

“Natter and Chatter”

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Welcome to the final newsletter of this academic year! On the right of this page are some dates for your diary and enclosed in the envelope is the September class information.

Our intake of pupils is very different this year, with many more in our 'middle' age range. Therefore, classes have been designed around social skills and learning, as much as age groups. Lots of work will begin after half term with transition preparation, in to new rooms, where appropriate.

Seadown will be **saying goodbye** to four of our pupils this summer, that are moving on to new placements; either to college or to new schools. We wish them the best of luck!

The addition of **new staff** over this year has meant that we are now fully staffed with two ladies now working in Rainbow Room to deliver 'booster sessions' and specialist intervention to pupils that need it. We have seen some great results from their input and pupils do seem to enjoy visiting them.

Seadown now has a **Governing Body**. This is a mix of people, all working together to ensure that the school continues to strive forward towards 'excellence for all'.

- ♣ Chairperson: Aimee Ryan (Director)
- ♣ Amanda Curry (Headteacher)
- ♣ Terry Goble: Safeguarding and Equality (Director)
- ♣ Kelly Hargie: Safeguarding and Equality (Parent)
- ♣ Gordon Kelly: Finance (Director)
- ♣ Steve Alexander: Professional Development (co-opted)
- ♣ Jo Grim: Teaching, Learning and The Curriculum (staff)
- ♣ Nicola Orchard: Clerk to the Governors

If there are items you would like addressed please let us know so that we can put it on our next agenda.

School Clubs this year have been less successful due to not finding a partner school. However, clubs (such as construction club), still run internally and football club is now organised in school, separated into two ability groups - opening it up to more pupils. At the moment this is weather dependent.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 5th June

Return to school &
School Photographer

Thursday 29th June

Sports Afternoon

Tuesday 17th July

Primary Summer Trip

Thursday 20th July

Secondary Summer Trip

Friday 21st July

End of year reports

Friday July 21st

Last day of Term for class
year groups 2-10

Tuesday September 5th

First day of Term



Library visits now take place with several of the classes and not only is this an opportunity for pupils to have some ownership over what they like to read but it also enables them to practice those all-important social skills. Please let us know how your child's reading is progressing at home.

Our **School Council** have continued to meet regularly and are still very focused on having ideas for school environmental improvement. Their ideas for the garden development have been taken on board and our first task will be to resurface it. This is obviously very costly indeed so we will be developing the garden in several stages.

This year we have carried out our usual **fundraising events**; We have raised money for Guild Care at Halloween; MacMillan Cancer support through our coffee morning and cake sale and Children in Need through dressing up and a fun activity afternoon. Thank you for your continued contributions.

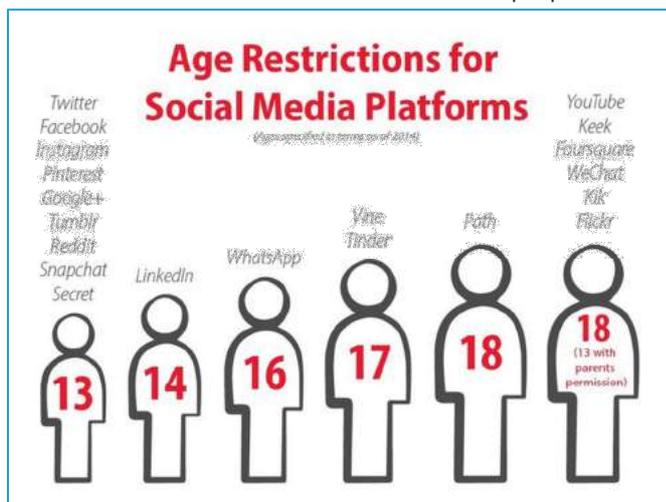
Keeping in Touch:

The school **website** is being regularly updated; particularly the 'News and Events' area and this is also where you can view the school calendar. The school **Facebook** page is being used to add updates and give snippets of interesting news or events and we have a **Twitter** Page that often shares some interesting things too. Unfortunately Class Messenger closed down but most of you are now regularly using its replacement: **Bloomz**. If you haven't yet installed it on your laptop or phone, please do. Just ask if you need support to do this. It's by far the most efficient way of keeping up to date and not missing out on important news!

Games and Computing

We have so many difficulties in school with pupils complaining about 'disagreements' on social media, or with some pupils role-playing or repeating inappropriate material gained online (not to mention very tired children that have been on games or mobiles through the night).

So, we think it is important to give another age-restrictions reminder.



Your continued support on this matter is important to us. Really good parental-controls can now be installed at home and limiting children's use of the Internet is a good idea!



Forest Schools and the **John Muir Award** are continuing and has been made even better with the regular use of a fantastic space near Lancing. We know that time-slots have been a little hit-and-miss while we establish this facility properly but we are hopeful that all classes will get to regularly visit in the future so that pupils can continue to carry out great outdoor, hands-on, learning.



