

“Natter and Chatter”

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Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. On the right of this page are some dates for your diary and enclosed in the envelope is our newest policy, for your perusal.

The playground is proving to be a massive hit and it is certainly nice to see productive and engaging activities taking place at break times!

We would like to officially **welcome** all of our new pupils and two new staff members; Caroline Watts, the teacher in Red Class, and Debby Beresford-Moore, an experienced Learning Support Assistant in Yellow Class. Both have settled in well and are developing good relationships with both other staff and our pupils.

Blue Class parents and carers, in particular, will be aware that we are waiting for the new class teacher to begin. We have appointed a fantastic lady and we are awaiting documentation checks to be completed. In the meantime, to maintain some consistency in faces, and of approach, the normal class staff are working brilliantly with the pupils, under the watchful eye of senior leaders. All are settled and achieving well.

Debby is just completing training to be able to deliver the **John Muir Award Scheme**. For those not aware, this is a programme that combines eco-schools with forest schools. This is a really great scheme that encourages pupils to 'connect' with, enjoy, and care for wild places. It's non-competitive, inclusive and accessible. We are aiming for all classes to attend Streamside, in Lancing, at least once a fortnight and, in the main, this is going well.

Our new **School Council** and **School Prefects** have recently met with me. Prefect's current focus is 'playground buddies' – what they might do to be able to support peers that need it. School Council members current focus is 'school clubs' – we would like to get them up and running again. They've had some great ideas – not all of them practical! Watch this space.

Thank you to each of you that supported our Macmillan afternoon and cake sale. For the first time we tried facilitating indoors and we are really pleased with both how much we raised and how well the pupil's behaved.

I would like to congratulate our older pupil's **football team** – this is the first time we have been able to send two teams to the tournament! The reports back regarding the conduct of our pupils was outstanding! Finally, letters will be home soon about parents evening.

Amanda Curry
Headteacher.

Engage, Inspire, Equip



Dates for your diary

Wednesday 30th November
Parents Evening

Friday 15th December
Christmas Assembly &
Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 18th December
School Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 19th December
Last day of Term & Class
Parties

Tuesday 2nd January 2018
First day of Term



Social Media & Internet Access

At Seadown, like most other schools, we are increasingly hearing about difficulties among our peers using social media and, general safe Internet use. This is either through communication that takes place between peers themselves or through what pupils have told us they have seen or accessed online.

As a school we have a 'duty of care' to our pupils. As such the Government say that we need to:

- have appropriate filters and monitoring systems, so that no child can access harmful content via the school's IT systems and concerns can be spotted quickly
- ensure that we teach their pupils about safeguarding, including online

All classes are routinely discussing Internet safety and it is included in our curriculum. However, clearly schools need parents/carers help with this: we cannot support or supervise what is done outside of school hours. If, however, a pupil or parent/ carer shares specific concerns with us during school hours we must then investigate and act on it.

The world is an ever-changing place and we are in a 'technological age'. Nobody expects pupils to have no access to the wealth of online information and communication available. However, there are laws and guidelines in place. One, some people may still not be aware of is:

The Malicious Communications Act 1998 (and subsequent update 2015):

The Malicious Communications Act 1998 states that it is an offence to send another person a letter, electronic communication or article of any description which conveys:

- A message which is indecent or grossly offensive
- A threat
- Information which is false and known or believed to be false by the sender
- The act explains that people are guilty of this offence where they intend to cause distress or anxiety to the recipient or any other person.
- It also states that; the subject of a defamatory statement can sue the publisher and could also seek an injunction

Some of our pupils, across the year groups, have difficulty in knowing when or if it is appropriate not to chat about, repeat or enact what they have seen or heard online. **YouTube** seems to be a particular problem.

If you need to discuss this any further or would like some support to set up your own filtering system please let us know.

