

Swanton Morley VC Primary School

NEWSLETTER



February-March 2016

The School Year Marches On

The February half term holiday marks the mid-point of the academic year and the return back to school also signals the beginning of the countdown towards SATs for those children in Years 2 and 6.



With a relatively short half term ahead of us (just five weeks), the children and teachers have a lot of work to do in cramming in a considerable amount of learning in a short space of time. We would therefore appreciate every effort being made by parents to ensure children attain maximum attendance over the coming months, particularly those in the crucial years of 2 and 6.

The second half of the school year also means a few subtle changes to school routines, particularly in the mornings. These changes are outlined in more detail on the reverse of the newsletter and primarily affect Reception and Year 2, in order to give them more responsibility and independence.



Attendance/Absences

Whilst the attendance (97.2%) at our school is very good, and above the national average for England and Wales, we do have a number of children whose individual figures drop below the expected 95% minimum target. Please remember that, even at 95%, over the course of a year a child would have missed nearly two whole weeks of learning.

To help us please:

- Present letters for medical appointments at the office
- Ring to notify absences before 09:30am

World Book Day

Thursday 3rd March is World Book Day and we would like to see as many children attend school dressed as a book character. There will be no donation required for this particular dressing-up day, but children in costume will be expected to bring a copy of the book their character comes from.



All the children at school will be presented with a book voucher which can be redeemed at the school's book fair or any high street retailer.



Book Fair

The school Book Fair will open on Thursday 3rd March for children to buy books during the school day. It will be open for parents to browse and buy on Monday 7th March from 2:00pm in the school library. Light refreshments will be available to buy whilst the fair is open.



Road Closure - Reminder

Please remember that the lower part of Mann's Lane will be closed from 29/3/16 to 13/5/16.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

The Spring Term consultations will take place on Monday 7th March (3:30pm-5:20pm) and Thursday 10th March (5:00pm-6:50pm). Bookings can be made at the office from Monday 29th February.



Whole Class Photographs

Just to forewarn you; on Monday 14th March all children will be having their annual class photographs taken. Please could you ensure your child/children attend in the correct school uniform.

R Reception: Revised Morning Routine

Now the reception children have settled and matured, it is time to give them more responsibility and promote greater independence. In order to prepare them for entry into Year 1 in September, from Monday 29th of February all Reception children should be dropped off in the mornings on the main playground and not at their classroom. They will be expected to line up at 8:50am on the sound of the whistle and will be escorted to class by their teacher.

As a result of this change, dinner forms should be completed at home prior to arrival. The yellow forms should be placed in the blue basket in the classroom by the children. This is a similar system to that which operates in all other classes; the idea being that we want to get the reception children accustomed to the routine that they will follow in subsequent years.

If you have any queries about the new arrangements, please get in contact with either Mrs O'Dell or Mrs Bicker.



Congratulations

Well done to Wil Gooch and Larissa Jones for getting through to the Norfolk Schools Cross-Country Finals, and who finished 30th and 17th respectively. A valiant effort considering there were over eighty competitors in each age group/race.

Also, well done to all the children who represented the school in the Dereham Schools Swimming Gala. Deserving of particular praise were Thomas Parker, who qualified for the Norfolk Finals, and Elliot Warrington-Price who won the Sportsmanship Award.

News from Year 4...

Topic study will be the ancient civilization of the Indus Valley. Excitingly we have visiting dance and story-telling workshops on 1st March. PE will be on Fridays (outdoor kit). "Read to Rio" is up and running, so get reading!

News from Year 5...

On Friday 4th March we will be going to Stranger's Hall in Norwich. Work will continue in art on our studies of Van Gogh. In geography we will be looking at settlements. The children will be creating board games in DT and in science we will continue exploring light. PE remains on Mondays.

2 Year 2: Revised Morning Routine

To foster greater responsibility and independence, and to prepare for moving into Key Stage 2, from Monday 29th February all children in Year 2 will follow the same morning routine as the juniors. This means that they will not be lining up when the whistle sounds at 8:50am, but will instead walk sensibly straight to class, on their own, with the older children.

Year 1 will continue to line up as before and be collected by Miss Vincent.

News from Reception...

Read, Write Inc. phonics will continue this half term. We will also be learning about people who help us and the jobs they do. The children will be cooking on Monday afternoons which we are all looking forward to. Please ensure PE kits are in school all week. PE remains on Friday and swimming on a Monday.

News from Year 1...

This term we will be reading forest stories. In maths the focus will be on measures, fractions and geometry. Forces will be our science topic. PE will be on Tuesdays and we will be learning mini-tennis. Our library day is Thursday.

News from Year 2...

This half term we will be learning about animals, in particular bear and wolves. The children will be making information books. We will be studying the work of L.S. Lowry in art. Computing lessons will involve improving word processing skills and using internet research tools. For your information, PE (tennis) will be on Tuesdays.

News from Year 3...

All Stone Age Projects are to be handed in by Friday 4th March. We will be holding a workshop on Thursday 17th March and parents are invited. The workshop (9:00 to 10:30am) will showcase the children's Stone Age work and will include activities to join in with and presentations by the children. We will also be holding a cake stall after school on Monday 29th February.

News from Year 6...

This half term we will be continuing our studies in to Ancient Greek history and culture, including delving into sculpture and mask-making in art. In science we will further our studies of light and the work of Newton. PE will be on Mondays focus on Volleyball. Preparation for SATs also starts in earnest this half term. The tests will be administered during the week beginning 9th May.