



Swanton Morley VC Primary School

'Love your neighbour as yourself.'



July 2021

Summer 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a strange school year it has been! I honestly don't know how we are at the end of term, because of all the COVID related challenges that this year has brought, the time seems to have gone by so quickly (although I'm not sure that all of the staff would say the same as me!!).

As a school community, we have obviously faced unprecedented challenges in the last 17 months, and the fact that we have been able to continue to operate so successfully does great credit to all of our brilliant staff and wonderful pupils.

I hope that you find the last newsletter of the year interesting and informative. As ever, if you have any questions or queries then please just let us know.

FOSM and Working Wednesdays

The recent sponsored walk was a great success and I know FOSM are very keen to continue this momentum next year and get back on with as much fundraising as possible when (all being well) COVID restrictions will no longer be in operation. In the new school year, they will also look to engage with you all about areas of school life that they fund and support.

Another benefit of there being no more COVID restrictions would be that the brilliant 'Working Wednesdays' could resume, where parent volunteers help develop and maintain our extensive school grounds. Mr Vokes and Mrs Barnes will share more information with you all about this next term.

On a personal note, as I approach the end of my time as the headteacher of the school, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone associated with FOSM for their support of the school. The levels of dedication they have shown to help raise much needed funds really is fantastic and I would encourage all of you to keep offering them your support in the future.

Classes for next year

Class teachers will remain the same next year:

Acorns (Reception) – Mrs Barnes
Oak (Y1) – Mrs Kerrison and Mrs Haynes



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Cherry (Y2) – Mrs Wright and Mrs O’Dell

Beech (Y3) – Miss Vincent

Birch (Y4) – Mrs Haynes and Mrs Hurn

Willow (Y5) – Mrs Madeley

Alder (Y6) – Mr Vokes

Pupils have all met and had a chance to work with their new teachers during ‘move up’ mornings last week, so they will be ready to hit the ground running after the summer holiday.

Teachers work very closely together to ensure the transition into the next year groups is successful, however if there is anything specific you would like to talk through with your child’s new teacher please feel free to catch them on the playground or arrange an appointment to meet them via the school office.

Mrs Warrington-Price

It is with great sadness that I am announcing the departure of one of our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Warrington-Price.

Mrs Warrington-Price has worked at the school for seven years and is a highly skilled and dedicated professional who will be very hard to replace. Her work in Year 2 and in Wrap-Around Care has always been exceptional and all of the pupils who she has worked with really have been very lucky indeed.

On behalf of all of the staff and pupils, I would like to take this opportunity to wish her luck for the future and to thank her for all of her hard work over the years. You’ll be greatly missed Mrs Warrington-Price.

New Staff Arrivals

I am pleased to announce the following staff will be joining the school for the start of the next academic year:

Mr Haynes will replace Mr Whittle as site manager for the school;

Mrs Bushby will be replacing Mrs Crockett as the school’s swimming instructor;

Mrs Stone will replace Mrs Whittle as a school cleaner;

Mrs Aston, who has previously worked at the school, will be re-joining us and replacing Mrs Warrington-Price as the Teaching Assistant in Year 2.

I know all of the staff and pupils will make them feel very welcome as they start (or restart, in the case of Mrs Aston) their careers with the school.



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Swimming

Don't forget that **Year 4, 5 and 6 will swim weekly for the first half of the year** (until February half term) and **Year 1, 2 and 3 will swim for the second half of the year** (until July 2022). Lessons will start from the week beginning Monday 13th September.

Pupils will need their swimming kits in school every week during these periods. As with this year, the swimming lessons for Reception class will be planned by Mrs Barnes and Mrs Bushby for the summer term.

