



## **Swanton Morley VC Primary School**

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December 2022 – Newsletter 2

### **Introduction**

It's hard to believe that we only have one school week left before we finish our first full term of this academic year and break up for the Christmas holidays. Time certainly has gone quickly but as always certain things remain reassuringly familiar in the build up to Christmas...as well as England once again going out of another major tournament by missing a penalty (don't worry I'll get over it!).

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect back over this term as well as remind you of important events/dates and key information.

### **Christmas 2022**

The lower school nativity will take place in the school hall on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am whereas the upper school Christmas service will take place at All Saints' Church in Swanton Morley on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December and will begin at 2.00pm. You are very welcome indeed to attend these special events (you really are in for a treat!) and it's great that we can celebrate together without the restrictions of the past few years.

Our Christmas lunch will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and I know the children are very much looking forward to this.

We would like to say a special thank you to Mr Bernie Marsham and family who generously donated two Christmas trees to the school this year from their wood. This has really helped to give the school that lovely Christmas 'feel' and is very much appreciated by everyone.

Please notes that we are no longer doing the Amazon Christmas lists for classes as we have done in previous years.

### **FOSM**

The Friends of Swanton Morley (FOSM) have continued to work extremely hard for the school this term, volunteering their valuable time and energy to raise more money to help improve things further for the children. It is so encouraging to see how committee numbers have increased in our face-to-face meetings since September. The recent Christmas fayre and discos have proved very successful in raising lots of money and I would like to say a very big thank you to all those parents who were able to contribute/help – it really does make a difference.

## **Curriculum**

The children to continue to really benefit from our new 'Learning Means the World' (Dimensions) curriculum as well as 'realPE' and our new PATHS Programme. Please ensure that you do look at the school website where you will find more detailed information about what your child is learning each term.

## **Trips**

Many classes have enjoyed school trips this term with visits to Norwich Cathedral, Norwich Castle and The Sainsbury's Centre for Visual Arts. This has linked in with the specific topics children are studying in class and has helped to consolidate learning and inspire further work. I have to say that on all the trips, without exception, the children have behaved impeccably and been an absolute credit to the school. They should be very proud of themselves as we certainly are!

## **Maths Cafes**

The upper school Maths Café was very well attended, and I received some positive feedback from lots of parents. It was great to see parents once again back in school and able to share in their children's learning within the classroom environment (even if some of you did seem a little bit daunted to start with!). The lower school Maths Café is now taking place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 9.00am.

## **PE Kits/Uniform**

Can I remind you that your child needs to come to school wearing PE kit (see our uniform policy for details) on their designated days for PE. This ensures that children can take part fully in lessons and receive their full entitlement for PE.

## **Harvest**

Thank you to all of you that gave so generously towards our Harvest Appeal in October. 105.9 kg worth of items were brought in and everything collected went to the local Food Bank in Dereham. I think this provides such an important message to the children at what is a very challenging time for so many people.

## **Kitchen**

I'm extremely pleased to let you know that the small kitchen, which forms part of our Wrap provision, has been completely refurbished. This will now be used by all children as we deliver the food technology part of our curriculum. A special thank you to our Site Manager, Andy Haynes, for his fantastic work in setting up, carrying out and completing this project at a very busy time of year.

## Attendance

As you are aware there is a very big government and Local Authority 'push' on attendance this year which means that we continue to monitor this very carefully indeed and I will only authorize a request for absence in exceptional circumstances.

## Latest News

Next term I will be adding to the 'Latest News' section of our website each Friday so that we can ensure that everybody stays up to date with key information and are aware of any changes that are happening in school or reminders that are required.

There will also be details of parent surgeries that will be offered to help further improve communication and address any issues or ongoing concerns that you might have. Parents will be able to book these directly with me on a 1:1 basis.

## Return to School

The Autumn term finishes at the end of the day on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December and the children return to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

The term dates for the rest of this academic year are as follows:

### Spring Term

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Half term holiday: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Easter holiday: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

### Summer Term

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May is a Bank Holiday)

Half term holiday: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

*Please note that there is now an **extra Bank Holiday on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May** to mark the coronation of King Charles III. All schools will be closed on this day.*

## Finally...

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy/Healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2023... where mercifully there is no major tournament for England to crash out of!

Kind Regards

*Matt Richards*

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