



Swanton Morley VC Primary School

February 2018

Half termly newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe we are almost through this half term! Where has the time gone?! I'd like to start my first half termly newsletter by saying a huge thank you to everyone associated with the school – to all of the staff, the pupils, the governors and to all of you parents. Everyone has made me feel so welcome here in Swanton Morley, and I feel very privileged to be part of such a fantastic school and community.

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust

Mrs Pollard (Zachary and Oakley's Mum) is raising money to support The Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Cystic Fibrosis is a genetic condition affecting more than 10,000 people in the UK and can cause a wide range of challenging symptoms including diabetes, liver disease and chest infections.

On March 25th she will be completing the London Landmarks Half Marathon to raise money for this very important cause. To support her with this the school will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 23rd March which we will be asking you to bring a £1 donation for. Thank you in advance for your support!

Communication with Parents

Communication with parents plays a hugely important role in successful schools. Class teachers will always be available to speak to on the playground at the end of the school day, and if you would like to get a message to them in the morning then please feel free to let me know when you see me at the gate, or you can go and see Mrs Day in the office.

If there is ever anything you wish to discuss with me please do not hesitate to come and have a chat or book a meeting in. If you are ever not happy with how we communicate with you as a school then please let me know!

What's happening in each class next half term...

Reception –

We cannot believe that our Reception children are now half way through their first year at school. Next term we will be sharing some stories which take us on a journey and thinking about similarities and differences between ourselves and others. In maths we will be solving some simple problems and investigating weight. Outside we are looking forward to finding signs of spring.

Year 1 –

Next term, year 1 will be busy learning about toys and games; past and present and thinking about how these have changed. In geography, the children will become familiar with the countries and capitals of the UK and use compass points to give directions. The children will have a chance to get crafty when we explore and make different types of puppets!

Year 2 -

Year 2 have been working very hard and are making good progress with their maths, spelling and handwriting. Next half term the class will be learning about the capital cities of the United Kingdom and conducting experiments using different types of everyday materials. In art we will be looking at the work of Kandinsky.

Year 3 -

This term we are learning about the Stone Age in Britain and the changes throughout its three periods. All Stone Age Projects are to be handed in by Thursday 1st March. We will be holding a workshop for year 3 parents on Thursday 15th March between 9:00-10:30am. £130 has already been raised from the Samosa sale towards the coach hire for a trip to Colchester Zoo in the summer term. We will be holding the first of our three cake stalls after school on Friday 2nd March to help raise the rest.

Year 4 –

This term we are studying the book ‘How to train your dragon’ by Cressida Cowell. In Maths we are focusing on measure including length, perimeter, area and conversions. Our topic this term is the Indus Valley and we will be taking part in an Indian dance workshop after half term!

Year 5 -

In year 5 next half term we will continue to learn about the ancient Maya civilisation. We look forward to announcing an exciting Mayan day at the end of this term. PE will continue to be on Tuesday but please have both indoor and outdoor kit after half term.

Year 6 -

Next half term year six will be focussing on Geography. Mountains, rivers and contrasting localities around the world will be the main areas of study but we will also be looking at the UK and learning to use OS maps and six-figure grid references. In science, work will continue on materials chemical change. English themes will centre on writing arguments, diaries and developing narratives using dialogue. Grammar, punctuation and spelling, along with reading will continue to remain key priorities in the run up to SATs in May.

Sports Update

This half term we have taken part in the KS1 and KS2 Sports Hall Athletics - these events were great fun and were very much enjoyed by all of the children who were involved!

Mrs Crockett took the swimmers to the swimming gala on Monday 29th January. We are still awaiting the final results, but all of the pupils gave their all and represented the school fantastically well.

The County Finals of the girls’ football competition is coming up in March. They have all been training really hard with Miss Vincent every Monday and we wish them the best of luck! More details to follow soon.

Dates for next half term

Parents' Evenings: 7th and 14th March – more detail to follow nearer the time.

NSPCC day: 12th March – more details to follow, but we'll asking everyone to wear something green and bring in a £1 donation.

Cake sales: Friday 2nd March and Friday 23rd March.

Last day of the Spring Term: Wednesday 28th March.

Changes to payments and future communications

From half term we will be changing the way we send communications to you and the way in which you order and pay for dinners. More detailed information about this will be sent out to you all. Once you've had a look through it all, please come and speak to Mrs Day in the office if there is anything you are unsure of.

It is **crucial** that we always have an up to date email address for you as this will be how all communications will be shared from after half term. So if you ever change your email address, please let us know!

Medical Appointments

Please can you ensure that if your child has to attend any medical appointments we require a copy of the appointment card or a signed compliments slip from the doctor/dentists etc... Thank you!

And finally...

I feel that it would be remiss of me to not mention the hard work and dedication of all of the staff here at Swanton Morley. They all really do go above and beyond for our pupils, working tirelessly to give your children the best chance possible of being successful. They are a privilege to work with!

I hope you have a fantastic break over half term!

Best wishes,

Mr Snowdon