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# Welcome to the new school year!

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## One week done and it's been a good week.

It has been a while since we have sent out any newsletters, so we thought it would be a good idea to provide you with a few reminders and to share some news and updates.

- Friday afternoons will now become **enrichment afternoon**, from 2pm (school clubs). As it is so difficult for us to run after school clubs ('extended schools'), due to the very varied travel arrangements of our students, we looked at different ways we could fulfil this. These types of activity options are really valuable for pupils where they can access a variety of stimulating and enjoyable activities, access various skill-classes and additional learning support.

The school council and I met in the summer term and they then consulted with their classes about what sort of clubs' pupils would like to see. This information went back to the staff and agreements for the first clubs were made. Pupils had a choice preference and numbers were balanced. Clubs will change, or run for a new set of members, each half term.

- **New staff; new provision.** Seadown now have a satellite provision with vacancies for two pupils. This is a specialist home-school tutoring service for pupils with the most complex of anxieties about leaving home. An experienced teacher called Liam Fletcher has joined us to fulfill this position. Student places have already been filled.

Some of you may remember John, who was our supply assistant? He has now retired. John sent us a lovely email about how much he enjoyed working with us and about how much he wishes he had joined us when he was younger! We wish him all the very best; joining his wife in retirement bliss. We now have a new supply assistant called Sam – who has joined us from our sister company, Child First.



Liam Fletcher



Sam Henson

- **Staff availability:** There are several ways that you can contact us should you need to. Electronically via our messenger service Bloomz, email, telephone and face-to-face. Don't forget that we have annual reviews for every student (which is statutory), and the termly parent evenings. On top of this I will be reintroducing the headteacher meetings soon.

***Please remember that during class hours, of 9am to 3.15pm, class staff are only available for an emergency - unless you are happy to speak or pass messages to the office.***

- **Top-half uniform** is now a requirement for all pupils in key stages 1 to 3.

Well done Red Class – you have conformed to this well. We have heard all of their points about “individuality” etc, but the research and argument ‘for’ school uniform is very clear, and we would prefer that our students to conform to this willingly. KS4 pupils are preparing for college or further study so we feel that the valuable life-skills that they are learning is a good reason for them to have earned the trust to make ‘suitable clothing choices’.

Our uniform suppliers have informed us that due to the demand from many other schools there is currently a delay on orders. Please continue to be patient with us, we will get it to you as soon as possible.

- Seadown are working hard with the **local education authority transport department** to try to ensure that their provided taxis or minibuses are adhering to road safety: We are well aware that there are ongoing difficulties around this issue. We have explored many options already and have even had the *West Sussex Road Safety Team* down for a visit. We have also shared the complaints we have had directly with them, and expressed how strongly we feel about this.



It seems that there is little we can do with regard to the infrastructure, due to designated parking spaces that the local authority is reluctant to change. However, what we have done as a school is allocated two staff members every morning and afternoon to ‘traffic watch’ to kindly remind drivers and escorts about our concerns and to observe road safety for our students. This will very much be an ongoing process so we would appreciate you letting us know if there is anything we are not already aware of.

- **School nurse.** Seadown are to have their own school nurse, beginning with us very soon. To start, we will only see him once every half term but we will have access to telephone support as well. I have met with our new nurse and shown him around the school, where he also got to meet many of the students. He is a really friendly and experienced nurse and we are looking forward to working with him.



The school nurse will primarily be monitoring what we do as a school, in relation to student's health and wellbeing. The main focus will be around the students with specific medical or medication needs but later, once he has got to know us, he will also be able to monitor all student's general health; and perhaps have parent clinics. Watch this space – more info soon.

- **Massage.** Some of you will already know that we now have access to Louise, from the 'House of Therapies'. She will work with a small handful of students each term that have difficulties with sensory issues, or that may benefit from her support for their extreme over-activity. There is lots of research in to these forms of therapy, such as hand-massage, and the positive and calming benefits that they have for students with sensory difficulties and/or hyperactivity.



This new service will be available for our young people that are most in need, but we hope to develop this service to make it available on a wider scale, on a rota basis.

- **Special events**

As well as the annual event of our Macmillan cake sale, coming up soon, you will additionally have a letter home about donations for our Harvest Festival in October.



Seadown are always keen to fundraise for worthy causes and although we are a tiny school we know that 'every little helps'! Special events provide great opportunities for us to exploit the learning that can take place around personal and social skills as well as citizenship education.

We will keep you posted about this and other kinds of event through our newsletters (which come out every half term) or through our Facebook page. 

- **Pastoral Team.** Each pupil now has access to an additional adult, allocated to them for additional support, as required. These staff members will work closely with the class team to get to know students really well. These people are existing staff members so already understand us all here at Seadown. They are in place particularly to support with social and emotional issues but will also be taking opportunity to work with students directly in or out of class. Ask your class teachers if you'd like more information.
- **Finally,** remember to keep good communication going with us – it is always helpful for us to know about any issues or celebrations, as they arise. Here's hoping for a great term ahead.

Kind regards

*Amanda Curry*

Headteacher