



Swanton Morley VC Primary School

'Love your neighbour as yourself.'



May 2021

Summer 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

This half term children in Key Stage 2 have received cricket coaching provided by Norfolk Cricket board. The coach is Ryan Hawkins from Mattishall Cricket Club. The children have been practising under arm and over arm throws, bowling, batting and of course catching! Last week they put this into a game situation. The children have really enjoyed taking part and I would like to encourage them to join the cricket club. For more information about Mattishall Youth Cricket Club please contact Lizzie Hawkins on 07793 515356.

The Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils who take part in our weekly football club on Friday lunchtimes have been working really hard on their skills and teamwork and I am very proud of all of them. Hopefully, we will be able to arrange some fixtures against other schools before the end of term.

Year 1, 2 and 3 are loving their weekly swimming lessons! Mrs Crockett is really enjoying working with them all and it is brilliant to see how excited the pupils are before their lessons and to hear about how their confidence levels are developing. Reception class will start to have swimming lessons after half term – more information will follow soon.



Staff Departures

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to three long-standing and hugely respected members of staff:



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Mr Whittle has worked as the school site manager for almost ten years. He works so hard to keep the school site running smoothly and has done so many jobs on the school over the years that we've lost count! Being the site manager of a school site that is as large and as old as ours brings lots of challenges and we have been very fortunate to benefit from his huge range of skills over the years, as well as all of his hard work and commitment.

Mrs Whittle has worked for the school for twenty years as a cleaner (and previously an MSA, and a volunteer on school trips!) She is such a brilliant member of our team, always cheerful and upbeat and she has worked incredibly hard to keep our school well-presented and clean over the years.

Mrs Crockett has been our fantastic swimming teacher for 21 years. Over the years, she has taught thousands and thousands of pupils at our school pool. All of the pupils from all of the schools that have used our pool have been so lucky to benefit from her brilliant teaching. I know that all of our pupils will miss her superb lessons and will be so sad when she leaves the school.

When they leave at the end of July, they will all be greatly missed and I know you will join me in wishing them luck for the future. I would also like to say a personal thank you to the three of them for all of their support and dedication over the years.

COVID-19 Update

We will continue to be led by the guidance that is issued to us by the Department for Education (DfE) and only make changes to the current logistics we have in place when directed to do so. This means we will continue to operate with three bubbles in school and that all parents/carers need to continue to please wear face coverings when dropping off in the morning and picking up in the afternoon.

As it stands, it seems very unlikely that we will be able to run the traditional summer term events such as sports days and the sponsored walk in the usual fashion, which means that unfortunately parents won't be able to attend them. The DfE guidelines are clear that visitors to school should only be for essential reasons and that large gatherings should be avoided.

If there are any further updates with regards to this, we will, of course, let you know.

Your understanding and support with regards to this is greatly appreciated.

What's happening in each class next half term?

Reception

Next half term, children will learn about looking after our bodies and keeping healthy, looking at the different food groups and the importance of exercise. Children will learn about the importance of showing care and concern for living things in the environment, both plants and animals.



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The children will also explore traditional tales through books, oral story-telling and music. We will visit Gressenhall Farm and Museum to experience a hands-on activity day to support our learning on fairy tale stories.

In this, our last half term, we will be preparing children for Year 1 which will include visits to the new class.

Y1

The children have been working hard this past term and lots of progress has been made, especially in phonics. Year 1 - keep practising those sounds and reading each day, the hard work is paying off!

Next term, we will continue our big focus on Read, Write, Inc. to develop fluency in reading. In English, we will share lots of animal stories which will hopefully inspire some writing. Next term, we will be learning about different animals in science; there will be opportunities to compare, sort and classify animals by their features, groups and diet. Our maths learning will be focused around the key mathematical operations (+ - x ÷) and we will begin to look at fractions.

Swimming will continue on Wednesday and PE on Tuesday. We will still try to get outside as much as possible for learning and play, weather permitting! Please ensure that your child always has a coat and outdoor shoes.

