



Swanton Morley VC Primary School



May 2018

Summer I Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

The summer term is always busy in every school and it is no exception here at Swanton Morley!

The dates section towards the end of the newsletter and the section about what will be happening in each class really brings home the amount of events and special activities that are happening next half term.

For me, this really highlights how hard all the staff here at school work to make your child's education as exciting and thorough as possible. We will also be working on developing our whole school curriculum for September after half term to ensure the education we provide continues to be of a high standard as we move forward in to the next academic year.

Thank you for taking the time to read through the newsletter. If you have any questions or queries about anything that is mentioned please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Being prepared for the summer sun!



Hopefully we will have some nice warm weather between now and the summer holidays. Please make sure your child has a water bottle and a hat in school whenever necessary and please ensure they have sun cream if it is a particularly warm day.

Parent Council

We have had two Parent Council meetings so far and we will have two more next half term. I feel that they have been very productive so far and that it has given the parents the opportunity to pass on ideas to further develop the school and the way we work with all parents and carers. They have already had a direct impact on changes that will be in place and planned for next half term – more information will follow in the first few weeks after the break.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the Parent Council members for their continuing hard work and their support of the school.



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Social Media

I would like to support Mrs Casson's recent post on the Facebook page set up for parents of the school that reminded users of the role the group should play and what it is and is not for.

If you do have any concerns or worries with anything to do with school I am always happy to meet with you or to communicate via email or over the phone. Equally, your child's class teacher will always be happy to speak with you either on the playground or on the phone. Or, if you'd prefer, contacting a member of the Parent Council will ensure anything you have to say will be passed on and discussed.

Social media has many excellent uses, but if you want us to know of any concerns you may have then they should be communicated with us in the appropriate manner.

All parents and carers have signed the home-school agreement that mentions appropriate social media use and this should be followed at all times please.

SATS (!)

All of the year 6 pupils deserve a huge amount of credit for how calm and determined they were during SATS week. I was very impressed by the attitude they showed and how hard they all tried. In fact, the work ethic they have shown all year has been very impressive. The work Mr Vokes does with the Year 6 class really is brilliant, he has given them all a fantastic chance of being successful.

Phones

We still have no answerphone facility on our phone system so I apologise that you are unable to leave messages if the phone is not answered. This is something that we are hoping will be resolved quickly and we all appreciate your patience and understanding with regards to this. In the meantime, if you do need to leave a message for us then please email the office@ email address.

Uniform

The wearing of trainers is still a slight issue in the school. Pupils should wear appropriate foot wear (please see the uniform policy on the website for exact clarification) at all times unless there is an exceptional circumstance or they are taking part in a sporting activity. I have also spotted a few pupils wearing jumpers and hoodies around the school that are not school uniform. This is something that I don't expect to see and these pupils are always spoken to about this. For any clarification please see me.

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

Reception

Next term we are looking forward to spending more time outside. We will be incorporating these opportunities into our creative work and developing our knowledge of the World around us. We will continue the work we started on life cycles, this time looking at butterflies and investigating other creatures living close by!



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Year 1

The last summer term is upon us! We have an exciting trip to the Time and Tide museum to conclude our learning on the seaside. The science focus will be on animals; identifying and comparing them. As the weather improves, we will be spending lots more time outside, including for PE where we will be improving bat and ball skills. Towards the end of the year, the children will be doing some mixed media artwork using a photograph which they have taken from around the school grounds.

Year 2

Year 2 will be continuing to work very hard with their maths, spelling and handwriting. Next half term the class will be learning about the Great Fire of London and continuing their work with plants and habitats. In PE, we will be playing tennis and some outdoor games so please make sure all children have an outdoor kit.

Year 3

We are really looking forward to our trip to Colchester Zoo on the Thursday 7th June linked to our topic of Rainforests. All Rainforest Projects are to be handed in by Friday 15th June. We will be holding a workshop on Thursday 28th June and parents and carers are invited. The workshop (9:00 to 10:30am) will showcase the children's topic work and will include activities for all to join in. This will be followed by a presentation by the children linked to our trip to the zoo.

