



Swanton Morley VC Primary School
'Love your neighbour as yourself.'



October 2019

Autumn I 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 and families 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 let me know if you have any questions, queries or comments.

Sports Update

The Cross Country Championship at Gresham's School (Holt) took place on Friday 4th October. We took over 20 children to this event and they all gave their all and represented the school superbly – a big well done to all of them from me. **A huge thank you to Mrs Sadler** for all of her dedication to training and preparing our competitors. She ran training sessions 2 or 3 times each week for them which are in addition to PE lessons and held during lunch time. Without her volunteering to support our pupils there is no way they would be as successful as they have been. Thank you also to the parent volunteers who accompanied Mrs Sadler and the runners at the event.

The Year 4 adults took all of Year 4 to a tag-rugby tournament on Thursday 3rd October. When they got back all of the pupils were highly enthused and had clearly had a great time. Miss Vincent was very impressed with their attitude and effort at what was another highly successful event organised by the West Norfolk and Dereham School Sports Partnership of which we are proud to be members.

Miss Vincent has also begun training the Y4 girl's football team ready for their competition next half term – watch this space for news of how they get on!

School Results

2019 was another very 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 all the three core areas of reading, writing *and* maths) were **10% above the national level, 16% above the county level and 17% above other schools in our area.**



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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 throughout the school. A full breakdown of these results will be available on the website soon.

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. As I've said before, end of year results tend to fluctuate each year, but what we can ensure remains consistent is our calm, caring and supportive school community ethos.

Daily Mile

Don't forget that the Daily Mile is available for parents and carers to join in with every Thursday and Friday – either Mrs Sadler or I will open the gate at **8.30** to get started 15 minutes before school starts.

Snack and Healthy Lifestyles

I have been highly enthused by seeing all of the children eating fruit and vegetables for their break time snack. Thank you to all parents and carers for continuing supporting this initiative, I am sure this approach will quickly be embedded in our school culture. **Remember, if children in KS2 would like to bring a snack in to school for break time it can only be fruit or vegetables.**

As a school we will continue to do everything possible to encourage and promote healthy, active lifestyles, and this is an important step on that journey.

Thank you also to all of the brilliant staff in our school kitchen for embracing this change and being so creative with the fruit and vegetable options available to the KS2 children to purchase.

Outdoor Learning and Exploration

These are very exciting times for the school because of all the **developments we are planning to the school grounds**. We are working hard to make as much of our extensive grounds as accessible and beneficial to learning, exploration and play as possible; this includes opening up the woodland areas for den building and exploration, partially clearing the pond area so it is more of a nature friendly area and utilising the playground spaces we have so that they can facilitate as many different games as possible.

After half term pupils will need to be wearing **wellies** in order to go on the field at break and lunch times because as the weather turns colder and damper it will get muddier.

All of the staff want to say **a huge thank you to all of the parent and community volunteers** who give freely of their time to help with all of the work that needs doing to develop and maintain our school grounds. Their commitment really has been astounding and the impact it is having on the daily lives of our pupils is genuinely incredible. We are also



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incredibly lucky to have the support of FOSM who have committed to continuing to fundraise to help with these ongoing developments.

In addition to this, we will be applying to work towards a prestigious Green Tree Award for the school and have also trained up Year 6 play leaders who help support younger children to access our outdoor spaces.

All of these exciting changes are directly benefiting all of your children so **a heartfelt thank you must also go to Mrs Kenyon** who passionately manages these projects with the expertise and support of Mr Vokes. Without her drive, commitment and enthusiasm none of this would be possible.

Wrap-Around Care (breakfast and after school club)

A message from Mrs Allinson and Mrs Warrington-Price:

“Early Birds and Night Owls have returned this year and both are busy and running well. A reminder that this service can be booked for one off sessions as well as regular ones, which could be of great help in the run up to Christmas! Children can be booked in at short notice (same day), just call the office and speak to Mrs Day or leave a message. We charge £4 per hour and breakfast/light snacks are provided. Just to clarify to all users that if you book a session and your child does not attend, you **WILL** be charged **UNLESS** you call and cancel.

The children have enjoyed crafts, making our group tree, den building, games and free play. We have regular Wii and snooker competitions and ‘Movie’ nights now that the evenings are getting cooler and darker quicker.

We are on the lookout for any donations of clothes airers (bi or tri fold) for den building, old shirts for painting aprons, and odd socks for craft activities. In addition, if anyone has any spare Wii games or controllers, then they would be greatly appreciated too.

If those who use us regularly would like to bring in a pair of slippers to wear when you’re with us that would be fabulous. We thought it would be more comfortable for the colder months.

