Swanton Morley VC Primary School
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Summer 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we are now fully immersed in the final half term of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some important information, updates and reminders as we head towards the summer break.

Ofsted
We are delighted with the outcome our most recent Ofsted inspection. The visit took place on 10th & 11th December 2024 and the report was published in January 2025. I have copied the report at the end of the newsletter for your reference. At the very beginning of the report it states:

"Swanton Morley VC Primary School has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection."

There were two possible outcomes of the inspection, either standards have *declined* or the standards have been *maintained* since the last inspection. The outcome means that the **'Good'** rating that the school achieved back in 2018 has been maintained and the rating will continue to be seen on inspection reports and on Ofsted's website. There has been a lot of new things put in place over the last few years so it is great when all of that hard work is recognised and we should all be rightly proud of this. One of the paragraphs that I am most pleased with is:

"Pupils feel they belong in this warm and friendly school. The school's vision, 'Love your neighbour as yourself', makes a tangible impact on pupils. There are kind and caring relationships between pupils and staff. Pupils feel they are listened to, are safe and know that staff will help them with any worries they have. This is a supportive and nurturing community where everyone gets along well with one another."

I particularly like this as it is the foundation for any good school and should never be taken for granted. It really shows what a great community we have developed here, where everyone genuinely helps, nurtures and cares for each other. This shone through so brightly in the inspection.

Clearly, there are lots of other very good things in the report around the curriculum, reading, behaviour, personal development etc and naturally, there are things that we need to work on and improve as a school. The two action points from the report have now been incorporated into our School Improvement & Development Plan (SIDP). SEND actions are being addressed swiftly and feedback/next steps for children is something that we will continue to work on to ensure it is more consistent and effective in supporting learning.

Staffing/New Classes

Now that we have informed staff of where they will be and what children they will have in their class next year, we thought that you might like to know too! I have tried to do this at the earliest possible stage in order to give plenty of time for the children (and adults) to become familiar with the new arrangements and to give extended opportunities for transition. This is of course, helpful for all children but particularly to those with SEND/additional needs.

Mrs Wilton will send out an individual message to you via Pupil Asset today, so that you will know the specific class your child is going into in September 2025. I have listed the general organisation of classes, teachers and support staff below:

Class	Teacher(s)	Support Staff
Acorn YrR	Mrs Barnes (Monday & Tuesday) Mrs Lake (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday)	Mrs Chapman
Oak Yr1	Mrs Kerrison (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday) Miss Vincent (Thursday & Friday)	Mrs Davies
Maple Yr2	Mrs Haynes	Mrs Muncer Mrs Lambie
Birch Yr3/4	Mr Kearse	Mrs Riches
Willow Yr4/5	Mrs Sifleet (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday) Mrs O'Dell (Thursday & Friday)	Mrs Skeet Mrs Restell *Mrs Aston

Alder Yr6	Ms Madeley	Mrs Southwell Mrs Whiting *Mrs Sadler
***HLTAs:** Mrs Sadler & Mrs Aston will also be working across different classes supporting children, leading interventions and providing cover where required.		
SENCO	Mr Kearse	

SENCO

I am very pleased to inform you that Mr Kearse will be taking on the role of SENCO from September 2025. He will be completing a full hand over with Mrs Cryan during the remainder of this term and will also be undertaking the compulsory national SEND training as part of this role. Mr Kearse will be providing an opportunity for parents of children with SEND to come and meet him before the summer break and has written a welcome letter below:

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) at Swanton Morley Primary School. I feel privileged to take on this role and look forward to working closely with you to support all children with additional needs across our school.

As part of my role, I will be teaching four days a week and dedicating one day each week to my SENCO responsibilities. I want to reassure you that I operate an open-door policy and welcome any questions, concerns or discussions you may have. Whether you'd prefer to speak in person, arrange a meeting, or email me directly, I am always happy to help.

I am committed to ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive both academically and emotionally. I look forward to building positive partnerships with you as we work together to support your children.

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch, please feel free to contact the school office or email me directly at senco@swantonmorley.norfolk.sch.uk .

Warm regards,

E. Kearse

Reports

Reports will be issued on Friday 11th July. Following feedback again last year we have made further tweaks to the report format in order to provide you with clear and specific information which summaries achievements, identifies areas for improvement next year and yet still retains a 'personal' feel.

Attendance
I thought it would be useful to remind you all of the significant changes to the national guidance on attendance, and how it affects you as parents/carers.

