



Swanton Morley VC Primary School

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Introduction

It certainly has been another busy term so far and with two recent bank holidays thrown in for good measure it seems quite unbelievable that we are rapidly approaching the final stretch of this academic year! Therefore, once again I am writing to update you with key information and remind you about important events/dates.

Welcome

I am sure it will not have escaped your attention that the front door to the school main reception is now always open. We hope that you would agree that this provides a much more positive feel as you come into the school, knowing that you are always welcome.

Staffing

I have currently taken over the day-to-day oversight of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) with Mrs Wright leaving the staff team at the beginning of this term. However, I am very pleased to inform you that Mrs Wright is still carrying out SEND tasks for the school and will continue to work with children and families for at least the remainder of the summer term. We are very much hoping to have a new SENCO in place for the start of the next academic year in September. Please contact me directly if you have any queries about SEND.

Report Format

Our report format has changed this year and you will now find that class teachers are providing you with key information on effort/attitude, progress and attainment. Many schools use the same format for their reports and this is designed to give you clear, specific and meaningful information, which can then be followed up the class teacher if necessary at a consultation (see **Key Dates** below).

National Testing (SATs)

The children who have just taken part in the national tests (SATs) in Yr6 and Yr2 have been really well prepared and have approached the tests in a very positive way, giving of their best. In addition, we really do appreciate your support in helping to keep the children calm, relaxed and focused at a potentially stressful time. We are proud of each and every one of them, whilst also acknowledging that our children are so much more than just a number on a page!

RSHE Workshops

We have already given you the opportunity to come and look at our RSHE resources and consult further with us at the last parent consultations back in November. The draft RSHE policy was also sent out in the autumn term and this has now been agreed by governors and can be found on our school website. We are giving you a further opportunity to come and see the RSHE resources that we will be using as class teachers will be putting on a workshop for parents before they start teaching this part of the statutory curriculum laid down by the DfE. Please do come and join us for these if you want to find out more or have any questions or concerns. Class teachers will be in touch regarding individual arrangements.

Outside Classroom (FOSM)

Some of the money raised by the FOSM is now being used to transform one of our many outside spaces into an outdoor classroom area. Our Site Manager, Mr Haynes, is taking on the project and we are all really excited about how this is developing. Please do continue to support the work of FOSM (or even consider joining the committee!) as the money raised, in tight financial times, really does make a difference in what we can offer the children at Swanton Morley.

Ink Cartridges

I would encourage you to keep bringing your used ink cartridges in as this is also helping to raise money for the school. The drop box is located at the school office in main reception.

Uniform

Do remember to check our updated 2022 uniform policy, which is on the website. This is a useful reminder, especially when purchasing new items for your child over the summer break. There are also two current points in the policy that need to be adhered to:

“No jewellery (apart from watches) should be worn at school, unless children have pierced ears and then only plain stud earrings should be worn if desired”

“No makeup or nail polish is to be worn in school. This includes ‘fake’ nails”

Updated Policies

We have recently updated our Behaviour Policy, SEND Policy and Complaints Policy. These have all been fully agreed by governors and can be found on our school website. They are a very useful reference point when issues occur so please ensure that you have read these documents carefully.

All Saints Church

We are very pleased to hear that All Saints Church in Swanton Morley has appointed Rev Rachel Dines as their new Rector. The licensing service for Rachel will take place at All Saints Church on Sunday 18th June at 6.30pm. I look forward to seeing some of you there. We are very keen to work closely with Rachel to maximise links with the church, school and local community. In the same way we will also be liaising with Ailsa Whorton (Chaplain at Roberston Barracks) to ensure that we are all working together effectively.

Parking/Cycling to School

Road safety is still an issue directly outside of the school and we are continuing to work with the LA and local police to try to bring about change. This is not proving to be easy, but we will continue in our efforts! However, it is great to see how many more children are now cycling or using their scooters to come to school – the bike racks are now full to bursting in the mornings! Please ensure that your child is wearing their cycling helmet if they do choose to ride their bike to school.

Attendance/Illness

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. Therefore, if you find that your child is well enough to be in school as the day progresses then please bring them in. However, I would remind you not to 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 make sure that your child does not return to school until 48 hours after they were last unwell.

Key Dates

Sponsored Walk – Wednesday 21st June

Yr6 Hautbois Residential – Week Beginning Monday 3rd July

Sports Day (Lower and Upper) – Tuesday 11th July

Discos (Lower and Upper) – Friday 14th July

Reports to Parents – Friday 14th July

Parent Appointments re Reports – Week Beginning 17th July

Please make individual appointments with class teachers through the school office

Yr6 Leaver's Assembly – Wednesday 19th July

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

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

Final half term: Monday 5th June – Friday 21st July 2023

*The summer term finishes at the end of the day on Friday 21st July and the children return to school on **Wednesday 6th September 2023.***

Finally...

I would like to thank you for your continued support as we look forward to the final part of this academic year. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or me if you have any questions, concerns or, of course, want talk about things that are going well for you and your child.

Kind Regards,

Matt Richards

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Swanton Morley V.C. Primary