



Swanton Morley VC Primary School



July 2018

## Summer 2 Newsletter

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

*What a busy term it has been. There have been so many exciting events going on for all of the children. We've had class trips, sports days, discos, science days, the list goes on and on!*

*I'd like to think we've tired out your children for you ahead of the summer holidays but I'm not sure if that's possible!*

*I hope you enjoy reading the last newsletter of the year...*

### Curriculum

We have spent this half term refreshing and updating our curriculum and it will be up on the website for you to look through very soon. It gives a clear overview of what each class will be working on each term in each area of the curriculum starting in September.

I thought I'd let you all know in case you want to do any preparation work with your children ahead of the units of work coming up next term. I am aware that, because it is the end of the school year, this newsletter doesn't contain the 'what is coming up in each class next half term' section, but if you want to see what the classes will be studying all the information will be available on the website.

**Having a broad and balanced curriculum is fundamental to being a successful school** and we hope you agree that we will be providing excellent learning opportunities for all of your children.

### Year 6s leaving us...

What can I say about the Year 6s who are leaving us?! They really have been a **fantastic class** and they have achieved so much this year. Saying goodbye to them yesterday was very emotional for lots of the staff.

Going to visit them on their residential really demonstrated to me how grown up they now are. They were calmly and sensibly enjoying their activities and Mr Vokes was clearly able to trust them with a range of responsibilities. And their leavers' assembly yesterday really was fantastic and utterly hilarious!

I wish them all **good luck** for their futures, we are all very proud of what they have achieved this year.



**Swanton Morley VC Primary School**

### **...and staff leaving**

Mrs Mullholland and Mrs Aston will be sadly missed by all of us when they leave us next week.

Mrs Mullholland has been with the school for a long time now and it is pretty much impossible for me to summarise all of the great work she has done over the years and how much she will be missed in just a few lines.

I know she wouldn't want me to make a fuss of her, but I can genuinely say that she is one of the most dedicated, passionate and skilled teachers I have ever worked with. The way that her Year 3 class behaves and works is a great credit to her; they are all incredibly calm and focussed in all of their lessons and the work she helps them produce is fantastic.

I hope she has a great retirement and that she sometimes still pops in to say hello to us all!

Mrs Aston will also be greatly missed.

She has been a fantastic member of staff, always willing to help out whenever needed and always willing to support the pupils in any way that she can. She has been a huge asset to the school and we will be very sorry to see her go. As I mentioned before, she is going to be training to be a teacher from September and I have no doubt that she will go on to have a very successful career.

**A heartfelt thank you and good luck from me to both of them.**

### **Wrap-Around Care**

The service is ready to go from **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September** – please feel free to get in touch with us before the end of term to book your child(ren) in!

Mrs Allinson can't wait to get this up and running and is working really hard to have everything nicely set up ready for after the summer holidays. If you have any questions or queries about this service please let us know.

### **Uniform**

The school uniform has been slightly amended and the new version is available on the website. There are no major changes, but please make sure you've read it and it is followed at all times. Please feel free to discuss this with me if you'd like to.

### **End of Key Stage Results (!!)**

Whatever your views on SATS, they seem to be here to stay! Our provisional results for this year are again, very strong and really do show how much excellent progress our pupils make. This is because of the strong teaching they receive throughout their time here with us and because of the high standards all of the staff have with regards to behaviour and academic effort. In addition to this, the teaching of Mr Vokes in Year 6 really is outstanding and gives our Year 6s the best chance possible of being successful in secondary school.



**Swanton Morley VC Primary School**

**84% of our pupils achieved at least the expected standard in reading, writing and maths.**

This is **20% higher** than the national average.

Well done to all of the Year 6s for their hard work!

Our results in full will be published in detail on the school website in due course.

### **Morning Drop Off**

We will ensure the gate is open by **8.45** every morning from the start of next term. I know that this is slightly later than I currently open it, but lots of our staff aren't contracted to work until 8.45 so I do not feel that it is fair to always expect them to be here before then (although they usually all are!)