The minibus, **The Seadown Express**, has opened up a world of possibilities for outings and I have been privileged to attend some of the great class trips this year. Ensure that your child's paperwork (medications etc), and your contact details are up-to-date so that we can call you in an emergency.



Changes

As is usual in every school at this time of year there will be, and already has been, some shifting around in classes.

We have some **sad news** to share with you – sad for us but not for them...

Charlie Monaghan is leaving us at the end of this summer to begin some world travels; a very exciting period in his life. Kerri is also moving on; to a brand new job. Chris Allwright will be the new Deputy Head and Ben Kinslow will be stepping up as a Senior Teacher. We are confident that they will all do a great job. Please join us in wishing Charlie and Kerri well – we'll miss them lots!



So, Seadown will have two new teachers in September and we will let you know all about them very soon.

Two new students will be joining us after half term and there will be a few more come September. These kinds of changes can sometimes cause some upset while everyone gets used to new dynamics but please do bear with us, offer reassurances where you can, and let us know if there are any major difficulties.



In the new half term pupils may be moving around a little, when and where it is right to do so. This will be to get them fully prepared for the new academic year.

Hope to see some of you on parents evening but if not have a great summer everyone.

Amanda Curry

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'A. Curry'.

Headteacher

Yellow Class

Yellow class have been very busy, as the Year 11s near the end of their school careers. As well as working hard on their Functional Skills in the core subjects, we have been putting the finishing touches on courses in Living Independently, Sports and Fitness and Personal Finance.

We have also been exploring, in depth, the social and emotional aspects of Sex and Relationships, which has been incredibly useful, and the students have shown impressive maturity in dealing with these 'grown-up' issues.

In keeping with this maturity and responsibility, we have been volunteering at Guildcare. We have been providing company and support for adults with learning disabilities once a week, which has been challenging and rewarding for all of us.

The rest of the term will be working towards completing our courses and preparing for college next year: exciting times!

Charlie Monaghan



Red Class

Red class have had a busy term with lots of new and fun activities, and lessons, to sink their teeth into. Pupils have been enjoying the new resource of Streamside Scout Camp for Forest Schools. They have been building up their outdoor skills and have even used OSmaps, during an afternoon hike, to Clapham Woods.

Pupils have been making vests during our DT lessons. For most, this is a new skill – sewing is a fiddly job! Some pupils have shown a keen interest in this activity and even asked to continue during breaks or lunch times!

In English lessons pupils have been looking at script-writing and bias and balanced arguments. In maths we have been looking at the mysteries of Algebra, where pupils have enjoyed putting on their Sherlock Holmes hats to explain the missing numbers.

Pupils like going out once a week, to the library, where they can borrow books that they enjoy to read: It is helping all of them to develop their reading ability. This trip is often followed by a visit to the beach or the park; for team-building or social skills development.

Ben Kinslow



Blue Class

In Blue class, we have begun the summer term by learning about the world's 'Seas and Oceans'. The children have been learning the names and locations of the continents and Oceans as well as the fabulous living things that live in this environment.

In English, we have been using powerful language to describe stormy seas and have recently been writing our own stories about a sea rescue from a 'creature from the deep'. This linked well to our visit to Shoreham lifeboat station, where we learned a lot about the specialist training and equipment the RNLI need to help keep people safe out at sea when emergencies happen. In our artwork, we have been using a lot of watercolour and other painting techniques to produce some amazing artwork inspired by the Oceans. This has included work on 'marbling' to demonstrate how some sea creatures can camouflage themselves amongst the coral. In maths, we have been practising a lot with strategies for written calculation, so that the children are able to choose from a range of strategies when they face a difficult problem. The children have been excited to do some programming, making their own games using Kodu game lab and have enjoyed volleyball in P.E.

We will continue our 'Water' theme next half term, when we will be learning about 'Smugglers and Pirates', as well as the 'water cycle and rivers'.

Chris Allwright

Green Class

Green class has had a really busy term so far. A few visits to Steyning have helped with our 'comparison' work which we have done by comparing it to what is in Worthing. We have looked at vehicles, old and new, and the properties of them. We then looked at ways that we could present our collected data – Pictograms have been a big hit!

We are loving the new topic of 'The Secret Garden': We get to work outside and plant lots of pretty flowers! We are part of a 'sow and grow' programme which charts our progress with our sunflowers. Each week a class member gets to be our 'Star Grower'.

We have had a visit to Highdown Gardens to see how different types of gardens are presented – we liked the Rose Garden and the Chalk Garden the best. More recently we enjoyed a visit to the pick-your-own; with a bit of munching on the way round!

Kerri Griffin

