



# Swanton Morley VC Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

January 2016

## Happy New Year

Another successful year has passed by. A year in which the school has been witness to many changes: Bidding farewell to The Light Dragoons, welcoming in The Queen's Dragoon Guards, children departing, children arriving and new buildings appearing. 2015 was certainly a busy, yet rewarding year for everyone connected with the school.

2016 has every prospect of being equally exciting with plenty to look forward to, especially the new opportunities that will be presented to us as we develop relationships with our partner schools of North Elmham and Bawdeswell.

There will of course be a few subtle changes here and there to accommodate Mr Lord's change of role, but essentially the school will continue on an unchanged course, moving forward on the same exciting learning journey as before, albeit with Mr Vokes' hand guiding the tiller on a day to day basis.

## Parking – A Gentle Reminder

The beginning of a New Year is always a good opportunity to start as we mean to go on, so could we respectfully ask all those travelling to school by car to abide by our parking policy and park/drive safely and responsibly within the vicinity of the school.

The parking policy is available to download from the school's website at:

[www.swantonmorleyprimary.co.uk/downloads](http://www.swantonmorleyprimary.co.uk/downloads)



## Vacancy for Parent Governor

A vacancy has recently become available for a parent governor. Further information about the role and what it involves will be sent out in a letter next week.

## Advance Warning - Road Works

Works will begin in the spring to resolve the flooding issues at the southern end of Manns Lane. The project will involve digging up the road between the junction with Gooseberry Hill and run for a length of approximately 200 metres towards the village hall. In an attempt to minimise the impact on the village and school, the contractor will commence work at the start of the Easter break on Tuesday 29th March 2016. However, please be aware that it is anticipated that these works will hopefully take around seven to eight weeks to be completed.



In order to safely construct the scheme and maintain health and safety requirements there will be a road closure in place for the duration of the works, with a short diversion route. As well as the road closure there will be two-way lights in place on Gooseberry Hill for the first two weeks of the scheme.

## Charity Fund-Raising

Thank-you very much to everyone who has contributed to our recent fund-raising activities. The Year Six Sale raised £120 which means that GATE (Gambia Action Through Education) are able to buy a new replacement water pump for one of their schools who's water supply failed at Christmas. Our Christmas Jumper Day brought in a total of £96.50 for the three nominated "Text Santa" charities.

## Extreme Weather



Whilst we in Norfolk have been lucky to have avoided the recent torrential rain and flooding that some parts of the country have suffered, we are nevertheless approaching the most unpredictable period of the year when it comes to weather.

It is vitally important that children are sent to school with coats and suitable footwear for the weather conditions. It's slightly bewildering that some children don't appear to have coats when it's pouring with rain or when temperatures are close to, or below freezing!

We would also like to draw your attention to the procedures in place should the school have to be closed due to inclement weather. If for any reason the school cannot open, notification will be provided to parents in three ways:

- 1) SMS – You will receive a text message from us
- 2) Local Radio – Regular announcements
- 3) Web – Notices on school and NCC sites

## Stay Informed



In order to keep up to speed with the latest news information by SMS can you please ensure that the mobile phone numbers the school holds for you are up to date.

Also, remember that this (and every) newsletter is available on the school web site to download/view as a PDF on your computer or mobile device.

[www.swantonmorleyprimary.co.uk/category/newsletters/](http://www.swantonmorleyprimary.co.uk/category/newsletters/)

## News from Year 4

We will be learning about India this term, in particular it's landscape and climate. Keep an eye out for our new "Reading Challenges" that will launch soon. Please note that PE will be on Tuesdays and indoor kit is required.

## News from Year 5

The Tudors will be our main topic theme this term. We will examine the various monarchs, focussing particularly on Henry VIII. Our other main area of study will be art, where the children will be developing their painting skills to replicate the work of Van Gogh.

## Reminder – School Opening Times



Please remember that the gate opens in the morning at 08:40 and the whistle blows at 08:50 in order to get the key stage 1 and 2 children in for registration. Registration starts at 08:55 and the gate will be locked at this time in the interests of the children's safety. Late arrivals (after 08:55) must enter the school via the office. The gate will be re-opened at 15:00 with key stage 1 released from class at 15:10 and key stage 2 at 15:15.

## News from Reception

We will be continuing Read, Write Inc. (phonics) this term. We shall be covering the topic "All Around the World" and look forward to comparing different places, starting with the cold Arctic and Antarctic. Please ensure PE kits are at school at all times and swimming kits on Mondays. As always, please ask if you have any queries.

## News from Year 1

This term we will be learning about forests and woodlands. We will explore a selection of forest stories. In science we will look at materials and their properties. PE this half term will remain on Friday afternoon. We would also like to welcome Mr Leff, a student teacher, who will be working with us this term.

## News from Year 2

This term we will be learning about the Great Fire of London and how homes have changed. We will be making models and peg dolls to help retell the story. In Computing we will continue developing our word processing skills and learn programming. This half term PE will be on Fridays and we will begin visiting the library.

## News from Year 3

Our topic this term is the Stone Age and Iron Age. We will look at how people lived, hunted and record their lives 8000 years ago. In particular, we will be looking at cave paintings. Children will bring instructions for their homework project next week. PE will be on Mondays, so please ensure children have suitable kit with them.

## News from Year 6

Ancients Greeks and will form the basis of our studies this term in history, geography and art. English themes will revolve around non-fiction writing, such as biographies and journalism. In maths the focus will be on measures, algebra and arithmetic. Netball, basketball and volleyball are the focus of PE which will take place outside. We will also be starting to study and learn French.