From the *19 August 2024* the national guidance on Working Together to Improve School Attendance became statutory. The majority of the guidance impacts on how maintained schools, Academies, Local Authorities and external partners, will work towards supporting students in improving their attendance where this is needed.

However, there are some key parts which affect you as parents /carers and these are summarised below:

- Attendance codes have changed
  You may see that existing codes have been removed and new codes have been added when we share your child's attendance record with you.
- Fixed Penalty Notice Fines (FPNs) have increased
  These are a legal intervention by the Local Authority for unauthorised absences such as: term time holiday (Code G), where reasons for absence have not been provided or are unsatisfactory (Code O), where a student is persistently late after the registers close (Code U).
  Please see the NCC information sheet which I have attached again at the end of this newsletter. This sets out the full details of changes.
- Long Term Sickness (Physical or Mental ill health)
  We appreciate that there are times when a child is too unwell to attend school and would not expect them to attend in these circumstances. However, under the new guidance we now have a statutory duty to report to the Local Authority those students who are off through illness (Code I) under the following circumstances:

  1. Student is unable to attend through illness and there are reasonable grounds to believe they will miss **15** or more *consecutive* school days.
     Or
  2. The student has reached or exceeded **15** school days absence through illness in the current academic year either *consecutive or cumulative.*

So that we can review and consider the most appropriate support for your child under these circumstances, and to ensure absences are appropriately recorded, we request that medical evidence be provided from your child's GP or another medical practitioner.

We will contact you via letter if we are concerned about your child's attendance and may arrange a meeting to discuss this with you further if certain thresholds are met.

Sports Day
It was fantastic to see how much the children and adults enjoyed Sports Day on Wednesday. We are certainly very fortunate with the facilities that we have here and also managed to book the perfect weather for it! As you will have seen, we made some small additions this year with new field events, a PA system (with live announcements/commentary – I can only apologise!) and a more inclusive parent race… although this didn't change some of the outrageous cheating that took place! :-). I thought there was a really good variety of events and a great balance between competition, inclusivity and support for all children taking part. Once again it was a joy to see and the children were an absolute credit to you and the school. Thank you again to Mrs Sadler for organising such a successful and enjoyable event.

School Day
A reminder again that in accordance with new statutory requirements for schools that come into force from September 2024 regarding the length of the school day, the gates open at 8.40 and all children need to be in school by 8.45 (although we do always allow a few minutes leeway). School finishes at 3.15 when the gates will be opened.

When you pick your child up at the end of the school day, please can you ensure that your child remains with you and does not go and play unaccompanied on the grass area near to the fence or the bike racks as this has raised a number of safety issues.

Bike Hire
We have a number of new bikes that we have purchased with our Active Norfolk funding. If you would like to hire one of these bikes out over the summer holiday then please get in touch with the school office. We have x2 bikes age 4-7 yrs, x2 bikes age 5-9 yrs and x3 20-inch bikes. We will allocate these bikes on a 'first come, first served' basis.

General Reminders
- Children are not permitted to wear make up to school - if your child requires lip balm please ensure it is not coloured like lipstick.
- Please do not allow your child to bring in body sprays or perfume.
- Children should not have nail varnish/false nails on in school.
- Please send your child to school wearing the correct uniform as stated in our uniform policy. *However, at this time of the year we would not expect you to be purchasing new items of school uniform because we fully*

understand the growth spurt that occurs over the summer holidays and the financial impact on families.

- If your child is doing PE they need to come to school wearing their PE kit which should be plain dark tracksuit bottoms/leggings/shorts with their team PE T shirt. No items with logos or team football kits should be worn for PE in school.
- The only jewellery children are permitted to wear is a plain pair of earring studs/small hoops. Please do not allow your child to come to school wearing bracelets and necklaces - see uniform policy.
- There are a number of children bringing in toy/items from home such as jewellery, small ornaments and various other nic nacs. Please do not allow your child to bring these items in as if they go missing, get lost or are taken we tend to have very upset children on our hands.
- Fidget toys will be issued by the class teacher if it is deemed by the SENCO that your child needs one. Please do not provide your child with fidget toys to bring into school.

Goodbyes

Last term we said goodbye to two of our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Hogan and Mrs Quick-Evans and we will also be saying farewell to another long-serving Teaching Assistant, Mrs Allinson at the end of this term. I would like to thank all of them for their tremendous hard work and dedication over so many years here at Swanton Morley. We wish them all the very best for the future.