Year 4

This term we have been studying 'The Lost Happy Endings' by Carol Ann Duffy. In Maths we are focusing on decimals and fractions. Our topic this term is Natural Disasters and at the moment we are concentrating on volcanoes. We have been following the news reports from the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii. At the end of the summer term we will be going on an exciting trip to Thetford Forest to take on the tree top junior high ropes course!

Year 5

In year 5 next half term we will be continuing our work on mapping and extending this to mapping our local area of Swanton Morley. Excitingly, we will be going on a trip to Sheringham Park on 21st June (more details to follow). The Goalball session has been rescheduled to Monday 4th June (letter to follow). PE will continue to be on Fridays, please remember outdoor kit and trainers!

Year 6

The second half of the summer term will be busy! The children will be spending a good deal of time on design technology and STEM activities including developing and racing out Goblin Racers. English and maths lessons during the remaining part of the year will revolve around preparation for high school. Back, by popular demand, will be another 'Year Six Junior Bake Off' competition in June and there is the camping trip to Hautbois to look forward to in July. Finally, do not forget that the children will be spending the last five days of this term at their new high schools. As a consequence, the last day for Year Six will be Tuesday 17th July and we will be holding their farewell leavers assembly that afternoon (details nearer the time).



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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 seeing them scooting or cycling in to school) or parking at the village hall and walking down from there. As we move through 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.

Pupil Absence

We have had a few instances of being told by parents that their child is ill only for them to tell us that they've actually been on a holiday when they return to school! Please be honest with us with regards to the reasons behind your child's absence, it is very important we have accurate attendance records. Thank you!

Sports Update

We are the champions!

In April the Year 6 Netball team went to the School Sports Partnership Competition. The Netball team won all of their 9 games to be crowned overall winners of the tournament. The netballers now go onto to represent West Norwich and Dereham at the county finals at the UEA Sportspark in June!

Earlier this month the Year 3 and 4 Tennis players went to Easton College Tennis Centre for the Sports Partnership competition. Everyone played really well and the 2 teams came 11th and 12th.

The Year 1 Cross Country team had success at the Cross Country competition in April. As a team the children came 21st. Congratulations to the 2 runners who came in the top 10. Well done to the whole team!

Dates for next half term

Monday 4th June – Back to school after half term

Thursday 7th June – Y3 trip to Colchester Zoo

Friday 8th June – Class and whole school photos

Friday 15th June – Parent Council meeting

Monday 18th June – Netball County Finals!

Tuesday 19th June – Y4 drama workshop at Northgate High School

Thursday 21st June – Y5 trip to Sheringham Park

Monday 25th June - Y4 drama workshop at Northgate High School

Thursday 28th June – Y3 Parent Workshop



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Friday 29th June – FOSM Family Fun Day

Monday 2nd July to Friday 6th June – Y6 Residential

Thursday 5th July and Friday 6th July – Whole school Science days

Tuesday 10th July – Y1 and Y2 Swimming Gala

Wednesday 11th July – Y3 to Y6 Swimming Gala

Thursday 12th July – KS2 Sports morning

Friday 13th July – KS1 Sports morning, Y6 Reports to go out to parents and FOSM disco in the evening

Tuesday 17th July – Y6 last day, their leavers' assembly will be that afternoon at 2.30

Friday 20th July – Y2 trip to Bewilderwood and all other reports to go out to parents

Monday 23rd July – Clockwork Sports morning

Tuesday 24th July – Helpers and leavers assembly in the morning and last day of term

All specific details to follow nearer the time

Thank you for taking the time to read through the newsletter and for your continued support of the school. I hope you all have an enjoyable half term, we look forward to seeing you on Monday 4th June for the start of the last half term of the school year.

Best wishes,

Mr Snowdon