

Welcome Information for New Parents & Pupils

Hello and welcome to Swanton Morley VC Primary School!

We hope you, and your child, are looking forward to starting at our school.

This leaflet has been produced with the help of parents who have tried to think of everything they wish they'd known before their child started school and what follows is an attempt to share the benefits of their experience with you.

Comings...

Please bring your child to the school gate for 08:45 where a member of staff will remind them where they need to go and, if appropriate, ask a member of their class to show them to their classroom. Class teachers will then explain where they can put their PE kits, bags and coats.

Important things to remember about the morning drop off:

- Your children are your responsibility until the gate is open and should not be left unaccompanied unless it is appropriate to do so
- Pupils should arrive at school no later than 08:55
- If the gate is closed when you arrive please bring your child to the office

And goings...

School finishes for Infants (YR – Y2) at 15:10 or 15:15 for Juniors (Y3 – 6). Your children can be collected from the Junior playground. Children being collected by after school clubs will be picked up on the playground unless they are using the school after school club – these children will go straight to the wrap-around room.

Changes of arrangements... If somebody different is picking up your child after school, then please let the member of staff on the gate in the morning know or contact the school office. Don't ask your child to pass on the message as this may cause confusion! If you have to come to school by car please park responsibly, additional parking is available at the Village Hall just down the road.

Things to remember... Dogs are not allowed on the school site, if your child cycles or scoots to school a helmet must be worn, pupils should walk on the playground during pick up time, they shouldn't be using their bikes or scooters on the playground

Food, Glorious Food!

Playtime snacks...

Infants: Every child in the infants will receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day so there is no need to give your children anything extra or them to have money for a snack.

Juniors: Our kitchen staff sell milk and other healthy snacks during morning break for 25p. If you want your child to buy a snack, please ensure they have no more than 50p in a named purse. Alternatively, juniors may bring a healthy snack in to school from home. Pupils are not permitted to lend each other money.

Hot Lunches...

- All children from Reception to Year 2 will be entitled to a free school meal each day. Meals can be purchased for any child from Year 3 to Year 6 for £2.30. Menus are available on the Norse website. Meals are ordered through Pupil Asset for all children; there are a range of daily meal options and dietary requirements can be accommodated if needed.
- Children having a hot dinner go in to the hall and line up to collect their dinner on a tray (supported by a member of staff if needed).
- Reception children sit at tables together and they are closely supervised by MSAs (Midday Supervisory Assistants) and someone is always on hand to cut their food if needed.
- The MSAs will encourage children to eat the meal that is ordered for them – so please make sure it is something they like!

Packed lunches...

- Children bringing their own packed lunches sit at specified tables with their friends. The MSAs are made aware of the new children and keep a special eye on them to help them settle into routines and feel secure.
- Packed lunches should be in a named box. Children take leftovers and empty packets home so that you can see what they have eaten. Half eaten yoghurts can be disposed of in school, but most parents prefer to track their child's eating habits.
Children can buy a limited supply of snacks (which conform to Government guidelines) at lunchtime if you wish to supplement their lunch.
- Please note we are a **nut free school**

Drinks...

- Drinking water is available in the classroom but children are encouraged to bring a named water bottle to school to keep in the classroom for drinks throughout the day, these are refilled as necessary.
- Soft drinks (squash) are allowed during lunchtimes but throughout the rest of the day **only water** should be drunk.

What to Wear

All children wear school uniform which can be purchased from Birds of Dereham. The school uniform policy is available to download from the school website. A list of things your child will need:

Please name ALL clothes and belongings!!

- A named book bag for library books, letters and notes home (wherever possible these are sent by email). These can be purchased from Birds of Dereham
- A named water bottle
- In the summer a sun hat and sun cream (your child is required to apply the sun cream themselves, with adult supervision if required. We suggest parents apply it before coming to school on anticipated sunny days)
- Waterproof coat
- Wellies/outdoor shoes so the field can be accessed
- PE kit and bag – this can be brought in every Monday and taken home on Friday. Shorts, T-shirt (a team T-shirt will be provided by the school for the first year) and plimsolls or trainers are all that are needed to begin with
- Swimming kit will be needed for three half terms of the year – a timetable for this will be shared with you at the start of each year
- Children need shoes in line with the school uniform policy that they can put on themselves, that are comfortable, sensible and named
- Children with pierced ears may wear stud type earrings but they need to be removed for swimming and PE. Children need to be able to remove their own earrings or preferably leave them at home on PE/swimming days
- Long hair should be tied up, neatly away from the face

Swimming

Our swimming teacher is Mrs Crockett. For swimming lessons girls need one-piece bathing costumes and boys need old-fashioned trunks, not shorts. All children need swimming hats which can be bought from Friends of the school for £1.20 or from a sports outlet and a named towel. Children do not need to wear goggles for swimming unless a doctor advises as they can be dangerous and give a false sense of security. Put swimming kits in a waterproof bag.

If your child is nervous about swimming please don't worry, Mrs Crockett has the patience of a saint and is a highly experienced teacher. We make all the children get changed, but they only go in to the water when they are ready.

Only a medical condition, with a doctor's letter, is valid for being excused from swimming. If they are well enough to attend school, they are well enough to swim.

Health

Attendance is very important! Even if children are feeling poorly, we always encourage them to give coming to school a chance whenever possible! However, if your child has been sick or has had diarrhea then they must stay away from school for 48 hours after the last episode. If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, please let us know by ringing the school before 08:55. Please try and make all medical and dental appointments outside of school hours where possible. If your child is going to the doctors, hospital or dentist please can you let the school know as soon as possible and provide us with a copy of the appointment letter/message for our records.

Please check heads regularly for nits and treat if you find anything. If you're unsure of what to do if you find any, please contact us for advice.

Homework

The amount of homework that your child receives will depend on the year group they are in. Your child should bring their book bag home from the beginning of term. Check it daily for letters and notes home and make sure it goes back to school every morning.

Got a Worry?

What should you do if you have a problem or a worry?

- Speak to the class teacher after school, they will always be happy to help!
- Phone school to make an appointment to talk to the teacher or headteacher.
- Speak to Mr Snowdon at the school gate.

What you shouldn't do:

- Sit at home and worry.
- Talk about it with friends who don't know what to do, but think they do and may make you feel worse!

Don't forget, we are always here to help!

This is the beginning of a new relationship, with home and school working together for the happiness and success of your child. Welcome to Swanton Morley VC Primary School! Please remember a relationship is a two-way thing, we are reliant on home keeping us informed and vice versa. We can each do our bit to ensure the children are happy, healthy and experience excellence and enjoyment at school.

Tom Snowdon, Head Teacher