

“Natter and Chatter”

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Welcome to the final newsletter of 2018!

As the weather has turned colder we thought we should start by offering a reminder to pack your child off to school in warm clothing: Watching break times it never ceases to amaze us how pupils refuse to wear their outer clothing yet continue to stand shivering, outside in the cold!

What a busy term it has been. As I walk around the school, as I often do, I am always pleased to see the fantastic work from both pupils and staff. Seadown, quite simply, is a school to be proud of. Fundraising events are particularly great as they give us opportunities to demonstrate how much students have developed, socially and emotionally. Thank you for continuing to support these events.

We have had many visits, this term, from various professionals from the local authority. We are getting enquiries almost every day about places at our school, and feedback from professionals is always complimentary.

As Seadown is currently full, school Directors are looking at ways that we can meet the high demands for places, whilst ensuring that we continue to have a quality infrastructure, for our current cohort, but keep classes small. There will never be any compromise on the things available to our current pupils, but we remain positive about continual growth, development and improvement.

Dates and Events

On the right you will see dates for your diary. One exciting piece of news for you, about an event coming up very soon, is that we have been offered tickets for the local **pantomime**, at reduced cost!

This means that we are able to take the whole school off to the pantomime for their Christmas treat. We are very excited about this and we know that, for many of our children, it will be something they haven't yet experienced.

It will be the 'relaxed' performance, during school hours, and all students will be well-supported by familiar staff.

Aladdin will be so pleased to see us. Oh yes he will!



Dates for your diary

11th December

Pantomime: Aladdin
(whole-school treat).

13th December

Nurse clinic (parents / carers welcome). Letter to follow

14th December

Christmas Jumper Day

18th December

Christmas Dinner

19th December

Last day of term: Class parties

3rd January 2019

First day of term



Farewells:

At the end of November it will be time to say goodbye to our school Secretary Michelle, who is moving on to pastures new. Michelle has worked tirelessly over the past few years to maintain the smooth running of the school office, and administration duties, and we all want to wish her well.

For those not already aware, Jake - Red Class teacher, is moving up to Birmingham with his wife, to be near family in time for the arrival of their new baby, in December. Lots of luck to them!

Liam, who is currently teaching the home-schooled students, has been working in Red Class, on and off for the past few weeks, to get to know the students and class routine, so that there is good continuity. He will become Red Class teacher.

Keeping in Touch:

It is essential for the continual wellbeing and consistency of support for our students that we stay in touch with home. As you know, you can call us, email us, or message us via Bloomz.

We still have a few parents that have not signed up to this electronic communication – ***it is essential that we have everyone available for quick updates in the event of sudden change or urgent information.*** Please ask if you'd like to set this up and haven't yet done so.

Sickness and Absence:

Just a reminder that if your child is not in school due to illness you **must** let us know on the morning of absence. The Government target for attendance is very high and for some of our young people is a difficult one to meet. However, we must all be shown to be making the best effort we can.

Of course we do not want children to come in to school poorly but you may not know that sickness is counted as an absence.

Parent/Carer-Teacher meetings.

We know that Blue Class have missed their meeting slots with their teacher this term – this will be rectified soon. However, please remember that if you cannot make a parents evening, it is always possible for you to arrange another slot with your child's teacher.

Its great for the students to know that home demonstrates an interest in their work and it gives a clear message that we work together for the best possible outcomes.

An equally busy term is ahead, after Christmas, and there are some exciting activities planned.

Amanda Curry
Headteacher



Upper School Updates:

Yellow Class

During the last term Yellow Class have been finding their learning stride! Students have enjoyed delving deeper into their chosen ASDAN Short Courses and have been developing skills which they may find useful in chosen FE study, or careers, later in life. Pupils have designed information posters and created fantastic presentations, based on research gathered independently. Some pupils have taken learning a step further and been able to use their knowledge and skills out in the community. *Please let us know if you'd like to follow this up at home as activities could contribute to their credits.*

Lots of progress has been seen with student's study on their *Personal Development Programmes*. Pupils have been getting out in to the local community to complete some of their learning modules; taking part in things such as playing pool, planning journeys using street maps, and participating in trips to the bank to learn about managing money effectively.

Pupils particularly enjoyed a module about making a short film. They learned to use simple cameras; how to frame, light and capture footage, in line with their film genre. After story-boarding, scripting and filming their work, pupils took great pleasure in editing their footage into a comprehensive short film; using aspects of editing such as using video transitions, audio levels and creating titles and credits. Pupils have some great films as evidence for their learning.

Ben Kinslow

Red Class

Since we have been back, from the half term break, we have had to say goodbye to one of our classmates. This is always sad, but pupils coped well. We are also very happy to welcome a new student to Red class. Additionally, as you know, I am regrettably moving away but we are very pleased to welcome Liam to the class. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank both pupils and yourselves for your support. I have really enjoyed my time at Seadown.