Age Restrictions On Social Media					
13	14	16	17	18	18
Twitter Facebook Instagram Pinterest Google+ Tumblr Reddit Snapchat	LinkedIn	WhatsApp	Vine Tinder	Path	(13 with parents consent) YouTube Keek Foursquare WeChat Kik Flickr



Green Class (Lower School 1)

In Green class we began the Autumn term with a focus on Roald Dahl's 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. We wrote about the characters from the story and as part of our learning in Science we even made our own 'marvellous medicines'. We then wrote recipes for our magical concoctions! We have also spent some time exploring the characters and themes in the story 'Hansel and Gretel'. The children worked on their descriptive writing to do with the story and were excited to design and make their own gingerbread house. Recently the children have been learning about performance poetry and enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate, rehearse and then perform to the rest of their class. In maths we have been practising our problem-solving skills, as well as our number skills for addition and subtraction. Recently we have been visiting the other classes, collecting lots of data and then practising drawing graphs and charts.

As part of our historical learning we have been looking at different types of castles and how they have changed over time. At Arundel castle we could see the different parts first hand and the children really enjoyed trying on some soldiers clothing and even holding some replica long bows! In our artwork we have been using a lot of watercolour, collage and clay to try some techniques inspired by the artists Paul Klee and Henri Matisse. The class have also been learning about Hinduism and the celebration of Diwali. We made our own clay diva pots and tried some of our own mehndi hand patterns.

Chris Allwright: Class Teacher and Deputy Head

Blue Class (Lower School 2)

Blue class has had a tricky start to the new academic year, with it starting very differently. However, we are really proud with how well they have coped and pupils are now producing some great work and are quite settled.

We have particularly enjoyed our time at Streamside this term. We did some great pumpkin carving for Halloween and are really engaged through the real hands-on learning experiences.

Pupils have been praised for their efforts in learning across the curriculum and there has been no shortage of contextual learning activities. For example, we have been out on some geography walks, learning about map reading.

The pupils have really been benefitting from the new playground equipment – wanting to go out in all weathers! The ball area is utilised well; particularly for football, and we seem to enjoy the monkey bars a great deal. Pupils often request to spend time outside for their BEAM time rewards.

Gary, Vicki and Heather: Class Team



Red Class (Upper School 1)

So far this term, Red Class have been pretty busy. I have got to know each and every one of the students quite well!

As well as learning all about the French Revolution we have been doing some great art work, alongside our normal study in all other subject areas.

Towards our social skills development we went out into Worthing asking for donations for the tombola for the Macmillan Coffee afternoon. Everyone in Red Class took turns explaining our cause in different shops and we received some lovely gifts including a plush teddy and M&S biscuits.

We have been quite creative at Streamside, our outdoor learning site; where aside from many other practical learning activities everybody got to choose a pumpkin and took part in pumpkin carving for Halloween. There were some excellent scary faces!

Our class has been expanded in size most afternoons with the addition of some students from Yellow Class. Mostly, this goes well and we have bonded and gelled as an 'afternoon study group'.

Caroline Watts: **Class Teacher**

Yellow Class (Upper School 2)

We have had a really busy term. Our younger students have been sharing the afternoons with Red Class so that they can still access their own curriculum and others have been set up on their ASDAN paths of study. In general they are doing really well. Some of the chosen paths this year have been football and construction.

The students enjoy the practical elements of these Awards and have been engaging really well. For example, they have sent questionnaires to staff to help them with their study; they have taken part in the football tournament and regularly practice their skills in the ball area of the playground. Harvey has had some work experience with our caretaker but he has also been busy making things, useful to others. Currently he is developing a laptop cabinet for school. Jake has been helping out in Green Class on some afternoons and the students haven't been enjoying his company.

Soon we will be beginning work towards our Personal Development Programme where students can gain a bronze, silver or gold award.

Students have recently been introduced to some practice papers for Functional Skills awards in Maths and English; they have organised events at Halloween and helped out well on our coffee afternoon. Lots more in the pipeline!

Ben Kinslow: **Senior Teacher**

