



Swanton Morley VC Primary School

Manns Lane, Swanton Morley, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4PX

Tel: (01362) 637219

Head Teacher: Mr Matthew Richards

E mail: office@swantonmorley.norfolk.sch.uk

Website: www.swantonmorleyprimary.co.uk

February 2023 – Newsletter 3

Introduction

I would like to give everyone a very warm welcome back after the February half term holiday. I hope that you all had a good break and were able to enjoy some quality time together as a family. As we all look forward to spring, with the long-awaited warmer weather and lighter evenings, I would also like to reflect back over this term so far as well as reminding you of important events/dates and key information.

Lower School Maths Café

The lower school Maths Café was very well attended, and our visitor's book was filled with lots of positive comments from so many of you. It was great to see parents once again back in school, including many for the first time and being able to share in their children's learning within the classroom environment. We are now planning a similar style café for reading in the summer term so watch this space!

Sporting Events

Children have really benefitted from our continued involvement with The West Norwich and Dereham Schools Sports Partnership (WNDSSP). This term we have already taken part in the KS1 PE Festival, Swimming Team Gala and Sports Hall Event. A special mention must go to all those children who took part in the Sports Hall Event as we managed to finish first out of the 18 schools that took part – this was fully celebrated in our Friday Assembly before half term!

Trips

Classes have continued to enjoy school trips this term which has been lovely to see. These trips are always linked to the specific topics children are studying in class and have helped to consolidate learning and inspire further work. We have future trips planned throughout this academic year which I know the children are really looking forward to. Behaviour continues to be impeccable, and we are very proud of our children as they represent the school in different locations around Norfolk.

Class Teacher Reports

I have asked each class teacher(s) to give you a brief report about things that have been happening in your child's class this term, so here they are as follows:

Acorn

The children have settled back into the new term well and have been enjoying their learning. They are continuing to make great progress with their phonics and are particularly enjoying our Read, Write Inc group sessions each morning.

They have also been enjoying our maths activities and have been finding different ways to make 5, measuring and weighing using the balance scales.

We have been very busy with our topic work and have visited China and India so far as part of our learning about Asia. All the children enjoyed the dragon dance workshop and were able to have a go at being inside the dragon head!

This half term we are moving onto a new topic called Animal Crackers and are learning about different animals. As you know, we have an exciting trip booked as part of our learning which we are really looking forward to!

Mrs Barnes/Mrs O'Dell

Oak

Greetings from the Arctic Circle! This term in Oak Class we have been learning about the Arctic Circle. The children are particularly enjoying learning about different polar animals. We have focused on polar bears and the children have created an interesting and informative piece of writing. Please ask them to tell you a fact about polar bears. I am sure they will be delighted to tell you!

Thank you to everyone who came to maths café. You really got involved with all the practical challenges! We have finished our topic on shape and are working hard on place value. We are learning to understand the value of each digit within a number.

In PE we are aiming to improve our dynamic and static balances. I can see great progress already. In March the class will attend a Key Stage 1 Cross Country event. We have been training for this too! More details to follow... exciting!

Miss Vincent

Beech

Beech class have enjoyed learning about Africa this term. They have become familiar with 'The Big Five' and the dangers that some of these animals' face in the wild. We have explored the diets of animals including humans and where food sources come from. Our learning about Africa links to the non-fiction writing on 'Big Cats' which the children are currently working on.

In Maths, Year 2 have been busy learning about money and Year 3 have been working on multiplication and division. Where possible, we encourage the children to continue working on 'Times Tables Rockstars' to embed times tables knowledge.

Our topic theme this half term is 'Rocky the Findosaur' with lots of science learning exploring rocks, fossils, and soil.

As always, please do not hesitate to email us or speak to us on the playground if you have any concerns or questions.

Mrs Kerrison/Mrs Aston

Birch

Birch Class have made an enthusiastic start to 2023 and are enjoying writing Biographies about Simone Biles and Serena Williams. Our Dimensions topic has moved on to another interesting character – Ragnar Lothbrok – as we try to separate fact from fiction. We are also going Viking musically, watch this space!

Sumdog has proved a huge hit this year. Just a reminder that Maths homework and either Spelling or Grammar homework is available on there every week from a Thursday to the following Tuesday. Sumdog rewards are given for those who do their homework!

All the children thoroughly enjoyed the visit of Ben and Nik from Gressenhall to further our Forest Gardens project and well done to all of those who took part in the Bikeability Level 1 course this week.

