



Swanton Morley VC Primary School

March 2018

Spring 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy, happy, enjoyable term it has been here at Swanton Morley! I can't believe Easter is almost upon us. I want to start the newsletter by saying thank you to all of you who completed the Parent Surveys. They have provided the Governing Body and myself with a very useful insight into your view of the school and allows us to reflect on what you feel we are doing well and, perhaps more importantly, aspects of school life that need developing further. The Governing Body will report back to you about the overall findings and trends in due course.

The AT Society

On Friday 25th May we will be having a non-uniform day to raise money for the AT Society.

They work closely with one of our year 5 pupils and are a great support to her and her family.

The charity relies heavily on donations to maintain all the good work they do in supporting individuals with A-T (Ataxia-Telangiectasia) and we will be asking pupils to bring £1 in to school to help us support them. The parent of the year 5 pupil will ensure leaflets come home with the children on the non-uniform day that explain how our fundraising will benefit the charity.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

Wraparound Care and After School Clubs

We are currently exploring the possibility of offering wraparound care (breakfast club and after school club) in the school. If this is something you'd potentially be interested in please let Mrs Day know in the office. We will record all feedback we receive about this and then make an informed decision based on the information available.

We have been contacted by a company that would be interested in running a weekly after school cooking club that would cost £8 per session (to include the costs of ingredients etc...) Again, if this is something you'd be interested in please let the school office know.

School Uniform

Generally, I have been very impressed by how smart pupils look in school. However, I have spotted a few pupils wearing trainers recently. Please make sure your child wears appropriate school uniform (including smart shoes!) to school every day. If there is an exceptional circumstance that impacts on this then please come and see me.

School and Parent Council

We have just set up our School Council. This is a committee made up of 2 members of each class who meet with me on a fortnightly basis to discuss the views of the pupils on a range of school issues. Their remit is also to consider fundraising activities that the school would like to support. It is an excellent way to ensure all pupils in the school feel that their opinions are valued and listened to.

We will feedback about the responses to the Parent Council during the first week back after Easter. Any more nominations need to be received by the end of the day on Wednesday please.

Sowerbys

I recently met with two Estate Agents from the Dereham branch of Sowerbys who explained to me an exciting promotion they are putting in place to support schools.

For every house they sell in our catchment area they will donate £100 to the school! This is very exciting news for us and as a staff we will be discussing where best to invest the money. One area in need of development is the outdoor learning space for Reception children so this is where some of the funds will go, but if you have any other ideas please let me know.

If you could spread the word about buying houses through Sowerbys and how that will support us then that would be great, thank you!

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

Reception

We have some exciting things planned for next term, including hatching eggs and a coach trip! We are hopeful that after Easter spring will be well and truly underway and we will be able to continue more of our learning outside. We will be supporting the children to become more independent and encourage them to think about taking care of plants, animals and each other!

Year 1

In the first summer term, year 1 will be busy! Topic learning will be based around the seaside, looking at how seaside holidays have changed. In science, the children will be learning all about plants and their functions and will have the opportunity to plant seeds and watch them grow! We will get arty and create some artwork inspired by Andy Goldsworthy using materials from around the school grounds.

Year 2

This term we will be learning about dragons and will be going on a class trip to Norwich Castle where we will take part in a dragon workshop. We will continue to work hard in maths and with our spelling, writing and handwriting. In science we will be growing plants from seeds. We hope to be able to get outside for PE which will continue to be on a Wednesday so please ensure children have outside kit so that they are prepared!

Year 3

In the summer term we begin our fantastic topic on Tropical Rainforest. We will look at locations of these rainforests across the globe as well as their importance to the planet. The amazing world of plants and animals found in these regions will make our learning very exciting. This will tie in nicely with our Science topics of 'Plants' and 'Habitats.'

Year 4

This week we have finished our Indus Valley topic and we have made our own Indus Valley seals. In the summer term our topic will be natural disasters. In maths we will start next term by focusing on fractions. Year 4 have an exciting trip planned for the summer term... more details to follow soon!

Year 5

Our topic will be the local area and maps with a trip during the term. In English, we will start with Classic Poetry. This will involve a costume – ideas will be emailed to you shortly. PE will change to Fridays with an outdoor kit required.

Year 6

Next half term year six will be primarily focussing on preparing for SATs in maths and English lessons. The children will be continuing to work on developing their writing portfolios with instructions, journalism, diaries and short stories being the main themes. Topic work will continue to centre on geography, with units of work on: mapping, grid references, scale and physical features. PE lessons will involve netball, cricket, tennis and athletics. Please remember SATs Week begins Monday 14th May.

Parking

Please continue to be aware of where you park at morning drop off and afternoon collection. Please do not park on the yellow lines outside the entrance to the school or opposite the school entrance. It is fantastic to see so many of you walking your children to school or parking at the village hall and walking down from there. As we move in to the summer term it would be excellent to see even more of you doing this!

If you'd like to discuss anything to do with parking then please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Top Class

'Top Class' is a quiz show for kids on CBBC that is highly recommended by two of our Year 6 pupils. It is a fun and interactive show and it is also available online on the CBBC website. If you want to play some of the quizzes with your child(ren) then log on and enjoy! It'd be a great way to do some extra (fun!) learning together.

Pupil Asset

Thank you all for your continued patience with regards to the issues with the Pupil Asset App. It has been very frustrating at times and all of your continued understanding, feedback and support is very much appreciated. Mrs Day ensures Pupil Asset are fully aware of any issues with have with the app. and we will continue working hard to ensure it eventually runs smoothly and works efficiently on a consistent basis.

Sports Update

The County Cross-Country finals took place on Wednesday 7th March at Holkham Hall. Mrs Sadler and Miss Warrington-Price accompanied four of our pupils to the event. They all tried fantastically hard and were competing against around 80 other children in their races.



The weather was “dismal” but the children gave their all and represented the school superbly. Well done to all of you and thank you to the staff and parents who accompanied them, especially Mrs Sadler for all the extra time she dedicates to coaching the runners at lunch times.

Our Y4 girls had a fantastic time at the County finals of the girls’ football competition. Miss Vincent was extremely proud of how well the girls worked as a team. They all showed real grit and determination. They are officially the 7th best team in Norfolk! An amazing achievement!



The Year 6s have started their netball training with Miss Vincent for the upcoming school sports partnership competition, we’ll let you know how they get on. I tried to join in with their training last week but they were too good for me!

Swimming

There will be a meeting open to all parents/carers on the evening of Monday April 16th at 6 o’clock in the school hall about the school swimming pool. I will be talking through and explaining changes to the use of the pool. All parents and carers are welcome and it will be an opportunity for you to share your views on the pool.

Dates for next half term

Monday 16th April School opens for the summer term, swimming pool meeting at 6PM

Wednesday 25th April Y2 to Norwich Castle

Friday 27th April Y3 Cake Sale

Thursday 3rd May School Council meeting with Norse to review the school menu

Monday 7th May Bank Holiday

Thursday 11th May Y3 Cake Sale

Week beginning Monday 14th May Y6 SATS

Tuesday 22nd May Reception to Gressenhall

Friday 25th May Non-uniform, Friends of Swanton Morley Sponsored walk and half term holiday starts

I hope you all have an enjoyable break over the Easter holidays, we look forward to seeing you on Monday 16th April for the start of the summer term!

Best wishes,

Mr Snowdon

