



Swanton Morley VC Primary School

'Love your neighbour as yourself.'



December 2019

## Autumn 2 Newsletter

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

*What a busy half term it has been – we have had parent's evenings, open evenings, the panto up at the base, fantastic class trips, brilliant sports partnership events, the nativity and much, much more!*

*Christmas really is a magical time of year and there is no better place to be than at a primary school during the festive season because of how happy and excited all of the pupils tend to be.*

*I hope that you find this newsletter interesting and informative and that you all have a fantastic Christmas holiday. As ever, if there is anything you would like to discuss with regards to the information below, or anything else to do with the school, please do not hesitate to get in touch.*

*I look forward to seeing you all again on **Monday 6th January** for the start of the spring term.*

### Sports Update

The Y4 Girls' Football team were **unbelievable** in their tournament last month at Goals Soccer Centre. They played three games, winning them all without conceding a goal and they worked really well as a unit, showing great team spirit. A special mention has to go to Lucy who scored ten (that's right, ten!!) goals and led the team superbly. In January they will compete for a place in the County finals – good luck girls!

All of Year 2 took part in a KSI cross-country event in November. The staff who went with them were all blown away by their effort and application. Every single pupil tried their best and we had some children who finished very high up in the placings, including Matthew who won his race by a distance. Well done to Year 2!

There was also a Key Stage 2 cross-country event that we attended at Taverham. Mrs Sadler took 4 pupils from each of the junior classes and we had a number of pupils who finished in the top ten of their races and therefore qualified for the County finals next term. Well done to them all, more information about how the finalists get on will be shared with you next term.

Our Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics team finished 7<sup>th</sup> out of 14 schools at the event that took place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November. This is a great achievement because we were competing



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against some much larger schools. All of the pupils had a great time competing in a range of events and we are very proud of their efforts.

A huge thank you from me to Miss Vincent and Mrs Sadler for all the organising they do to ensure our pupils get to access these events, and also to the parent volunteers who have supported them.

### **Safe Driving**

Since the weather has been so wet recently I have had several parents who walk with their children to school speak to me about being splashed by cars driving too quickly through puddles. I know sometimes puddles can't be avoided while you are driving, but if all drivers could drive as carefully as possible please I know that this would be greatly appreciated by all. Thank you.

### **Swimming**

Just a reminder that the swimming timetable remains the same up until February half term, with Y4 swimming on Mondays and Y5 and Y6 using the pool on Wednesdays. **These children need their swimming kits in school every week.**

The younger classes will begin to use the pool from the week beginning Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February; more information will follow with regards to this nearer the time.

### **Volunteering**

Since we started to focus on developing our school grounds, we have been astounded by the level of help and support that we have received from a small group of dedicated volunteers. These parents and members of the community have worked tirelessly to clear, develop and maintain our outdoor spaces which now are all starting to look fantastic. This will directly improve the education your child receives, as all classes will soon be able to access these outdoor learning and exploration areas.

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of these volunteers for their effort and dedication to helping the school, and also to FOSM for their ongoing commitment and support.

### **Knitting Club**

In the New Year we are planning to start a knitting club. If you have any wool or needles that you could donate to support this new club please let us know!

### **Home Learning Journals**

I have really enjoyed giving out home learning certificates in Celebration Assemblies this term. Lots of children have achieved a bronze award (5 activities completed) and we have even had some achieve silver (10 activities) and gold (15 activities) already!



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Don't forget, these activities are designed to enhance the life experiences of your children and some of them should also help you out around the house! We will continue to monitor and reward effort in this area every Friday in the New Year. If you have any questions or comments about the home learning journals please feel free to discuss them with your children's class teacher.

### **Play Leaders**

As a supportive and nurturing school community, we have been so impressed with the positive impact the Year 6 Play Leaders are having on daily life here at Swanton Morley.

For those of you who don't know, most of our Year 6 pupils have been brilliantly trained as Play Leaders by the fantastic Mrs Wilton so that they can support the play and relationships of the younger children. Every break and lunch time four of the play leaders fulfil this role, working alongside our Midday Supervisors, and all of the younger children in the school know that they are there to support them if they ever need it. This way, none of our pupils should ever feel sad or lonely because they'll always have someone to play with or to talk to if needed.

