



Swanton Morley VC Primary School

'Love your neighbour as yourself.'



February 2020

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

Mrs Hogan took a group of Year 1 pupils to the sports partnership **Sports Hall Athletics** event last month. She was so impressed with how hard all of our pupils tried and it was a pleasure to award them all with their certificates!

Our **Year 4 girls' football team** have done tremendously well in the first two tournaments they have played in this season, so much so that they qualified to represent West Norwich and Dereham at the School Sports Partnership County finals at Goals Soccer Centre. This event took place today and I am so proud to announce that our girls finished in 8th place. This means that we have the 8th best Y4 girls' football team in the whole County! This is an extraordinary achievement and we are all so proud of them! Miss Vincent can't speak highly enough of them all, they worked well as a team, always supporting each other and also trained hard to improve every week. Go girls!

We have several KS2 runners in the **County Cross Country finals** next half term - good luck to all of our competitors, you have done brilliantly to get through to the finals and we are all very proud of you!

A number of our KS2 pupils took part in the **Swimming Gala** in Dereham on Monday 3rd February. They all tried really hard, competing in a range of races and were highly enthusiastic about the experience!

The **school football team** have been training hard with me every Friday lunchtime and we have three fixtures arranged for next half term. The players that are selected for the team will receive further information about these games during the first few weeks back after half term.

A huge thank you to all of the staff and volunteers who take the time to run and support these events and activities.



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Willow Arch

This week, having amalgamated the children's designs to create Swanton Morley School's 'Living Willow Structure,' each child planted a whip - now the fun will really begin as we watch it take shape and grow. A huge thank you to the parent volunteers who are supporting Mrs Kenyon and Mr Vokes with this fantastic project.



Swimming

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

These pupils need their kits in school **EVERY WEEK** please!

Daily Mile

I am pleased to announce that we will be starting up the Daily Mile mornings again at school **after half term.**

Mrs Sadler will open the gate at **8.30** for any pupils and/or parents who want to take part every **Thursday**, and I will do the same on **Fridays.**

We look forward to as many of you as possible taking part in this initiative, helping us to continue to promote healthy, active lifestyles!

Learning Characteristics – Building: Caring, Curious, Resilient Children

As a staff we have been thinking very carefully about core learning and behaviour characteristics we want to support our children in developing.

Our vision is for all of our pupils to be: **caring, curious** and **resilient.** We will work to embed these values in to our school culture with the vision that all pupils will understand



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and consistently model these key characteristics. We will use our daily Collective Worship as an initial vehicle to exploring and developing these values.

Parking at School

A polite request – if you are waiting in your car, please do not leave your engine running during the morning drop off or afternoon pick up. These fumes are incredibly harmful to your children and to the environment. Please also carefully consider where you park and ensure that your vehicle doesn't block the view of children trying to cross the road.

Thank you.

What's happening in each class next half term?

Reception

Next half term we are very happy to welcome back Mr Tate who will be working with us until mid-March. We will be looking at seasonal changes outside as the weather starts to warm up, including plants, trees and animals. We will discover how to hatch eggs and care for chicks, and look at the life cycle of a chicken! In the lead up to Easter we will be asking why Christians celebrate Easter, making our own Easter garden and asking why Christians put a Cross in it. Class texts will include *Rosie's Walk* by Pat Hutchins and *Stanley's Stick* by John Hegley. In gymnastics we will be focussing on posture, balance, jumping and landing. Maths will involve using coins, solving problems and measuring.

Y1

Next half term Year 1 will be reading and writing traditional tales and looking at the books of Julia Donaldson. Our focus in maths will be measurement. We will be comparing the climates in hot and cold countries and learning about how to survive in these environments. Neil Armstrong will be our historical figure and we will focus on the artist Paul Klee. PE will be yoga and we will be looking at sorting data on the computers.

Y2

Year 2 are continuing to work hard and have impressed us with the good progress that they are making with their maths, spelling and writing. Next half term the class will be learning about the Great Fire of London and continuing their learning about different types of everyday materials. The children have really enjoyed our English work based around our book 'Claude in the City' so this half term in DT we will be designing and making coats for Claude the dog which we are really looking forward to. The children will be swimming after half term so will need a swimming kit in school on a Wednesday. They will also need a PE kit in school for PE lessons on a Wednesday.

Y3

Beech Class are becoming a **FORCE** to be reckoned with, as they start to 'push' their learning forward!



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This Half Term we have had some surprising discussions around our topic 'The Stone Age'; we are currently studying the text 'UG' and we will continue to develop our written work based around this story.

After half term, **EVERY MONDAY** afternoon Year 3 will be swimming, so please ensure your child brings their kit in every week. As always, PE will be on Fridays and after the holidays at every opportunity we will be outside so please come prepared and include outdoor trainers.

Y4

We are really enjoying learning about the Stone Age! We have finished our work on 'Ug – Boy Genius of the Stone Age' by Raymond Briggs. After half term we will read 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura. In maths next half term we will focus on measures, multiplication and division. In Science we will continue with our work on forces. PE will be on Tuesday afternoons – don't forget your kit!

Y5

After an action-packed half term, it's full speed ahead towards Easter. We will continue our Waste Warriors focus in Year 5 and look at what we can do in our classroom and school to keep our efforts going. English will see us conclude our writing on Persuasive Writing and Arguments and move on to some Classic Literature. Maths will see us learning about Percentages and how they relate to Fractions and Decimals alongside work on Statistics and Measures. History and Geography will conclude work on the Mayan Civilisation and move forward to look at the region today. In Science we will look at how materials can be changed in different ways. PE will still be on Mondays but outside to start learning Netball skills – **please make sure children have trainers and warm clothing as it will still be chilly**. We will also pick up our running once more. Finally, remember we have now finished our swimming for the year.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Have a relaxing half term from the Year 5 team.

Y6

Geography will be the central theme for topic studies in Year 6 next half term. Learning will be divided into two areas: Rivers (physical features and a river study), and Map Reading (OS maps, scale, grid references and route planning). During English the children will be working on non-fiction writing - persuasion, arguments, biographies, reports and instructions. The two novels featured this term are 'The Nowhere Emporium' (current) and 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. The key Maths topics will be Statistics and Algebra, which will run alongside continuous calculations and fractions practice. It is also worth noting that pupils have a 'Times Table Rock Stars' account which they will be expected to hone their multiplication skills at home and school. Science lessons will continue to on Evolution, Inheritance and Classification. Art and design technology studies will be based on an 'Up-Cycling' project, Street Art and the work of Jackson Pollock. PE sessions are going to be inside for the first part of the half term focussing on Gymnastics, and then moving outside to play 'High-5' Netball.



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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

Friday 6th March – Short reports sent out to parents

Wednesday 11th March – Parents' Evening (late)

Wednesday 1th March - Parents' Evening (early)

Friday 27th March – Discos!

Wednesday 1st April – School breaks up for the Easter Holiday at 3.15

All specific details, including timings where relevant, will follow nearer the time.

*I look forward to seeing you all again after half term on **Monday 24th February.***

Kind regards and best wishes to you all,

Mr Snowdon