



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



October 2020

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 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.

Coronavirus Update

Thank you all so much for supporting us with the Coronavirus guidelines that we currently have in place. As I have previously mentioned, it is by working together that we have the best chance to keep the school and our community as safe as possible. Please continue to drop off your child at the gates in the morning, and then please make your way away from the school as soon as possible so that social distancing can be maintained.

All of the pupils have adapted very well to the new rules and logistics we have to have in place in school and the staff are working incredibly hard to support this.

As we go in to winter, we may have to review the feasibility of maintaining our current model of 3 bubbles, potentially reducing down to 2 – one for KS1 and one for KS2. However, this will be kept under review and based on the most up to date guidance.

Further information with regards to this will be communicated to you as required.

Events and Celebrations

As we approach the festive season we will be working to review how we can run some of our usual events without parents coming in to school. This will include planning to use technology to capture Christmas performances.

More information will follow next half term and, as ever, will be based on the most up to date guidance.



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Mrs Webb

It is with great sadness that I am announcing the departure from our staff team of Mrs Webb. She has been with the school for well over 20 years and she really will be a huge loss.

She is an incredibly dedicated and skilled Higher Level Teaching Assistant who has helped so many pupils at our school. She has recently moved to the North Norfolk coast and I would like to take this opportunity to wish her luck for the future. You will be very missed Mrs Webb!

From all of us at the school, thank you so much for all of your hard work, support and dedication over the years.

Snack and Healthy Lifestyles

Please remember, if children in KS2 would like to bring a snack in to school for break time it can only be fruit or vegetables. KS1 pupils don't need to bring anything in for a break time snack because free fruit is provided for these classes.

We will also continue to try and make the most of our extensive grounds during break and lunchtimes so please make sure that your child has **a pair of wellies and a warm coat** with them at school so they can play and run around outside during these times.

As a school we will continue to do everything possible to encourage and promote healthy, active lifestyles.

Curriculum

As a staff, we are working hard to continue to develop and enhance our school curriculum. We break each subject down to focus on key knowledge, skills and experiences. We feel that this is the best way to ensure your children continue to receive the best education possible at our school.

Please keep an eye on the Curriculum page on the website which will keep being updated throughout the year to reflect these changes. If you would like any further information with regards to this, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

What's happening in each class next term?

Reception

Our new Acorn class are now familiar with the expectations and routines of the classroom. We are particularly impressed with the children's willingness to have a go at new things and you would be amazed how good they are at trying the different fruits and vegetables at snack time!



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The children have talked about their families and we have looked at how we have changed since we were babies. We have thought about the things that we can do now as well as those things that we would like to get better at now that we are in school.

We enjoyed an autumn walk and found out about Vincent Van Gogh the artist. We even tried to paint sunflowers in the same way that he did.

After half term we will start thinking about celebrations including birthdays, Christmas and the Hindu festival of lights, Divali. We will be naming and using different parts of our body and finding out about the five senses. We are hoping to start using the computers in the ICT suite, and will start weekly sessions of music.

Keep an eye out for the weekly updates on Tapestry. If you have difficulty accessing the Tapestry system, please let the office know.

Y1

The children have amazed us all and have settled back into school life so well. They are always so happy and positive each day. We have been busy sharing lots of stories in English and doing exciting activities based around these. We have begun our daily Read, Write Inc lessons and the children are doing really well with remembering and learning new sounds.

Next term, topics include 'Toys from the past' in History and 'Ourselves' in Science. The children will be working on place value up to 20 in maths and begin to add and subtract. When the weather allows, we are trying to get the children outside as much as possible for both learning and play so please ensure that they always bring a coat and have outdoor shoes. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us!

Y2

It has been really lovely to welcome the children back into Year 2 and they have settled back into school well and have had a very good start to the term. We have really enjoyed creating different types of portraits during Art and learning about Florence Nightingale during topic work.