Dates

Important dates for the remainder of this term are:

- FOSM Grand Summer Fete – Saturday 14th June 11.00-3.00
- FOSM Sponsored Walk – Wednesday 18th June 1.45-3.00
- New Reception Stay & Play Session -Tuesday 24th June 9.15-10.15
- New Reception Stay & Play Session -Tuesday 1st July 9.15-10.15
- New Reception Stay & Play Session -Tuesday 8th July 9.15-10.15
- Art Exhibition – Wednesday 2nd July 2.15-3.15
- Yr6 Musical – Wednesday 9th July 6.30-8.00
- End of Year Reports Issued – Friday 11th July
- FOSM Discos – Friday 11th July (LS:5.45-7.00/ US: 7.15-8.30)
- iRock Concert – Monday 14th July 2.45
- End of Year Whole School Celebration – Thursday 17th July 10.30
- Yr6 Leavers Celebration – Thursday 17th July 2.15
- High School Transition Days – 18/7, 21/7, 22/7
- Bump up Day – Monday 21st July

The summer term finishes at the end of the day on Tuesday 22nd July and the children return to school on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

To help you plan ahead the dates for 2025/26 academic year are as follows:

Autumn term 2025

- Wednesday 3 September - Friday 24 October 2025
- Half-term holiday: Friday 27 October – Friday 31 October 2025
- Monday 3 November - Friday 19 December 2025
- Christmas holiday: Monday 22 December 2025 - Monday 5 January 2026

Spring term 2026

- Tuesday 6 January - Friday 13 February 2026
- Half-term holiday: Monday 16 - Friday 20 February 2026
- Monday 23 February - Friday 27 March 2026
- Easter holiday: Monday 30 March – Monday 13 April 2026

Summer term 2026

- Tuesday 14 April - Friday 22 May 2026 (Monday 4 May is a Bank Holiday)
- Half-term holiday: Monday 25 - Friday 29 May 2026
- Monday 1 June – Friday 17 July 2026

Kind Regards,

Matt Richards

Matt Richards
Headteacher
Swanton Morley V.C. Primary

Inspection of a school judged good for overall effectiveness before September 2024: Swanton Morley VC Primary School

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

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 December 2024

Outcome

Swanton Morley VC Primary School has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection.

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils feel they belong in this warm and friendly school. The school's vision, 'Love your neighbour as yourself', makes a tangible impact on pupils. There are kind and caring relationships between pupils and staff. Pupils feel they are listened to, are safe and know that staff will help them with any worries they have. This is a supportive and nurturing community where everyone gets along well with one another.

Pupils respond positively to the expectations that the school sets and behave well. This means pupils move around school in a calm and orderly manner. In class, most pupils display strong attitudes to their learning. Pupils say that their teachers make lessons fun and help them to learn. As a result, most pupils achieve well.

Pupils enjoy the many ways in which they contribute to the school. For example, older pupils are proud of the way they help the younger children to practise their reading and how they contribute

to Collective Worship by setting up the hall in readiness. Pupils access a range of clubs. These widen their interests and develop new talents, such as archery and playing in a band. They proudly represent their school in inter-school sports competitions. Trips, visits and visitors to the school enrich pupils' academic learning and broaden their horizons.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

The school continues to review its curriculum to ensure it meets the needs of pupils. The curriculum is high quality and well sequenced from early years onwards, where the essential knowledge and skills that children need for future learning are well thought out. Children are well prepared for Year 1 and beyond. Pupils continue to build their knowledge in a logical order as they progress through school.

Reading is prioritised as soon as children enter the school. The school has a consistent approach to teaching phonics. Pupils thrive because of the consistent routines and high expectations. They stay motivated and focused. The school quickly identifies pupils who fall behind with reading. For pupils who struggle, there are regular intervention activities to help them catch up. They quickly gain the knowledge and skills they need to become confident, fluent readers. The school carefully chooses the books that pupils will read to give them a rich menu of texts before they leave the school.

Staff regularly provide pupils with opportunities to revisit key knowledge. In most instances, pupils can recall their learning. However, sometimes this is less secure. The school also checks on how well pupils have gained the knowledge they need. Teachers give feedback on learning to help pupils identify how they can improve their work. However, in some areas, the clarity and regularity of this feedback are inconsistent. This means that some pupils are not always sure about what they need to do to improve or deepen their understanding, including in writing.

