

# Seaburn Dene

## Primary School

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### Subject: Welcome Back to Spring Term 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring Term 2025. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all families returning to Seaburn Dene Primary School and an especially warm greeting to the new families joining us this term. We are delighted to have you as part of our school community and look forward to getting to know your child.

This term promises to be full of exciting learning opportunities and events. We'll keep you updated with important dates and information via our website and Class Dojo throughout the week.

### Reception 2025 Applications – Closing Soon

A reminder that the closing date to apply for a Reception place for September 2025 is **Monday, 15th January**. Late applications will reduce your chances of securing your preferred school.

To apply, visit the online portal at <https://emsonline.sunderland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal/en>. You'll receive email confirmation of your application much quicker than using a paper form. National offer day for school places is **16th April 2025**.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Baker in the school office.

### Nursery Parents: Disability Access Fund (DAF)

If your child is attending a nursery school, nursery class attached to an infant or primary school, or a day-care nursery, they may be eligible for the **Disability Access Fund (DAF)**.

DAF is a one-off payment provided to any registered early years provider offering funded early education places to three- and four-year-olds who are successfully claiming **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)**.

Your child may qualify if:

- They receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA).



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- They are accessing two-, three-, or four-year-old early education funding.

Please note: Four-year-olds in primary school reception classes are **not eligible** for DAF funding.

If you think your child might qualify, please speak to Mrs Baker in the school office and provide evidence of your child's DLA benefits award letter.

### Are You Sure Your Child is Registered for Free School Meals?

If your child is in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2, they receive a free school meal under the Government's **Universal Free School Meal scheme**, which is not income-related or means-tested.

However, families eligible for **means-tested Free School Meals (FSM)** must register to access additional benefits, such as e-vouchers or other support.

You may qualify for Free School Meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (your household income must be less than £7,400 a year, after tax and excluding benefits).

To apply, visit the Sunderland Council Family Portal or email: [freeschoolmeals@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@togetherforchildren.org.uk) for assistance.

### Contact Details

If you've been lucky enough to receive a new mobile phone or set up a new email address over the holidays—or if you've moved house—please update the school office with your new details as soon as possible.

Additionally, if there have been changes to your child's emergency contacts, please let us know who should be removed and provide details for the replacement contact. This helps us ensure we can always reach you when needed.

### Attendance & Punctuality



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Good attendance and punctuality remain a priority across the school. Most minor ailments, such as a cold or tiredness, can often be managed at school, and we encourage children to attend whenever possible.

Please ensure your child arrives on time for registration at **8:50am**. School gates will close promptly at **8:55am**. Thank you for your continued support in maintaining high attendance and punctuality.

## Term Dates and Holiday Planning

If you're planning holidays this year, please check the term dates on our school website to ensure you are using the correct information. We aim to upload the term dates for the next academic year (2025-26) as soon as they are finalized by Together for Children.

Please note that some schools, such as academies, may have different term dates or INSET days, particularly around February half-term.

As a reminder, holidays during term time cannot be authorized unless there are exceptional circumstances.

## Lost Property

We continue to accumulate a large amount of unclaimed clothing, often without names. Please ensure that all your child's belongings, including ties, shoes, and coats, are clearly labeled.

## Clubs

There will be no clubs running in the first week of term. We'll provide further information about club timetables soon.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns as the term progresses, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your child's class teacher should usually be your first point of contact, but both Mr. Smith and I are available on the playground most mornings and are happy to help.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Here's to a successful and enjoyable term ahead!

Kind regards,  
Mr. John Howe  
Head Teacher  
Seaburn Dene Primary School

