely popular as Mrs Rogage does such an amazing job.

Please note that we are not serving jacket potatoes on this day. Please provide a packed lunch if you do not want a Christmas lunch for your child.

Children are invited to wear a **Christmas jumper or top on Wednesday 20 December** instead of their school jumper or cardigan (normal school bottoms) to make our Christmas lunch super special.

Christmas deadlines

The payment deadline for ordering and paying for Christmas treats, movie night tickets and tickets for the Christmas concerts is **Thursday 14 December**. The payment portals on School Gateway will close on **Thursday 14 December** and they will then disappear from your options on School Gateway. We will not re-open to payment portals to accommodate payments and orders which have missed the deadline.

Christmas treats for our children

Staff have arranged a special Christmas treat for all children. A separate letter was sent home earlier this week to provide more information.

Children in **key stages 1 and 2** are going to the Tyne Theatre to see Peter Pan on **Thursday 14 December**. Tickets cost £12.50 per child, plus the cost of the coach hire would be in addition to this.

Children in **Nursery and Reception** are going to the Northern Stage to see The Three Bears on Wednesday 13 December. Tickets cost £12.00 per child, plus the cost of the coach hire would be in addition to this.

We are using money from our fundraising activities to pay for both of these treats, so parents and carers **will not be asked to contribute** anything towards the cost.

I hope you agree that this is an excellent use of our fundraising money, and hopefully the children will really enjoy going out to seeing a live performance in a special setting.

Santa's reading challenge

Santa's reading challenge is well under way. Thank you to everyone who is supporting their child to read regularly and take part in the challenge. It is important that children continue to read in the run up to Christmas as part of their normal routine, as this maintains fluency and interest in books. We know it can be difficult to fit everything in at this time of year, but hopefully, the "little and often" approach is more manageable than reading lots of pages once a week.

Gift donations by Seaton Valley Council

We have been contacted by Seaton Valley Council, who are offering support to families this Christmas. If you would like to receive support from them with additional Christmas gifts, please let us know. We have to refer you to them. Please email admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk stating the name and age of the child who you like a gift for. Please do this by **Friday 15 December** at the latest, so we have time to make the referral and for a gift donation to be sorted out.

Attendance

Our current school attendance is **92.8%**. This is **significantly below** attendance in Northumberland, which is 94.4% and nationally, which is also 94.4%.

Achieving 92.8% in a test may sound like a good score, but in terms of attendance, our target is 96%.

The image on the next page shows attendance as a percentage and the number of school days missed over a school year. As you can see, **49% of our children have attendance of less than 95%. 12% of our children have less than 85% attendance.**

We know that we have had lots of **genuine absence** due to coughs and colds, stomach bugs and chickenpox. However, **our attendance figures are really worrying**. Research has proven that there is a high correlation between school attendance and academic performance and success. Absence from school is often the greatest single cause of poor performance and achievement. Children who are missing school regularly are being placed at a massive disadvantage compared to their peers who attend school regularly. Staff are working really hard to support children to catch up gaps in knowledge, skills and understanding, but repeated absence is making this task almost impossible.

Children with **sickness and diarrhoea** should stay off school for 48 hours after they were last unwell. Children with **chickenpox** should stay off school until the scabs have healed over, not until the scabs have disappeared. Children with a **cough or cold** should attend school in the vast majority of cases, and unless told not to by a GP. Please administer any medicine before school. We can give medicine during the day if 4 daily doses are required. Children can have their water bottle with them to have frequent drinks.

We do know that the vast majority of parents and carers support their children to have the best chance of success by ensuring their child attends regularly. However, half of our children have less than 95% attendance and we really must ask for your help to improve attendance and reduce absence.

days per year 365	175 days to spend on family time, go on holiday, visit special places, do shopping and carry out jobs, have appointments					
	190 school days 0 school days missed 100%	180 school days 10 school days missed 95%	171 school days 19 school days missed 90%	161 school days 29 school days missed 85%	152 school days 38 school days missed 80%	143 school days 47 school days missed 75%
	GOOD Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start.		WORRYING Less chance of success. Harder for your child to make progress.		SERIOUS CONCERN Very little chance of success. You child is being massively disadvantaged.	
	100% 14 children	95% - 100% 28 children	90% - 95% 26 children	85% - 90% 5 children	80% - 85% 6 children	Less than 80% 4 children
	51% of our children		37% of our children		12% of our children	

Being absent for a couple of days here and there may not seem that serious. However, please look at the table below that shows the impact that odd days off have on attendance on over a child's school career.

If your child misses	That equals	Which is	And over 13 years of schooling, that's
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

Being late for school also has an impact on child's emotional well-being and making a good start to the day. Please look at the table below that shows the impact that lateness has over a child's school career.

Only missing just	That equals	Which is	And over 13 years of schooling, that's
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 minutes per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 minutes per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

