



Swanton Morley VC Primary School

'Love your neighbour as yourself.'



February 2019

Spring 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you find our half termly newsletter interesting and informative. Please do let us know if you have any questions, queries or comments.

Sports Update

We take being active very seriously at school and provide lots of opportunities for the pupils to take part in a range of activities...

At lunchtimes, Mrs Sadler leads a running/cross-country club at least once a week (often more!) and on Fridays Mrs Webb takes a group for Zumba and I run a Y4, 5 and 6 football club. As well as this, each class tries to do the daily mile on a daily basis and, as you know, we open up the gates at 8.30 on Thursdays and Fridays for parents and carers to join in with this. And also Mrs Spencer runs two cheerleading clubs a week and on Wednesdays we often have a sports coaching session going on in the hall or on the playground.

The Cross-Country County Finals are taking place in March at Holkham Hall. We have five KS2 children taking part – good luck to them all. They have done amazingly well to get through to the finals and we are all very proud of them.

Mrs Warrington-Price took a team of Year 2s to the Sports Hall Athletics event on the 17th January. All the pupils tried really hard, had a great time and did the school proud. It was a pleasure to award them with their certificates!

Perseverance

Our Collective Worship theme this half term has been perseverance. All of the teachers who have led acts of worship have been focussing on how important perseverance is to being successful.



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Our aim is for all pupils to buy in to the fact that they can achieve anything they set their minds to, as long as they never give up. A crucial part of this is accepting that making mistakes is how we learn. When something goes wrong, they should see it as a learning opportunity.

Our next area of focus will be Lent and Easter. We are very fortunate that Revd. Rosie will be leading an act of worship for us next half term based on this theme.

Swimming

Just a reminder that next half term Year 3 will be swimming on Mondays and Y1 and 2 will be swimming on Wednesdays.

JJ Walking to the Village Hall

As I'm sure some of you have noticed, JJ will often walk to the village hall after school to be collected by his Mum. We have talked this through with her and there are some key safety points we'd like to share with you about this –

1. JJ has to be trained to cross the road independently when he has assessed it safe to do so. This means that if a driver stops and waves him across the road he will not cross as he cannot assess himself if it is safe to do so or not;
2. Drivers can help him by reducing the speed at which they drive during the afternoon pick-up;
3. Drivers can also help by ensuring they have their lights on the lowest setting during dull days. Due to JJ's reduced vision this will help him be aware of approaching cars;
4. Most importantly, please be patient while he cross the road as if he rushes whilst using his mobility cane he could injure himself.

Thank you to you all for your patience and understanding with regards to all of the above.

EDP Book Tokens

Mrs Hogan has confirmed that we managed to raise over £100 through the collection of the EDP book tokens. This will all be spent on books for the library. Thank you to all the parents who helped us collect them and to Mrs Hogan for running the scheme for the school, and for being so passionate and dedicated to her work in running the library (this includes opening it four lunchtimes a week for the children to use!)

Parent Zone

<https://parentzone.org.uk/>



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The above link offers lots of useful advice on helping keeping children safe online for parents. This is something that can prove challenging, and the Parent Zone website is full of helpful tips and keeps up to date with new trends etc...

If you would ever like any further guidance or advice with regards to online safety please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. This is something that we work very hard with the children on in school because it is so important that they all have the knowledge of how to effectively keep themselves safe online.

A message from the Chair of Governors, Ruth Robinson

A half year to Celebrate!

Well here are, half way through the school year, and for some it seems like only yesterday that they dropped their children off for at school for the very first time on a warm September day.

We may only be half way through the school year, but we already have plenty to celebrate and we would like to say thank you for the hard work of the teaching staff, support staff and the Headteacher in being able to celebrate those successes. Of course, without the continued support of parents, carers and the local community we would not be in such a positive position – so thank you to all of you too.

I know we had to deliver some difficult messages last year around charges being made and a reduction in swimming for the children but this has made a huge difference to us being able to keep the pool open and provide additional hours of swimming for our pupils when compared against the curriculum and other local schools. Schools have continued to close their pools over this last year and there are now only 11 left in the county – so thank you for helping us be one of the 11!