Y2

Year 2 have had an excellent half term and have settled back into class routines really well. They are continuing to work hard and are making great progress!

Next half term, the class will be learning about plants and animals during Science lessons. 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 continue swimming after half term so will need a swimming kit in school on a Wednesday. They can also wear their PE kit to school for PE lessons on a Wednesday as we hope to be able to get outside for some games of rounders and tennis as long as the weather allows.

Y3

This term we are learning about the rainforest and reading a book called 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry. The children have become immersed in the topic and this cross curricular approach to learning has improved their vocabulary, writing and most importantly their enthusiasm for learning! The children have really empathised with the animals in the story and they have created superb pieces of persuasive writing.

Swimming will be on Monday and P.E. on Friday 😊

Y4

It has been a busy half term in Birch class! We have been learning all about sound and how we hear in Science, finishing our learning on Ancient Greece and producing fantastic modern-day retellings of the myth "Theseus and the Minotaur" in English. Our class have all



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really enjoyed taking part in extra cricket sessions and give a huge thank you to Ryan for working with us this half term.

Next half term we have lots of exciting events to look forward to. I am pleased to announce that Year 4 will be visiting Dippy the Diplodocus in the Cathedral next half term (details to follow). Excitingly, we have also been chosen to take part in a Dippy related project which will see our class and another three classes from schools around the county collaborating with the artist Kate Munro to create a sculpture. As well as all of this, we will be learning about living things and their habitats in Science, learning how to classify them and how the environment around them is changing. This will be supported by our Geography work on world climate and the physical features of our, sometimes extreme, Earth. P.E remains on Wednesdays, please continue to come dressed in your kit.

Y5

After an exhaustingly busy and fun half-term, I hope you all get to enjoy a bit of a break. When we come back, we will conclude our narrative poetry linked to The Highwayman and then move swiftly on to sports-inspired writing. In time for the Euros, we will be going football crazy so I apologise now!!

PE will continue on Mondays as we move on to Athletics and make the most of the better weather, so please do make sure the children have trainers they can run in comfortably.

Even more excitingly, we will be going on a trip! Full details will follow very shortly as I am finalising the details. It will be so lovely to end the year in this way.

Our History/Geography topic on map work and some local history will also involve a very local trip out followed by an aerial drawing challenge. (Expect to see photos).

I will continue to use Class Dojo as a platform for sharing photographs and work the children have done in class. I will also continue sharing the weekly spelling patterns and rules so that they can practise at home.

Thank you for your support for another half-term and I look forward to working with you for the final stretch.

Mrs Madeley

Y6

After the holiday, during their last half term at Swanton Morley School, the year six children will be completing their curriculum studies culminating with assessments in maths, reading and writing. The remaining topics that will be covered are: algebra in maths, diary, instruction and story writing in English and Victorian Science & Invention in history.

After that, we will be away at Hautbois for the week between Monday 28th June and Friday 2nd July, then having some fun! The last two weeks, before the children do their high school induction days, will revolve around building and racing the electric Goblin karts, taking part in the 'Bake-Off', rehearsing and performing the play 'Archie Dobson's War' and putting together a leavers' assembly for your entertainment. We hope that, COVID-19 guidance permitting, we will be able to invite you in to school on Friday 16th July at 1:30pm in the school hall to watch the play and leaver's assembly.



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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 at the gate or contact the office.

Key dates for your diary during next half term (all specific details will follow nearer the time)

Monday 7th June - School reopens for the second half of the summer term

Monday 28th June to Friday 2nd July - Year 6 Residential trip

Friday 9th July – Year 6 Reports go out to parents

Friday 16th July – Year R to 5 Reports go out to parents

Wednesday 21st July – Last day of term

I look forward to seeing you all again after the half term holiday on **Monday 7th June**.

Kind regards and best wishes to you all,

Mr Snowdon