



SWANWICK STORY

Friday 25 September 2020

Keep Safe Everyone!

Following tighter restrictions outlined by the Prime Minister, we are reminding everyone to keep safe. By following the rules, you are helping to protect our children, staff and everyone's families.

Thank you from the staff

The staff have noted that parents are really trying hard to stand away from the school building at the end of the day. We know we remind you about a lot of things, but a thank you is always worth sharing 😊

Communication

Thank you to everyone for improved communication. Schools are busy places and we always try to point your questions to the right person. If you can give us a little bit of information about why you require a call about your child, that helps us to work out who the best person is to get in touch with you. As many of you have discovered, Miss Fogg is more than happy to talk to any parent, but quite often there may be someone else who is better placed to talk to you.

In the first instance, the **Class Teacher** is your first port of call – they spend the most time with your child and are responsible for their learning and pastoral care whilst in the classroom.

Our **Senior Leadership Team** have responsibility for different groups of children, so they would be the next best person to talk to:

Miss Wright – Reception/EYFS and Y1 Lead
Mr Morris – Assistant Headteacher and Y2 & Y3 Lead
Mr Smith – Deputy Headteacher and Y4-Y6 Lead
Mrs Walton – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SEND/CO)

Please note that Mrs Walton and Mr Smith do not work on Thursdays and Fridays. Mr Morris deputises for Mr Smith on these days.

Mrs Stone, our Pastoral Lead, is also at the end of the phone.

A Fond Farewell

Mrs Morrison, one of our Teaching Assistants currently working in Y3 with Mr Morris, has chosen to take early retirement after a happy twelve years at Swanwick Primary. Mrs Morrison's final day will be Friday 2 October. We would like to thank her for her contributions to the life of the school and for the care and support she has given to so many children during this time. We wish her all the very best for her retirement.

Dress for the Weather

"Ev'ryone complains about the weather but nobody ever does anything about it!"

(You can have extra bonus points if you can name the musical this came from!)

With the changeable weather and our need to ventilate rooms, we ask that you make sure that children come to school with layers/wear clothes which are warm enough. Some of the children wearing summer dresses have been feeling the cold this week. We also ask that children always bring a coat.

Book Bags

Please can we ask that children don't have multiple attachments or key rings on their book bags. We know that they look very cool, but it makes it more difficult to store the bags.

Hello Yellow Day

#HelloYellow

We would once again like to show our support for Young Minds and raise the profile of mental health awareness in school. Unfortunately, we cannot do this with our usual coffee and cake event. It is so important, particularly during the current pandemic, that we continue to promote mental health and wellbeing. We would therefore love it if all children (and staff) could **wear something yellow on Friday 9th October** to mark the occasion. Please don't feel you have to buy anything brand new. We will be setting up the facility on Parent Pay for you to make a voluntary donation of £1 to support this very worthy cause – we will let you know when this has been set up. Thank you for your continued support.





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Learning and Homework Expectations

We continue to promote a recovery and reconnection experience for the children, along with moving to more formal learning. We know that after such a long time away from school that the stamina and resilience required in a classroom is going to take some time to recover. In addition, the building up of relationships is vitally important and we are supporting the children with this as and when required.

In terms of homework expectations, whilst we get back into the swing of things and build resilience, until half-term, our expectations are as follows:

- Reading (a minimum of 3 times a week for Y1 & Y2 and a minimum of 5 times a week for Years 3-6)
- Learning any spellings which your child brings home
- Learning any times tables which have been set by the class teacher

Thank you for your support.

To promote regular reading, children who read 3 or 5 times a week will receive a raffle ticket and be entered into a draw. The winner each term will receive a book token.

Think of our neighbours please!

Generally, everything is going really well and we are pleased with the routines which are in place at drop off and pick up times.

However, we have been contacted this week by one of our local residents who has expressed their concern over parents who arrive very early in the school area. This is causing some anxiety for our neighbours, especially in light of the current steep rise in C19 cases. We share the concerns of our neighbours with you below:

"I'm hoping you can help. My neighbours and myself are growing increasingly concerned by a number of parents who are turning up...well before School opening/ and closing times, a few in particular are turning up over an hour before.

As there is currently a pandemic of increasing concern, my neighbours and myself are extremely uncomfortable with parents gathering outside our homes unnecessarily. We understand that parents need to drop off and pick up their children safely, however we do not think it acceptable that a select few are arriving over an hour in advance (armed with books and laptops to pass the time) and waiting outside our homes. I suspect to guarantee a parking space as we are all aware of the congestion problems surrounding the school.

Whilst I appreciate the school is not responsible for these individuals, my neighbours and myself would be very, very grateful if the school could remind parents of drop off and pick up times, and encourage them to adhere to this wherever possible (especially during the pandemic), and to respect the residents that live on surrounding streets, most of which are elderly and vulnerable.

Again, I apologise sincerely for having to contact the school. My neighbours and I are very grateful for any help with this issue."

We hope that you will consider their words and try your best to help to help us to help them. We know that the access to Swanwick Primary School is less than ideal and that it is a huge bottleneck. We urge you not to gather super-early to both protect our community from the pandemic and to help our relationships with our neighbours. Thank you.

We have been in touch with our local police and the council to try to get some help and support with traffic flow and parking. With that in mind, please remember our request for you to park safely and legally to keep our children – YOUR children safe.





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Parents' Meetings

We have been trying to think of a way in which we can enable parents and teachers to hold a meeting in the current climate. Please watch out for a Survey Monkey in the next week or two to capture your ideal form of communication – either through Microsoft Teams or by telephone.

Absences

We ask that all parents give us a clear reason about why their children is absent from school. This is so that we can best advise you if your child or a family member is showing C19 symptoms. Thank you.

Year 2 Pirate Day

Ms Fisher and Mrs Holdsworth would like to invite the year 2 children to come to school dressed up as pirates on Tuesday 13th October for a day of pirate fun. This will add to the work they are doing around the books 'The Pirates of Scurvy Sands' and the Victorian novel 'Treasure Island'. Oo-arrrrr!



Free Karate Sessions

We attach to the Parent Hub message some information about free karate sessions you may be interested in for your child.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Continuing with our theme of Five Ways to Wellbeing, this week we looked at how we can CONNECT to make ourselves feel better.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIJ5h4ZoYm8&safe=active>

We also looked at how we could make or design a recipe for Friendship Soup. It would be great for any designs or recipes to be sent in!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQOGG3SDJfk&safe=active>

Attendance

Wow - what an improvement we have this week!

The whole school attendance is 96.5% - well done everyone.

A special mention goes to Reception, Y3 and Y6 who all have more than 98% attendance this week.

Thank you parents for your support to improve attendance. We really appreciate it.

