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Tuesday, 21st July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding school year, I want to offer my sincere thanks for your continued support. Every day, our staff feel privileged to work with your children - helping them grow, challenge themselves and take those small steps that make a big difference.

This year has been full of memorable moments and achievements across sporting, social and academic areas. It has been a joy to celebrate children's successes, whether through certificates, awards or simply recognising their effort, attitude and kindness. Foundation Stage, Year 1, Year 4 and Year 6 have all performed strongly in their national tests and assessments, and we are preparing a full overview of these results to share with you in the Autumn term. Early headlines show exceptionally strong progress and attainment across EYFS, KSI, KS2 and phonics—well above national averages. These outcomes reflect the hard work, determination and commitment of our children, staff and you, their families. Congratulations to everyone involved.

### Fond Farewell to Year 6

This week, we say a warm and proud farewell to our Year 6 pupils as they move on to the next stage of their education. They leave us with wonderful memories, strong friendships and a sense of achievement. Each one of them has been a valued part of our school family, and we wish them every happiness and success as they begin their secondary school journey. They are, without doubt, a group of true superstars.

### Fond Farewell to Staff

This year, we also say a particularly special goodbye to two fantastic members of staff who have been at the heart of Seaburn Dene for so many years.

Mrs Lynne Halliday, our School Business Manager, retires after an incredible journey that began in September 1994 when she joined Seaburn Dene as a school secretary, following her role as PA to the Director of Nurse Education at Sunderland General Hospital. She became School Business Manager in 2008 and has been an instrumental part of our school ever since- valued for her calmness, organisation, kindness and absolutely brilliant sense of humour. She plans to spend time with her family and volunteering with the WRVS in South Tyneside or the PDSA in North Hylton. Mrs Halliday admits she will miss "the people, the children and the banter" most of all. We will miss her - hugely.



Across the corridor, Mrs Sheena Baker also retires after 25 years at Seaburn Dene. She first joined us when her daughters, Sarah and Hannah, were pupils here - Hannah starting in Reception. Beginning as a teaching assistant and later moving into the school office in 2008, she has become known for her cheerful, positive approach and has often been the first friendly face families meet when joining our school. She will miss the families, staff and children, and plans to spend more time visiting family in Wales and her home island of Ling in Scotland- and, she vows, getting fit. She will leave a big hole.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Naomi Hazard as our new School Business Manager, joining us from St Leonard's RC in Silksworth and St Anthony's. We also welcome Mrs Helen Chapman, who will take up the role of School Office Administrator, joining us from Northern Saints CE Primary School in Red House. Earlier this term, Mr Tony Wells joined us as our new caretaker, replacing Mr Ian Turnbull. We look forward to the contributions each will make to our school community.

## **A Big Thank You to Staff**

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to our wonderful staff team. Their dedication, creativity and care ensure that every child experiences a rich, supportive and inspiring school year. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a committed group of professionals, creating a truly inclusive school

## **Volunteer Day**

Our annual summer Volunteer Day will take place on Monday 24th August, 9am–4pm. A team from Nissan will be joining us as we tackle gardening, OPAL improvements and some indoor refresh work. If you are able to spare an hour- or a day- we would be delighted to welcome you.

On behalf of all staff and governors, I wish you a relaxing, enjoyable and hopefully sunny summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming all children back, in full uniform, on Monday, 8th September as we begin a new school year together.

Keep safe and well.

Mr John Howe  
**Head Teacher.**