A huge thank you to all of the Year 6 children who volunteer in this capacity, and to all of the staff for supporting and encouraging these developments.

### **What's happening in each class next half term?**

#### **Reception**

Next half term much of our work will focus on the RSPB Birdwatch and winter weather. The children will be continuing to count on and back in steps of 1, 2 and 10 in number, as well as colour, shape and pattern in Mathematics and Art.

Our physical focus will be around moving on different parts of the body, stepping, balancing, and jumping. The children will also be travelling avoiding obstacles, moving around, under, through and over.

Shared texts will include 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell, non-fiction texts about garden birds as well as some popular rhyming texts by Julia Donaldson.

#### **Y1**

In the first half of the spring term we will be learning all about space with the book 'The Space Train' by Maudie Powell-Tuck. Our English and topic will involve lots of imagination and facts and help us to write our own space adventures. In Maths, we will be designing space vehicles using place value, length and height.

#### **Y2**

Year 2 have been working very hard and are making good progress with their maths, spelling and handwriting.



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Next half term the class will be learning about the capital cities of the United Kingdom and conducting experiments using different types of everyday materials. In art we will be looking at the work of Kandinsky.

### **Y3**

Next half term in Year 3 we will continue to work hard in all of our lessons. As well as number work, we will focus on measurement in maths, and in English we will be developing our writing using an increasingly ambitious range of grammar and punctuation. In RE we will focus on what we can learn from different bible stories and what they tell us about how Jesus thought we should live our lives.

If you ever have any questions about Year 3 please don't hesitate to come and speak to us on the playground!

### **Y4**

In the spring term we will start our new Stone Age topic! We will read and work on 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura. In maths we will be focusing on fractions, time and measure. In science we will continue our topic on electricity.

Swimming remains on Monday and P.E. will now be on a Tuesday.

Happy Christmas Year 4!

### **Y5**

A big thank you to all who attended our recent Viking Day to listen to the tale of Beowulf, help create a sword and play games. We hope you enjoyed it as much as the children and staff did. There will be the chance for you to come and see us again during the year.

From January, our History and Geography switches to the Mayan Civilisation followed by looking at the region today. Maths will see us complete multiplication and division. Pupils really need to practise their times tables target at home to help with this unit of work. Ask your child and they will tell you their target! Spellings will no longer be sent home but, again, the Year 5 and 6 words should be regularly practised at home. Please remember the Home Learning Journals Challenge continues: we have had several children complete Bronze level and even a couple of Silvers! English lessons will see us begin a new book and produce writing inspired by it – a new book this year.

Routine-wise, PE remains on a Monday (indoors) and Swimming on a Wednesday.

Finally, we will be bringing you an exciting 'Waste Warriors' event at the end of the half term. We will email you about items to collect over the holidays – we wouldn't want anyone getting bored! See you in 2020. 😊

### **Y6**

During the first half of the spring term Year 6 will be completing their Second World War project by looking at D-Day and the victories in Europe and Japan. After that the children will be focusing on Geography, in particular scale, coordinates, maps and map reading skills. Spreadsheets and algorithms will be core area of study in computing, along with some introductory work on HTML coding. In science the main topic will be evolution and



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inheritance, moving onto classification of plants and animals. Art, design and technology work will be based on drawing and sketching, then sculpture and statues. In PE the children will be completing their rugby sessions and then moving on to dance and gymnastics. Initially in English lessons, work will focus on story writing using all the skills learnt in the autumn term. Following that, attention will turn to persuasive texts, arguments and discussions. Maths lessons will be based on the geometry, measurement and statistics.

*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**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – School reopens for the spring term

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January – FOSM meeting (6.15 in school)

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Y4 Swimming Gala (in school time)

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Y5 and 6 Swimming Gala (in school time)

*Best wishes and Merry Christmas to you all,*

*Mr Snowdon*