

Swanton Morley VC Primary School

NEWSLETTER



April-May 2016



Spring into Summer!

The beginning of the summer term always feels a little strange, particularly after an early Easter, because spring has only seems to have just got underway and there still aren't any leaves on most of the trees! However, with the sun making more frequent appearances, together with longer days and rising temperatures, it is a time of year to feel positive and high-spirited.

There is always so much to look forward to, from being outside more, making use of our expansive grounds to sports days, sponsored walks and special trips and visits. The summer term is also a time to consolidate and build on the year's learning in preparation for moving up into the next class, or in the case of year six, on to high school and pastures new.

It's certainly a busy time of year. There's lots of hard work to be done, but the rewards are plenty for those that rise to the challenge. Just like the trees, the children are ready to blossom and finish the term, in full bloom. Here's looking forward to a great a summer term!

Key Diary Dates

- Sponsored Walk – Friday 29th April
- May Day – School closed Monday 2nd May
- SATs Week (Y6) – Monday 9th May to Thursday 12th May
- Maths Week – Monday 23rd May to Friday 27th May
- Whitsun Holiday – Break up Friday 27th May for one week
- Y6 Camping Trip – Monday 27th June to Friday 1st July
- Sports Day – Friday 8th July (morning)
- Summer Discos – Friday 8th July (evening)
- End of Year School Reports – Issued Monday 18th July
- Y6 Leavers' assembly – Wednesday 20th July
- Summer Holiday – Break up Wednesday 20th July
- Return to School – Monday 5th September



Diary dates can be viewed in the school's online calendar by visiting the web site at www.swantonmorleyprimary.co.uk



Physical Education

Now that the weather is improving, the children will be doing the bulk of their PE lessons outside. It is therefore important that all children have the correct kit for outdoor activities, particularly footwear as well as having hats and sun cream available for those sunnier days.

Sport Relief

The dressing up as a sporting hero event raised £65.75 for the nominated charities. As ever, your support is very much appreciated.



BRITISH ATHLETICS

KS1 Indoor Athletics Competition

Well done to all those in who represented the school in the recent inter-schools competition. The children performed admirably and finished in a very respectable third place.

Book Fair

Many thanks to those who bought books at the fair. The event raised a total of £396 which the school can spend on new class readers and to replenish the stock of loan books in the library.



School Dinners

Just a quick reminder that NORSE, our catering contractor, has increased the cost of a school dinner for KS2 to £2.20 (all options). There will also be a special Saint George's Day dinner available on Friday 22nd April which should be ordered in the normal way.



Road Closure - Reminder

The lower part of Mann's Lane will remain closed until at least Friday 13th May for drainage works. Please use alternative routes and try and avoid make U-turns in dangerous places.

Caution: Social Media and Young Children



Every now again at school we suffer the negative repercussions of children having been involved in inappropriate discussion, chat and image sharing with each other, outside of school, on social media sites such as Bebo, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat.

The problems we see often stem from, what at first seems like innocent “banter”. Unfortunately, it doesn’t take much for such “banter” to quickly snowball into cyber-bullying. The trouble with social media is, what seems like a harmless quip can easily be misconstrued due to the ‘out of context’ nature of the online ‘chat’ and discussion. Without the benefit of face to face interaction, emotions and feelings are not at all easy to read, even for an adult.

The bottom line is, primary age children’s social and emotional development is, according to research, simply not up to the job of dealing with the complexities of online social interaction. This is the fundamental reason why sites (such as Facebook) recommend a minimum age of 14. Despite these minimum age recommendations (and the weight of research that points at the harm it can do) a quarter of under 13s in the UK use social media on a daily basis!

If your child does use social media, please find the time to consider and discuss with them how to use it responsibly and respectfully, or ideally... not at all! 😊

1 Year 1 News

This half term we are continuing to use the Read Write Inc. scheme to develop reading and writing skills. In maths we are focusing on addition, subtraction and 3D shape. In science we will be learning about plants and seeds. PE will take place on Wednesdays (swimming on Tuesdays).

2 Year 2 News

In history we will be learning about significant people, including Edith Cavell. Science will revolve around the study of plants and animals as well as conducting experiments to find out what they need in order to grow. In geography we will be learning about maps and how to use atlases. PE will take place on Wednesday (swimming Tuesday).

R Reception News

During this term reception will be learning about ‘Growing and Mini-beasts’, starting with the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. Children will be cooking on Thursday. Swimming remains on a Monday but PE will revert back to a Tuesday. Please ensure that your child has a sun hat as we will be spending quite a lot of time outside this term.

3 Year 3 News

As part of our topic on Tropical Rainforests, the children will learn about the importance of this habitat, and focus on the Amazon Rainforest, its location and the plants and animals within. ‘Plants’ in Science will run alongside our Rainforest topic and the children will look at how plants grow and what keeps them healthy. PE (tennis) will be on Tuesdays.

4 Year 4 News

Our topic this term is “Extreme Earth” and during lessons we will be studying volcanoes, earthquakes and other natural disasters. Our “Read to Rio” challenge is in full swing, so keep reading. Details of the Brazil Challenge will be out soon. Each week on Mondays, pupils will be receiving spelling activities to be completed by Friday. PE this half term will be on Tuesdays and the children will be working on tennis led by visiting professional coaches.

5 Year 5 News

In Maths we will be working on fractions and number and embedding key skills. English will revolve around The “Highwayman” poem by Alfred Noyes. Later in the term we will begin our topic work on the Mayans, exploring their ancient civilization and Mexico in general. The children will be continuing to work in earnest on their weekly spellings and tables.

6 Year 6 News

The main focus of this half term will be preparation for SATS which begin on Monday 9th May and putting the finishing touches to their writing portfolios. We will be finishing off our Ancient Greek studies and moving onto a Geographical based topic based on mapping and planning a “Round Norfolk” cycling holiday. PE (cricket) will be on Mondays.

