



Swanton Morley VC Primary School



October 2018

Autumn 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe half term is almost upon us! What a thoroughly busy and enjoyable start to the school year it has been. We have welcomed lots of new children to our school, and it has been lovely seeing all of the new Reception children settling in so well.

I hope you find our half termly newsletter interesting and useful. Please do feel free to come back to me with any questions, queries or comments!

Sports Update

The Cross Country Championship at Gresham's School (Holt) on the 5th October was a great success for us. We took 24 pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 and they all did fantastically well!

There were almost 250 pupils in each of the four races and the pupils represented the school superbly despite the level of competition, with all of our athletes giving their all and not giving up – I am very proud of all of them. The next cross-country event will be at Taverham on 1st November!

All of Year 4 enjoyed a tag-rugby development day last week where they practiced their skills and took part in a series of mini-games. They had a great time and were highly enthusiastic about the day when they returned to school.

Earlier in the term, some of our Key Stage 1 children took part in an active kids sports festival at Easton College where they worked on their ball handling skills, including throwing, catching and aiming across a range of activities! They had a fantastic time and were very proud of the certificates they received.

Photos

A reminder of the information that was sent out to you with regards to parents taking photos at school:

Parents may take photos at school events of their own children only and these pictures must be for personal use only and are not to be shared on social media; it is illegal to sell or distribute these images.



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Wrap-Around Care

Wrap-Around Care is going very well and is now being attended by more and more pupils.

Mrs Allinson and Mrs Warrington-Price really have created a fantastic environment for the children and they all love the time they spend there before and/or after school.

Places are always available so please do get in touch with Mrs Day in the office to book your children in if you ever need this service.

We will make a decision early next half term about the long term future of Wrap-Around Care – whether it will continue or not after Christmas will be communicated with you in November.

Mrs Allinson will also be changing the name to something more exciting than ‘Wrap-Around Care’ – all of the pupils who attend the sessions have been voting on the name change and it will be revealed very soon!

Swimming

Just a reminder – next half term Y3 will be swimming on Mondays and Y1 and Y2 will be using the pool on Wednesdays.

School Results

2018 was another hugely successful year for the school in terms of the academic results we achieved. Our Year 6 results (the amount of pupils who achieved at least the expected standard in reading, writing and maths) were **20% above the national level**, 25% above the county level and 30% above other schools in this area – there is a more thorough overview of this on the website. This clearly demonstrates how successful we are at helping children to achieve their potential and how lucky our pupils are to be taught by our excellent teachers and teaching assistants.

However, what children remember about primary school isn't usually how well they did in their SATS! As well as ensuring all of our pupils make good academic progress, we will always strive to make sure every child in the school feels safe, happy and supported. We want to continue to develop the community feel of the school and that's why the Daily Mile has been so successful, because it has brought school staff, pupils and parents together to focus on a shared activity.

NCC Consultation on Children's Centres

The following link was forwarded to me by a member of the Parish Council, it can be used if you'd like to contribute to the current consultation.

<https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/consultation/childrenscentres-2/>



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Daily Mile

The Daily Mile has been a run-away (get it?!!) success this half term. It has been brilliant to see so many of the pupils and parents taking part and it really has contributed to the community feel of the school.

We now want to move on to the next stage – all pupils taking part in the Daily Mile and being active on as regular a basis as possible. However, we don't want to lose the parental involvement aspect...

We have therefore decided to do the Daily Mile within the school day on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Then on **Thursdays** and **Fridays** we will continue with the system that has been in operation this half term – the school gates opening at 8.30 so that parents can join in with the fun!

So, if parents would like to keep taking part in the Daily Mile the days to do it will be on Thursday and Friday from after half term.

A huge thanks to Mrs Sadler for setting this up and running it so successfully and to all of the staff who have been helping her.

What's happening in each class next term?

Reception

The children have had a great start to their Reception Year. Now the children know their new environment much better, next half term we will can build the children's independence as learners encouraging them to explore and investigate set challenges and solve their own problems. We will continue thinking about our bodies and how we take care of them. We will look at the seasonal changes that are happening outside and celebrating Autumn/Winter festivals.

