



# SWANWICK STORY

**Friday 15 January 2020**

## Happy New Year!

It seems a little bit late in the day to be saying it with everything that has been happening recently, but Happy New Year to all of our families. We hope that you all managed to have a restful break over the Christmas holiday.

## Thank you

As we all know, the start of our new term has been an unexpected and interesting one due to the announcement on January 4<sup>th</sup> that the country would again be in lockdown.

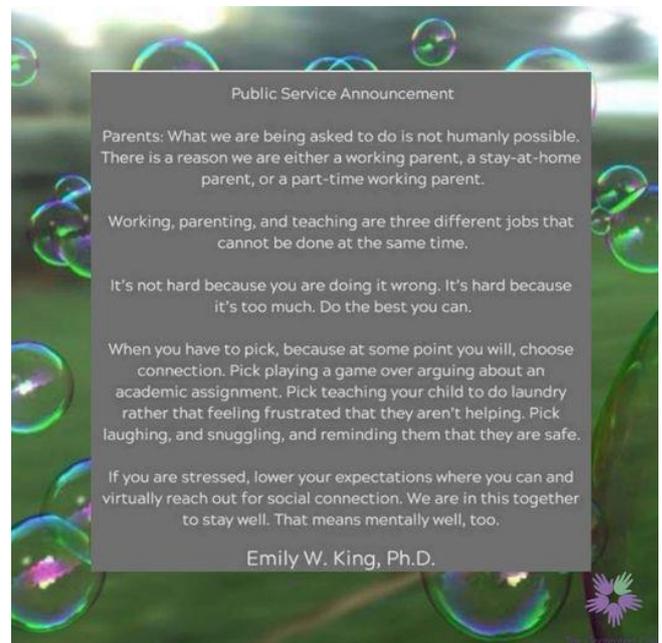
There are so many amazing things that our school community: staff, children, parents and governors, have done over the last two weeks. Thank you is never enough, but we really do appreciate everyone's efforts to keep the country going and keep everyone safe at this time. Whatever your role in all of this – well done! We are so proud of everyone.

A few things have made a massive difference during this time:

- Parents using the info@ e-mail address and not e-mailing staff directly. This has really helped us to streamline communication
- Parents of Critical Workers who are at home reducing the number of days their children are in school. We have been overwhelmed by your support with this over the last few days. The message remains that if you are at home – your children should be at home too. Please reduce your days when you can. If there is an adult at home – that is the safest place for your child.
- Being kind. We have been completely blown away with the amount of support and understanding from you all at this time. We have had so many compliments and well wishes. It is still early days for us

and we are still learning, but your kind words go a very long way to make up for what is a far from an ideal situation for everyone.

- Seeing children engaging in their learning and trying their best (both at home and school) – and seeing parents supporting home learning whilst trying to juggle family and work life. We know it isn't easy. We spotted this which we thought might help you to remember to be kind to yourselves:



## Staffing update

We would like to welcome Miss Esmae Gaunt to SPS. Miss Gaunt has been appointed as a Teaching Assistant and working with the Y4 team.

We also welcome Miss Charlotte Lockley to our Reception team. We know you will make her very welcome.

Generally, our staffing is looking a lot better than it was at times during the Autumn Term, when we were very short most days. However, things continue to change every day and we are keeping everything crossed that we can continue to operate effectively.



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Our whole staff team are on rotas, which means that not every member of staff is in school every day. They are still fulfilling their hours (and in some cases, many, many more) but working from home.

In giving our staff the opportunity to work at home, it means that we can socially distance more effectively in school and provide learning for the children both at home and at school.

## Remote Learning

Thank you to those of you who are engaging so well with remote learning. It is new to us all – so well done! We are all learning new things all the time, so please do bear with the staff if there are technical hitches. Please don't worry if you put things in the wrong place. What we do ask is that your child is engaging with learning and returning work.

Please remember that there is always someone there who can help you, but our staff have been asked to have very regular breaks to prevent digital eye strain. Staff are often using their own phones, so will not be sharing their 'phone numbers with you. Instead, you can request a call and someone will be in touch.

Staff who are leading on remote learning have a lot of tasks to do each day and often their workload is much greater than it usually would be in school. We have a combination of Teachers and Teaching Assistants in school and at home to support all of our learners.

A reminder that when on the Teams calls that this is 'school' with appropriate dress, smart sitting and positive contributions required. We ask that the 'chat bar' is used only for learning questions or problems rather than general chit-chat so that everyone can find what they are looking for.

If we don't see children on Teams calls, have work returned, or if we can't contact you by telephone,

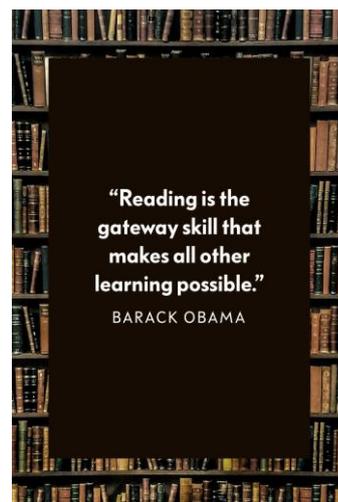
a senior member of staff will be informed and we will follow our safeguarding processes.

Due to technical and potential safeguarding reasons, we have taken the decision not to record Teams meetings from now on. We are looking at other ways to provide recordings to support learning.

Please be aware that there have been Microsoft Windows updates over the last week. You may want to install these updates sooner rather than later to ensure that Teams continues to run effectively on your device.

## Reading

We are currently unable to share physical reading books with children at the moment, but we want to encourage everyone to continue to read daily to practise their skills. Please click on the link to take you to information about reading materials, in particular, Epic! (free for a month) and Oxford Owls.



<https://www.swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk/page/remote-learning-information/91689>

We are in the process of buying into an exciting online reading scheme – Bug Club. Watch this space for more information.



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## COVID-19

We continue to ask parents to inform us of any positive cases within their family so that we can support you and ask any close contacts to self-isolate. Please e-mail:

[covid@swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:covid@swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk)

<http://www.swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk/new-starter-information/>

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions or telephoning 01629 537499.](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions-or-telephoning-01629-537499)

## Being Active at Home and School

It is important that everyone keeps up their physical activity. It keeps us fit and healthy, and also is a great way to promote mental health and wellbeing.

You can find lots of ideas here:

<https://www.swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk/page/remote-learning-information/91689>

## Stay Safe

We thank everyone for all of their efforts to keep everyone safe. Stay at home if you can and help us all to eradicate this pandemic as soon as possible.

You are all amazing.

Take care and have a lovely weekend.

## Winter Grant Scheme

The Government have announced that once again they will be using the Winter Grant Scheme during February half-term for families who are entitled to Free School Meals. So that we have the correct information, please make sure that we have up-to-date contact details (mobile numbers and e-mail addresses) asap.

## Speech Therapy

We are unable to deliver our usual speech therapy programmes in school at the moment. You might find this link useful:

<https://speechandlanguage.info/parents>

If your child already receives speech therapy and you need support, please don't hesitate to contact our SENDCO – Mrs Walton.

## Reception places for September 2021

Just a reminder that the application process closes **TODAY**. Have you applied for your place?



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