As well as this the school has set up an incredibly successful breakfast and after school club which I had the pleasure of visiting last week. It was a joy to see such happy and chatty children, despite it being the end of the day. Mrs Allinson and Mrs Warrington-Price have put a lot of time and effort in to making it so successful – a huge thank you to them both.

Finally, of course, we have had our Ofsted inspection last term and can definitely celebrate our continuation of a good rating. These inspections get harder and harder and we are extremely proud of such a positive outcome.

Have an enjoyable half-term break and we look forward to many more celebrations.

What's happening in each class next half term?

Reception



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Next half term we are looking forward to exploring first-hand the seasonal changes in our local environment. We will be planting, and nurturing living things and finding out if it's possible to have a chicken without an egg!

Y1

The spring term is flying by! I'm really proud of the progress being made in each lesson by the children. Next term we will be focusing on measurement in maths looking at length, capacity and weight. In English, we will be developing writing skills using the story 'Way Back Home'. We have an exciting geography unit exploring Kenya which I am sure the children will love! Please ensure children have their PE kits every Monday. I am always available on the playground if you have any questions.

Y2

Year 2 have been working hard and are continuing to make good progress with their maths, spelling and handwriting. Next half term the class will be learning about the Great Fire of London and continuing their learning about different types of everyday materials. In art we will continue looking at the work of Kandinsky and different styles of painting. We are also looking forward to our class trip to Norwich Castle where we will be taking part in a Dragon's Tale workshop.

Y3

Year 3 rock... but next half term they're going to shine! Our science topic will be light, so in DT we will be designing and making shadow puppets. For our inspire day we will become Groovy Greeks. Next half term we will also be swimming every week on Mondays - please make sure your child brings their PE and swimming kit every week. In RE we will be learning about and working on Good Friday.

Y4

Year 4 think ROCKS ROCK! Next half term we will start our new science topic 'Light and Shadows'. We love learning about the Groovy Greeks! After half term we will have a Greek day involving a carousel of different activities. In Literacy we will be studying Greek myths and legends.

Y5

In Year 5 we will be moving on to writing persuasively and constructing balanced arguments. Maths will continue to revise the four operations and complete work on fractions. Our



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topic moves on to Central America. Finally, we are pleased to invite you all to come and see our production of the Easter Story 'Hosanna' on the morning of Wednesday 3rd April at All Saints Church, Swanton Morley. All the children will be involved as there are lots of acting and singing parts. Timings will be confirmed nearer the date.

Y6

With SATs fast approaching the main focus of our attention in Year 6 will be on English and mathematics. In English lessons the children will be working on writing arguments, biographies and diaries. Statistics and algebra are the main focus areas in maths which will complement our continued work on arithmetic and fractions. Geography continues as the principal humanities theme, although the focus will switch from map work to physical studies (climate, rivers, mountains and how they shape the land). Sculpture and using three-dimensional media provides the main theme for art, along with modelling in design technology (linked to the geography topic). Learning in science will revolve around classification and characteristics of animals and plants along with evolutionary studies. Coding and algorithms form the back-bone of learning in IT, and the children will be applying this in developing their own private (intranet) web pages. In PE, Year 6 will be back outside developing their netball and hockey skills, so appropriate kit will be required for the prevailing weather. During the spring term Year 6 will be linking up with the Languages Department at Northgate to hone their French and take part in some exciting hands-on Gallic activities!

Don't forget, class teachers will always be available to speak to after school on the playground! If you need to get a message to them in the morning please let me know on the gate or contact the office.

Key dates for your diary during next half term

Tuesday 5th March – FOSM meeting in school at 6.15

Friday 8th March – Termly reports sent out to you via Pupil Asset

Tuesday 12th March – Parent's Evening

Thursday 21st March – Parent's Evening

Friday 29th March – Easter Disco

Wednesday 3rd April – KS2 performance of 'Hosanna' at the Church

All specific details will follow nearer the time.



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I look forward to seeing you all again after half term on Monday 25th February.

Kind regards and best wishes to you all,

Mr Snowdon