Pupils have a very positive attitude to school. Lessons are calm and orderly. Children in early years sustain concentration well and take turns. Older pupils are courteous and kind to each other. Pupils do not worry about bullying. They know staff will deal with any issues quickly and effectively. Pupils attend school regularly. The school is caring but tenacious in following up any absences.

The school has appropriate systems in place to make sure that the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are identified quickly. The school has a good understanding of these pupils' barriers to learning. It has put plans in place to support pupils with SEND. In the main, pupils with SEND achieve well alongside their peers. However, sometimes the targets of pupils' learning plans are too broad. It is not always clear enough how teachers should best support pupils to do well using these targets.

The school promotes pupils' personal development through all aspects of the curriculum. Pupils learn to keep safe online and recognise risks to their well-being. They learn about important topics, such as healthy eating and heathy relationships. They understand and value that everyone is unique, with different faiths and beliefs. Indeed, pupils said it would be boring if everyone was the

same. Pupils develop a strong moral understanding. Residential trips help develop pupils' independence and confidence.

Governors have a thorough understanding of the school and of their roles and responsibilities. They have the expertise to hold leaders to account. The school community works effectively together to constantly strive for improvement. Governors and leaders have created a supportive environment for staff to thrive in. Staff appreciate the efforts of leaders to support their workload and well-being. This has led to high staff morale.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate body)

- ✓ In some instances, pupils do not receive sufficient or clear feedback on how to improve or deepen their understanding. As a result, some pupils do not achieve as highly as they could. The school needs to check that this feedback happens more consistently and effectively so pupils fully achieve the ambitious aims leaders intend.
- ✓ The plans in place for staff to support pupils with SEND are not always sufficiently precise. This means that some pupils with SEND do not achieve as well as they should. The school must ensure that support for pupils with SEND meets their needs to help them achieve highly.

Background

Until September 2024, on a graded (section 5) inspection we gave schools an overall effectiveness grade, in addition to the key and provision judgements. Overall effectiveness grades given before September 2024 will continue to be visible on school inspection reports and on Ofsted's website. From September 2024 graded inspections will not include an overall effectiveness grade. This school was, before September 2024, judged to be good for its overall effectiveness.

We have now inspected the school to determine whether it has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at that previous inspection. This is called an ungraded inspection, and it is carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. We do not give graded judgements on an ungraded inspection. However, if we find evidence that a school's work has improved significantly or that it may not be as strong as it was at the last inspection, then the next inspection will be a graded inspection. A graded inspection is carried out under section 5 of the Act. Usually this is

within one to two years of the date of the ungraded inspection. If we have serious concerns about safeguarding, behaviour or the quality of education, we will deem the ungraded inspection a graded inspection immediately.

This is the second ungraded inspection since we judged the school to be good for overall effectiveness in October 2014.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use Ofsted Parent View to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further guidance on how to complain about a school.

Further information

You can search for published performance information about the school.

In the report, 'disadvantaged pupils' is used to mean pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); pupils who meet the definition of children in need of help and protection; pupils receiving statutory local authority support from a social worker; and pupils who otherwise meet the criteria used for deciding the school's pupil premium funding (this includes pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years, looked after children (children in local authority care) and/or children who left care through adoption or another formal route).

School details

Unique reference number	121083
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	10345242
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary controlled
Age range of pupils	4 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	178
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Ruth Robinson
Headteacher	Matthew Richards
Website	www.swantonmorleyprimary.co.uk
Date of previous inspection	28 November 2018, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- ✓ The school does not currently use any alternative provision.
- ✓ The school operates a before- and after-school provision.
- ✓ The school is within the Diocese of Norwich. Its most recent section 48 inspection took place in April 2019. The school's next section 48 inspection will take place within eight years of its last inspection.

Information about this inspection

- ✓ Inspections are a point-in-time evaluation about the quality of a school's educational provision.
- ✓ This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the school and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.

- ✓ The inspector met with senior staff in the school, the chair of the local governing board and other governors.

- ✓ The inspector met a representative from the local authority and spoke to a member of the diocese.
- ✓ The inspector considered the responses to the staff survey and spoke to a range of staff about their views of the school.
- ✓ The inspector took account of responses to the Ofsted Parent View questionnaire and the free-text responses.

Inspection team

Ashley Best-White, lead inspector	Ofsted Inspector

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Norfolk County Council



Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing!

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued **after 19th August 2024**.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.
For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.
These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.
The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.
- Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

- The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:
- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

- The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.
- Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.