If you have any queries or questions, please email me as usual:

a.madeley@swantonmorley.norfolk.sch.uk

Best Wishes,
Ms Madeley

Willow

Willow class studied both the Egyptian and Roman cultures and history in the Autumn term. Our visit to the Sainsbury's Centre for Visual Arts complemented this really well with their Egyptian Art exhibition and enabled us to work on our drawing and sketching skills.

Our class reader was 'Who Let the God's Out' by Maz Evans and 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundel.

This term we are learning about North America, with a focus on the geography and history of that country and its neighbouring countries. We are also studying the animals and landscapes, doing a scientific investigation into cotton and its properties.

Our class reader is 'Cogheart' by Peter Bunzl and 'Can You see me'? By Libby Scott and Rebecca Wescott.

Mrs Haynes

Alder

Alder class are working on a topic called "I have a dream" at the moment which is centred around the life of Dr Martin Luther King and the history of the civil rights movement. The children are also investigating, sharing and exploring their own dreams and beliefs, both in their written work as well as in computing, art and

design. This work will culminate, after half term, with them designing and developing their own multimedia presentations.

PE lessons, for the time being, will remain on Thursdays so the class can use the hall to work on their 'flash mob' dances linked to protest, civil rights and the content of their multimedia work. Swimming ceases for Alder Class after the half term break, so all children will be having their second PE lesson on Wednesdays from then on.

The class has a trip to Letton Hall to look forward to on Monday 6th March where they will be exploring real-life scenarios, all based on dangers they may face, together with ways to overcome them through problem-solving and teamwork.

Mr Vokes

Parent Consultations (Spring Term)

Parent Consultations for the Spring Term 2023 will take place on the following dates/times:

Tuesday 7th March 5.00-7.00

Thursday 16th March 3.30-5.30

Slots will be available to book on our online system early this week. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these important and valuable meetings.

Lego Education Campaign

As a school, we have now registered for the Lego Education Vouchers for Schools Campaign. Tokens will appear daily in the Eastern Daily Press (two on Saturday) and Norwich Evening News and weekly in the Norfolk News and Dereham & Fakenham Times. The tokens will be available from February 20th until April 29th. The winning schools – decided by the number of tokens as a ratio to the number of pupils – will receive £1,000 of vouchers to spend on LEGO Education toys of our choice. Second Prize will be £500 of vouchers and every other school that collects more than 1,000 tokens will receive £50 of vouchers to spend. Apparently, a total of 381 schools from Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire have signed up so we need to be 'on our game' to be in with a chance of winning! Please bring tokens into school and place in the Collection Box.

Forest Garden Project

Mrs Kerrison writes:

As a school, we are very fortunate to be involved in a pilot project with local businesses based upon developing a forest garden within our school grounds. A forest garden is a self-sustaining, food production system based upon woodland ecology. Some classes have already begun the design process and will begin building the forest area in future sessions over the coming months, starting in March with the planting of three new trees. This project is a great initiative to make the children more aware of the environment around them, have ownership, and develop skills and knowledge to create a bio-diverse space. The project also forms part of a long-term overall school vision to develop and make use of our wonderful school grounds.

Parking

Parking continues to be a serious problem outside of the school despite repeated requests to park considerately for the safety of all our children. As a school we are clearly limited in the powers that we have as it is a public road, but I would encourage you to report any safety issues to the local police and Norfolk County Council (NCC). We have also been in regular contact about the ongoing issues.

Attendance/Illness

Although there continues to be a very big government, NCC and school focus on attendance this year which means that we continue to monitor this very carefully, I would remind you to not send your child into school if they are unwell and/or still displaying clear symptoms. If your child has had sickness or diarrhoea then please ensure that your child does not return to school until 48 hours after they were last unwell.

School Dates

The Spring term finishes at the end of the day on Friday 31st March and the children return to school on Tuesday 18th April 2023.

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

Spring Term

Easter holiday: Monday 3rd – Monday 17th April 2023

Summer Term

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

Half term holiday: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2023

Monday 5th June – Friday 21st July 2023

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

Finally...

I would like to thank you for your continued support as we look forward other exciting events such as the FOSM Easter Fayre (17/3) and Discos (24/3) and as well as the Easter Service (29/3), World Book Day (2/3) and our first Yr5/6 school football match (3/3) against Drayton Junior School all in the coming weeks.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or, of course, positive messages of congratulation and support for the school as these are always gratefully received by all staff.

Kind Regards,

Matt Richards

Matt Richards
Headteacher
Swanton Morley V.C. Primary