



Sedbergh Primary School

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Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Dear parents, carers and families,

Welcome back everyone to the start of the new school year. I sincerely hope you have found the opportunity to enjoy some time together as families and friends over the break. Time is one of the most precious commodities that we have; I have really enjoyed being able to spend it with my own family, interacting with my children as they grow up.

During this academic year, as a school, and in partnership with families, we would like to revisit the very beliefs and values that underpin the learning that takes place here, that define our curriculum. As a group, we are going to consider the vision we have for your children as they grow up, and the values that are at the foundation of how we operate; the 'why' of what we do. In future weeks, we will organise some open meetings for parents, followed by surveys and questionnaires about our values. I hope that you will be willing to contribute your thinking to this important development work. It will fall into 3 main areas;

***Our Focus** – What do we choose to focus on when children are with us?*

***Our Vision** – How will we equip children to operate effectively and successfully in an unknown future?*

***Our Values** – What underpins our thinking, what beliefs do we share?*

I look forward to working with you and hearing your ideas on this. By Easter, I hope that we are in a position to publish, share and celebrate what we have learned and committed to focus on.

I would, again, like to remind all parents about the importance of **good attendance** at school. I absolutely share your concerns about the spiralling costs of holidays and the difficulty in scheduling these around a busy working life, however, research evidences a direct correlation between good attendance and success in later life. We do need to improve attendance at our school and hope you can help us in this.

As you know, our Governing Body would like to appoint a new **Parent Governor**. If you would be interested in supporting the progress and development of our school as a Governor please do contact me for more information. I would be happy to discuss this with you and explain the role.

I'd like to take this opportunity to apologise to Charlotte Robson-Peall for my spelling error in the end of term letter. Charlotte, you know how much we appreciate the work you do for our school.

Safety - As hoped, the Council have installed our 'no-stopping zig-zags' on Maryfell Close outside the school gate. I have been assured that signage is on its way! As noted previously, our next challenge will be encouraging parents and teachers to respect these markings without the school having to pay for enforcement strategies. Some of you will be unhappy about the inconvenience of not being able to park close to or drop at the school gate, but you will understand that the school will always prioritise pupil safety above this. I am optimistic that additional parking provision and planned traffic calming projects in the town will begin to improve safety for all of you who walk or cycle to our school.



This autumn, the **Big Build Fundraising Appeal** will reach its culmination. I hope that many of you will support and attend our PTFA Promise Auction (11th October 2019). After this final push, we will have a clear understanding of the amounts raised and be able to design in more detail the improvements we have in mind. Thank you, again, to all of you who have supported this appeal. I hope that by next summer we will begin to see, in real terms, the fruits of your labours, when the development work begins.

With this letter is a **consent form** that covers many aspects of life in school. Please read, complete and return this form to school by Friday 13th October. Many of you will be pleased to hear that from now on, these consent forms will only need to be completed once, when a child begins attending Sedbergh Primary School. The consents given at this time will remain in place for the duration of your child's attendance at this school. If any of your contact details or consent preferences change it will be your responsibility to inform the school office. However, we will continue to seek specific consent for residential visits and adventurous activities.

New classes – many children have started the term in a new class with a new teacher. Next week, parents will have the opportunity to pop into school to meet teachers, to understand what to expect and to hear about learning plans for this academic year. More details will follow on the school app.

Events for the new academic year; we will update the events section of the app (please let me know if it isn't working for you), but here are a few dates for your diaries ready for the new school year.

September 2019

Tuesday 3 rd	School restarts for the autumn term of 2019
Thursday 5 th and Friday 6 th	Wheelchair Basketball – rescheduled because of the snow in early April
Tuesday 10 th	The Tour of Britain cycle race comes through Sedbergh
Saturday 21 st	Sheepfest!

October 2019

Friday 11 th October	PTFA and EYFS Big Build Promise Auction
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On a final note, I'd like to welcome **Alisha Brewer** and **Catherine Phipps** as new members of the staff team. Both, Alisha and Catherine bring energy, enthusiasm and expertise to our already fantastic teaching team. At Sedbergh Primary School we are lucky to have a 'commitment culture'; all our staff are committed to providing the very best opportunities and support for your children. I look forward to another year where we work together to achieve the very best for our school and the community.

Warm regards,



Matt Towe