Remember that all the pupils are the parents/carers responsibility until the gate is opened and it is not appropriate to leave them at the gate unattended unless they can be trusted to **wait calmly!**

Morning drop offs will continue in the same way that they currently do, with parents/carers leaving their children at the gate to walk in to school and start their learning (apart from Reception class). I cannot over-emphasise how successful this has been in **developing learning behaviours** and getting the days off to a calm, productive start. However, I do recognise that this means you don't get to speak to the class teachers or see the classrooms as often as some of you may like.

Therefore, we will be developing further opportunities for you to come in to school next year. This will include starting **termly cafes** in each class which will give all parents and carers the opportunity to work with their child(ren) in their classrooms – more information will follow about this early in September.

### **Parent Governor Vacancy**

A message from the Governing Body:

**We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor.**

Is this you?

Do you have an interest in all the children's futures at Swanton Morley VC Primary School?

A desire to make a difference?

A willingness to accept responsibility?

An ability to work in a team, ask questions, listen and learn?

If so we would love to hear from you.

Governing Bodies are an integral part of school leadership, setting the ethos of the school, driving continuous improvement, supporting, challenging and holding to account the head teacher and other members of the school leadership team, setting targets for improvements in standards and monitoring progress towards them and overseeing the financial performance of the school making sure its money is well spent.

At Swanton Morley VC Primary School the Governing body meets approximately 3 times per term in the evening. As a Parent Governor you will need to undertake various training courses to support you in your role.



## **Swanton Morley VC Primary School**

If you would like more information or an informal chat about the role please contact the Clerk to the Governing Body Mrs Wilton via the School Office on 01362 637219

### **Service Pupils' Champion**

I am very pleased to announce that from September Mrs Wilton will be our Service Pupils' Champion. This will involve a range of responsibilities that are designed to **support service pupils** in the school to make sure they are as happy and integrated in to school life as possible.

More specific details of her role will be shared with you in September and our 2018/19 Pupil Premium strategy will detail how we'll spend the service premium we receive on making sure service pupils and their families are as fully supported by the school as possible.

### **Sports Update**

**Our upper kay stage 2 Netball team finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the County finals!** This is a fantastic result for the team and I know how hard they trained before the competition and how well they played in this event and the one before it that secured our qualification in the finals. A big well done to the whole team and a big thank you to Miss Vincent for arranging the training sessions and running the team so successfully.

Other external sporting events we've been involved in this term include Year 3 and 4 taking part in a mini tennis competition, Year 1 and 2 attending a Tri golf session and also a football festival for Year 2s.

The swimming galas that took place last week were hugely successful and I know how much the pupils enjoyed themselves! A big well done to all of the pupils who took part so successfully and a HUGE thank you to Mrs Crockett for organising the events so successfully!

**Sports days were fantastic!** The pupils all tried incredibly hard and I was very impressed with how much excellent team work was on display. Thank you to all of you who came to watch and helped make the mornings so fun and successful.

One thing that was mentioned in Parent Council was the school starting doing the **Daily Mile**. This is something we have looked in to and I am pleased to announce that we have a plan in place for this to start in September courtesy of Mrs Sadler. More details will follow soon (before the end of term), but we are hoping for as many pupils (and parents!!!) to get involved as possible.

### **Dates for next half term...**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September** – first day of term and wrap-around care service opens

All other key dates will be updated on the calendar on the school website very soon, we are just in the process of getting them finalised.

**For the term dates for the rest of the next academic year please see the diary section of the website.**



**Swanton Morley VC Primary School**

*As another school year draws to a close I'd like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff, parents, governors and pupils of the school. In my view, the reason this school is so successful is because of how much all of us stake holders care about education and providing the best possible learning opportunities for all of our pupils.*

*The staff here at Swanton Morley really do go above and beyond to support the learning of every pupil in our school and they all play a huge role in helping secure such strong academic results. But, even more importantly, they all support the strong ethos of the school and help ensure our pupils understand our golden rules and our Church school vision which means that the school is such a calm and focused place.*

*I hope you all have a great summer break when it begins next week.*

*Best wishes,*

*Mr Snowdon*