A Message from the Governors

A Message from Ruth Robinson, Chair of the Governing Body, on behalf of the Governing Body:

“What a year it has been. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, but especially the staff and pupils, for ensuring that the school has maintained its excellent standards whilst being COVID compliant. There have been some pretty significant challenges over the past 12 months, and I have no doubt that these will continue upon return, but we remain confident that we will return to normalised schooling and operating in September. We all have our fingers crossed on the Governing Board that school life is able to return to normality.

As a governing board, our focus this year has been very much on processes and procedures and ensuring the staff have been well supported with all the change that has occurred. In the midst of all of this we were delighted to hear that Mr Snowdon had been successful in applying for a position to further his career and, although we are disappointed to lose his excellent leadership, we are grateful for the work he has done over the last three and a half years to keep our school delivering the very best education possible, so the focus of this year has been in replacing Mr Snowdon and we feel very privileged to have secured a great successor in Mr Richards.

The disruption of COVID meant we had to put on hold plans in developing our school vision, but we have now started to look at how we will plan to work on that from September and Mr Richards has some very strong foundations we will work to build upon - you can very much look forward to hearing more from us in the next school year as we look to seek your views and thoughts.

My final point is that of thanks once more. It has been an exceptionally challenging year - what many of you will not see is the behind-the-scenes effort that has gone into the planning and running of school operations. Often, Mr Snowdon and the staff have had to relook at the methods and manner in which they go about their day-to-day business and without the support and dedication of these individuals we would not have been able to ensure that the impact of COVID on pupils of Swanton Morley has remained at a minimum. Having been appraised about all the contingencies and plans that have been and were put in place, I am well placed to convey exactly how difficult it has been. As a governing body we thank everyone who has been a part of making sure challenges and change were met in such a positive and well-structured way. We take great pride in the way all of the pupils of the school handled the changes that were thrown upon them this year and it was a delight to visit the school during the year and see that they remained happy and safe.



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Talking of people who keep the school running behind-the-scenes, we are very sad to have to say thank you and farewell to Mr and Mrs Whittle who have been instrumental in making sure the school has been clean, open and ready for learning every day. Good luck to you both enjoying some well-deserved restful years.

It is also with sadness that we say goodbye to the brilliant Mrs Crockett and Mrs Warrington-Price – good luck for the future to you both.

I, and the governing board, wish you a very happy and restful summer holiday and look forward to welcoming new and existing parents into the school in September.”

The Governors play a vital role in supporting the school and ensuring that they have a secure strategic overview of the work that takes place here. They do currently have some vacancies, so if you would be interested in finding out more about the role, please contact Ruth via her email address:

chairofgov@swantonmorley.norfolk.sch.uk

Year 6 Leavers

Our Year 6 pupils left us at the end of last week to start their journey into High School. It is always sad to say goodbye to them, but it is clear that they are ready to start the next stage of their education. I would like to thank all of them for everything they have brought to the school during their time with us and to wish them good luck for their futures. You will be gone but not forgotten!

Shoes and Coats

The pupils will be outside on the field whenever possible for break and lunchtimes during the next school year, so please make sure all children have a pair of outdoor shoes and a waterproof coat in school every day from September.

Dates

All key dates (parents' evening, sports days etc...) for the next school year will be uploaded onto the school calendar on the website by September, so please look through this at your convenience to make sure you don't miss anything important!

Leaving Message

As I approach the end of my time here at the school, I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of you, the parents of our fantastic pupils, for all of your support and kind wishes over the years.

I will be very sad to leave such a brilliant school but I know that Swanton Morley will continue to go to strength to strength and be well led in the future by Mr Richards and the Governing Body, and I know that all of our staff will continue to work hard and think creatively about how best to educate and inspire our pupils. I would like to thank all of



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them, as well as all of the pupils and all of our fantastic volunteers, for making the school such a vibrant and happy learning environment that I have been very proud to lead over the last three and a half years.

*Don't forget that school starts again after the summer break on **Monday 6th September**.*

I hope that you all have a brilliant summer holiday!

Kind regards and best wishes to you all,

Mr Snowdon