Thank you all, and we look forward to another fun packed half term of before and after school activities.”

What’s happening in each class next term?

Reception

Next term Acorn class will be exploring and considering the changes of the seasons, supported by our first trip to Easton College. We will also be thinking about light and dark and seasonal celebrations, including birthdays, Diwali and Christmas.



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Y1

It has been a very busy start to the new year and the class have settled in well to a more formal learning approach in year 1.

We have begun to learn about 'Ourselves' in Science and this will continue on into next term. In English, we will base our work around the book of 'Traction Man' which is always a favourite! In Maths, we will continue to build on number fluency and begin working on addition and subtraction. We will explore some of the work of Andy Goldsworthy in Art which follows on from our learning of seasons.

If you ever have any concerns or queries, please do speak to one of us on the playground.

Y2

Year 2 have had a very good start to the term and are working hard.

We have enjoyed learning our Harvest songs and creating some autumn art work. The children have also really enjoyed learning about Florence Nightingale during topic work. The class are making good progress with their maths, spelling and handwriting.

During the next half term we look forward to learning about healthy lifestyles and making picture frames in Design Technology.

Y3

Year 3 have had a strong start to the term and are working hard, both Mrs Kenyon and I are very happy with all of their efforts!

Nest half term we are really looking forward to our trip to Norwich Castle on the 13th November. This was a brilliant visit last year that the previous Year 3s very much enjoyed so we know this will really effectively support and enhance all of the learning we have done in our topic lessons so far this year.

We will keep working hard to learn our times tables and to get used to the new words we are learning about in the Year 3 curriculum that are sent home with the children each week.

Y4

We are really excited about our trip to Norwich Castle in December! The children will experience 'A day with the Romans and Iceni'. Letters will go out after the October half term.

In English we are reading 'The Tunnel' by Anthony Browne and soon we will be studying a selection of his other books.

In maths we are currently focusing on addition and subtraction. After half term we will be working on multiplication, division and fractions. All the children are improving their times tables scores each week. Well done Year 4! Keep up the good work!



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Y5

Next half term our History and Geography topic moves on to the raiding, invasion and settlement of the Vikings in Britain. As part of this, a Viking costume will be required. Please don't worry as they are simple and we will email ideas through to you this week.

The children will receive teaching about Kennings so you can tackle the Kennings activity on the Home Learning list of challenges, if you wish to. Also, we will be sending home the sheet to complete the Moon Diary.

In English we will move from stories into non-fiction writing.

Swimming continues on a Wednesday and PE on Mondays. We will still be outside after half term so please can you ensure that your child has their kit every Monday, including trainers for outside.

Y6

Year six are well under way with their World War II studies and have learnt about the life in the 1930s, the build up to war and what happened during the first six months of the conflict. The children will next be turning their attention to the main focus of study: The Battle of Britain. Learning will begin with investigating the evacuation of Dunkirk, followed with an in depth look at the events of 'The battle' summer of 1940 (including a trip to IWM Duxford in November), leading on to the Blitz, Dam Busters raids, D-Day and Victory in Europe.

In science lessons work will continue on properties of light and colour but will move on to investigating and experimenting with electricity after the holiday. For the rest of the autumn term learning in mathematics will centre on calculations, fractions and geometry. English lessons will focus on writing dialogue, creating imagery through poetry and narratives and story writing. Art and Design lessons with Mrs Wilton will revolve around still life studies and a project titled: 'Objects and Meanings'. PE will remain outside until the end of October with the children playing Tag Rugby; after that lessons will move inside with gymnastics and volleyball being the focus sports.

At home the children in year six should continue to work on their Learning Journal tasks, as well as spending some time outside during the holiday collecting tree seed for us to germinate over winter and then plant out in the spring.

Don't forget, as Mrs Kerrison mentions, class teachers will always be available to speak to after school on the playground and if you need to get a message to them please let me know at the gate or speak to Mrs Day in the office.

Key dates for your diary

Monday 28th October – School reopens for the second half of the autumn term

Wednesday 30th October – Open Evening for parents



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Friday 1st November – Short reports to go home to parents

Wednesday 6th November – Parents' Evening

Wednesday 13th November – Parents' Evening

Friday 29th November – Non-uniform day (please bring a donation for the Christmas Fair tombola)

Saturday 7th December – Christmas Fair (FOSM)

Friday 13th December – KSI Nativity at school in the morning and Christmas discos in the evening (FOSM)

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas carols in Church, all parents warmly welcome to attend, and last day of term

All specific details (including timings) will follow nearer the time

Best wishes,

Mr Snowdon