Y1

Year 1 have had a busy start to the new school year. They have settled in brilliantly and have quickly adapted to a more structured learning approach. Next half term, we will begin our History topic on 'toys from the past' which links to our DT with the children making a toy. In Science, we will be exploring 'ourselves'; looking at our body parts and our senses. The children will then use their senses to create a fireworks acrostic poem. There are two exciting trips to look forward to later in the term as well as a nativity!

Y2

Year 2 have had a good start to the term and are working hard. They are making good progress with their maths, spelling and handwriting. During the next half term the class will be learning about healthy lifestyles and making picture frames in Design Technology. It is



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already that time of the year again and we are all looking forward to learning our new songs ready for this year's Christmas performance!

Y3

Off to a flying start, Year 3 have been focused and working really hard. Next half term we will continue our topic about the Ancient Egyptians and we will be visiting Norwich Castle to look at the exhibits and learn through their history and drama workshops. There will be a slight change on Mondays when our usual PE sessions will be replaced with either swimming or dance.

Y4

We have completed our study of fables and we have spent the last few weeks focused on 'The Tunnel' by Anthony Browne. After half term we will explore some of his other intriguing books. In maths we will be focusing on subtraction, multiplication and division. Our trip to Norwich Castle to experience 'A day with the Romans and Iceni' is in December. More information to follow!

Y5

After half term, we have some exciting events coming up. One is our trip to the Observatory on Thursday 8th November. Details were sent out this week. This links to our change in Science topic which is Earth and Space. Our History moves on to the Vikings. PE will remain on Mondays. Finally, watch out for an invitation heading your way next week - keep the afternoon of Friday 2nd November free.

Y6

The children have all been working fantastically hard and have really impressed in their dedication and attitude, as well as their enthusiasm for learning. Next half term, Year 6 will be continuing their study of the Great War and, in particular, the centenary of the Armistice in 1918. Maths lessons will revolve around fractions, decimals and percentages, and in English the children will be further developing imagery and narrative writing skills. The pupils are also looking forward, with great anticipation, to performing 'Archie Dobson's War' for your enjoyment on Friday 9th November. Over the half term break, year 6 will need to be focussing on learning their lines for the class production; there will be NO other homework.

Don't forget, class teachers will always be available to speak to after school on the playground!

Key dates for your diary (as you can see, there is a lot going on!)

Wednesday 29th October – School opens for the second half term of the autumn term

Friday 9th November – Y6 Remembrance play

Friday 9th November – Termly reports out to parents

Tuesday 13th November – Parents' Evening (starting at 5)



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Wednesday 14th November – Y3 trip to Norwich Castle

Thursday 22nd November - Parents' Evening (starting at 3.30)

Saturday 1st December – Christmas Fayre (FOSM)

Tuesday 4th December – Y4 trip to Norwich Castle

Wednesday 5th December – Winter Wednesday after school (FOSM)

Thursday 6th December – Y1 trip to Strangers Hall

Tuesday 11th December – Christmas lunch for the pupils

Wednesday 12th December – KS2 Carol Service at Church

Thursday 13th December – Y1 trip to Norwich Cathedral

Friday 14th December – KSI Nativity

Friday 14th December – Disco (FOSM)

Tuesday 18th December – Last day of term

All specific details (including timings) will follow nearer the time, as will events being run by FOSM.

A final thought...

I have invited lots of fellow Headteachers and other lead professionals in to the school since we started back in September and they have all commented on how happy a place our school is. The pupils are all cheery and engaged and the staff really do go above and beyond to support them and ensure they make good academic and social and emotional progress.

It is always very useful to get external feedback to ensure we don't rest on our laurels, and this has all been very positive and complimentary about the school. It really is a great place to work and I am very proud to be the Headteacher here!

As ever, if there is ever anything you'd like to discuss with regards to any aspect of school life please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

Mr Snowdon