The class are making great progress with their maths, spelling and handwriting. During the next half term we look forward to learning about healthy lifestyles and looking at the work of artist Steven Brown.

Y3

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the term! We have started our topic on the Ancient Egyptians and we have been learning about daily life and the River Nile. After half term we will learn about mummies, Tutankhamun, hieroglyphics and Egyptian gods.

In English we are working on 'The adventures of Egg Box Dragon' by Richard Adams. The children have written some lovely letters to the dragon asking for his help to find a precious object.



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In Maths the focus has been on addition, subtraction and multiplication. After half term, we will work on division and fractions. The times table scores are improving each week. Keep taking part in the battles on times table rock stars!

In addition, Wednesday 21st October will be Mrs Webb's last day at school. She has worked at school for 23 years so the children and staff will give her a good send off!

Y4

Phew! What a busy first half term we have had in year 4! We have started our learning on the Romans, been learning all about teeth in Science and had great fun getting to grips with tag rugby in P.E.

Next half term we will be continuing our learning on the Romans, focussing more about what happened after they invaded Britain. In science, we will finish our learning on digestion and then move on to electricity. We will continue to do P.E. on Wednesday afternoons and swimming on Monday afternoons so don't forget your kits!

I hope you all have a much-deserved half term break and I look forward to seeing you back and ready to learn in November.

Y5

After such a long time away, I am really impressed with how the children are settling in to Year 5. They very quickly re-established friendships and seem happy to be back. We are talking a lot about being good Role Models and working together as a class team – this has been the theme of our in-class Collective Worship and our PSHE/RSE this half term. This all links very well to how we want to embody our School Vision of 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

Following the holidays, we will continue our new approach to writing but our book will change to the tale of Beowulf. (A plea not to read this tale as we will be writing our own ending!) In Maths, we will use our place value skills to make sure we are all secure with column methods of addition and subtraction, alongside some geometry and measures work. In History, we move slightly further ahead in time and learn about the Viking invasion, hoping to answer the question: Were the Vikings really Vicious Invaders? Check your emails for details of a special Viking Day in school. In Science, we look to the stars and learn about the Earth and Space. (Watch this *space* for your Moon Diary to complete for Home Learning!!)

Our PE lessons will remain on Mondays and swimming continues on Wednesdays.

Thank you for your support so far and I look forward to working with you all next half term.

Mrs Madeley.



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Y6

Year 6 have begun their study of The Great War and looked at the reasons it began, conscription and life in the trenches. During the next half term, the class will be investigation developments in technology and medication, the Battle of the Somme and Armistice. The subject of Remembrance will be examined through drama, ultimately performing the play, "Archie Dobson's War" depicting 1914-1918 through the eyes of a child. This play may be performed in front of a 'live', socially distance audience, but may have to be recorded as a film and shared digitally, depending on current COVID advice/rules.

In English lessons, next half term year six will be looking at writing dialogue, imagery through poetry, narrative story writing and persuasion. Having read 'Clockwork', 'The Iron Man' and 'Eyetooth', the next class novel will be 'Danny Champion of the World'. Following last half term's work on calculations, Maths for the next two months will focus on fractions, percentage, ratio, proportion and geometry. Science studies will involve continued work on electricity, followed up by investigating 'light'. PE lessons will centre around four key area: hockey, football, gymnastics and dance. In art, the main focus will be art and artists of the Great War, together with work on self-expression and portraits.

Although there is no weekly homework as such, the children are expected to keep learning their spellings (list A and B), their times tables and to continue work on/in their 'Home Learning Journal'.

Don't forget, 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 2nd November – School reopens for the second half of the autumn term

Friday 6th November – Short reports to go home to parents

Weeks beginning Monday 9th November and Monday 16th November - Parents' Evenings (phone consultations will be available – more information to follow in due course)

Friday 18th December – Last day of term

Kind regards and best wishes,

Mr Snowdon