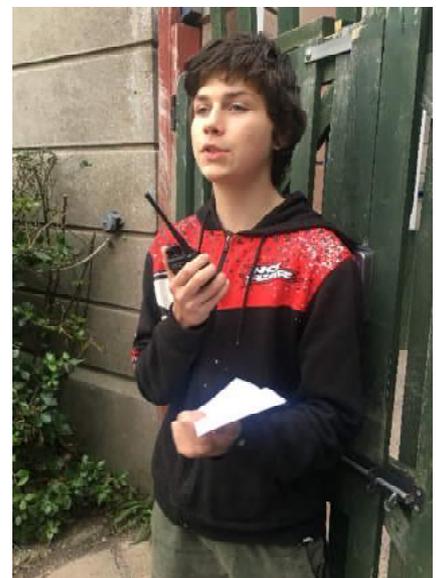
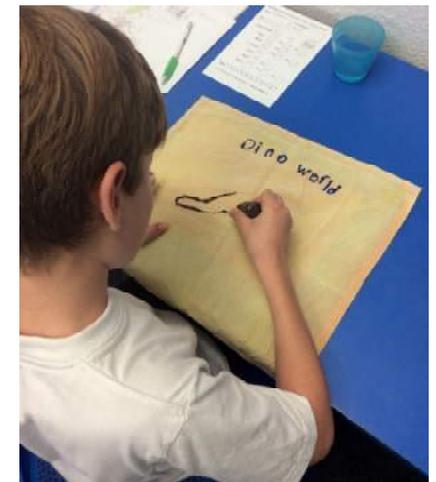
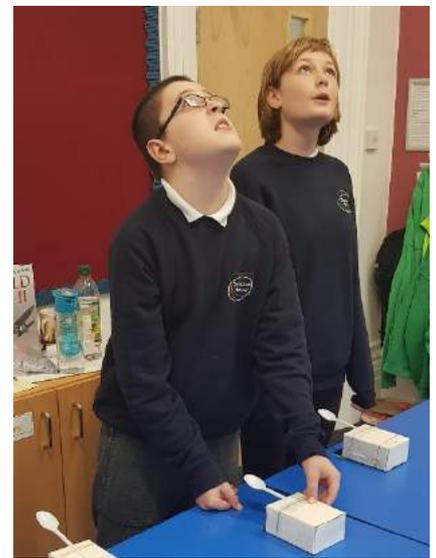
Over these two terms we have studied two really great topics: *World War 2* and *The Romans*. As well as the learning around these topics, we have done lots of other exciting things too: making slime in chemistry, whizzing on electric skateboards for physics, roman 'wire work' and jewellery making, designing catapults and much more.

In English, the students explored what it would be like to be an evacuee during the war and now are looking at gladiator fights and beginning to write some action-packed stories. In maths the students have been working on area and perimeter and designed their own house. This term they have been collecting and working with data all about the romans.

Whilst the weather was still good, Red and Yellow classes went to Chanctonbury Ring, for Forest School, to explore our topic of WW2. The students played a highly competitive game of 'capture the flag' and then cooked their own lunch on the fire!

One key moment that sticks in our mind, this term, was our community science project. The students really got 'stuck in' and got their hands dirty, as we went and cleaned the beach and local streets, by picking litter. We came back with three bags full, and some really interesting finds!

Jake Sheffield



Lower School Updates:

Blue Class and Green Class

In Green and Blue class, we began our 'Time-team' topic with a focus on pre-history. We enjoyed learning about the formation of fossils and making some of our own fossil models using salt-dough.

As part of our English, we read the story 'Stone Girl Bone Girl', where we learned about the famous palaeontologist and fossil collector Mary Anning. The pupils enjoyed researching different dinosaurs and using these as inspiration for creating their own 'pre-historic animals'.

We designed logos for our own pre-historic theme park which we then transferred on to fabric as 'merchandise'. The pupils then enjoyed writing guidebooks for how to safely look after these animals without being eaten! It has also been fun to practise making short animations with dinosaur models and creating 'string art dinosaurs' using nails and thread.

Recently we have been learning about local history, visiting Worthing Pier and Shoreham Airport to learn about how they have changed throughout the years.

We are still planning to explore the history of other local landmarks such as Cissbury Ring and Shoreham Lifeboat station.

The pupils have been enjoying our weekly science experiments, learning how to create fair tests to investigate a range of questions. Among others, we have tested the hardness of different types of rocks, explored how different types of soil drain water and investigated the melting points of different types of chocolate. We also made a 'spooky solution' on Halloween, as we explored the science behind liquid density.

In January our topic will be 'Home and Away' where we will be comparing localities in the UK and abroad.

Chris Allwright
Claire Johnson

