



# SWANWICK STORY

**Friday 26 March 2021**

**Spring has sprung!**



As we move towards the last week of our Spring Term, we have seen some signs that Spring is at last here...we've definitely got the showers today!

In assembly this week we looked at the Seven Signs of Spring according to The National Trust. There were some surprises and some things we felt should have been included – such as longer days. Here is the list:

1. Spring flowers
2. Nest building
3. Frogspawn
4. Newborn lambs
5. Tree buds, catkins and blossom
6. Early butterflies and bees
7. The first lawn cut!

Don't forget that the clocks SPRING forward an hour this weekend!

Miss Fogg broadcast the assembly from a beautiful European setting. There were some great guesses from Y6 – some thought it was Poland, some thought it might be Russia. Miss Fogg has been to both of those places more than once, but neither of the answers are correct. Very close though!

Can anyone guess where this beautiful scene can be viewed?



The last school day this term will be **Thursday 1 April**. School will re-open on **Monday 19 April**.

## **We are always here**

Remember – there is always someone you can talk to about your child in confidence if you feel that they need some pastoral support.

E-mail [ppod@swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:ppod@swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk)

## **Traffic around school – near miss**

We remain incredibly concerned about the driving and parking of some parents in the vicinity of the school.

This week, it has been reported that a car belonging to one of our parents was within centimetres of one of our adults as they manouvered. Near misses like this may not cause physical harm, but have the potential to cause injury or even fatality.

This could have been one of our children – and they may not have been so lucky.

Please, for the safety of everyone: drive with consideration, park legally and help us to look after our community. Whilst we are always happy to put reminders in the Swanwick Story, we have no legal durastrition over the roads.



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## **Punctuality**

Unfortunately we still have a significant number of children who are turning up at the gate once it is closed, or making a mad-dash to get in before it closes.

If you know that your child is often on the cusp of being late, or is late, we do ask that you consider how this affects the start to their day.

We know that occasionally things crop up and that you may have a tricky morning. Just let us know and we will see how we can help.

Sometimes, just doing things five-minutes earlier can make all the difference and help us all to have a better start to the day.

Thank you to all of our parents for helping your child get a good start to their day.

## **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club will be re-opening on Monday 26 March. Please e-mail your requirements to [breakfastclub@swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:breakfastclub@swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk) asap so that we can plan staffing, activities and food.

Sessions cost £4.00 per child per day. This is less than half the amount some other school provision charges and is great value for money.

We will continue with the previous routine of dropping your child off at the South Street gate and your child entering school independently through the door near Miss Wright's classroom. There will be a member of staff on hand. If your child is in Reception, you may bring them to the door as we were doing prior to temporarily closing Breakfast Club.

The Club will continue to operate in Year Group bubbles to support our risk assessment.

We can't wait to have you all back!

## **Winter Covid Grant**

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, Derbyshire County Council are again organising vouchers for over the Easter Holidays. They will contact you directly about this.

## **Y6 Greek Day**

Thursday 1 April will see Y6 celebrating all things Greek. Children may come in Greek costume or as a Greek God. If they do not wish to dress up, then they should wear school uniform.

Y6 will be exploring various activities and performing Greek Myths to each other – sounds like a splendid way to finish the term!



## **Comic Relief - Red Nose Day 2021**

Our final total for Comic Relief was £398.50. Thank you everyone who made donations to this very worth cause.

## **National Day of Reflection 20201**

On Tuesday 23 March, the whole school gathered together for a virtual assembly to mark the National Day of Reflection.

Before the assembly, we listened to Sir Tom Moore, Michael Ball and The NHS Voices of Care Choir sing "You'll Never Walk Alone"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcouA\\_oWs\\_nU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcouA_oWs_nU)



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We shared some of the reasons we were reflecting on the last year and how the pandemic has affected us all. At 12.00pm we observed a minute of silence, followed by the pealing of bells from Derby Cathedral.

We know that many of you would have been shining a beacon of light at 8.00pm.

What a year we have shared together. Our thoughts go out to all of our community who have experienced loss and hardship during this time. Thinking of you all.

## Book Trust – Reading at home

The Book Trust have some great ideas for reading at home linking to the bedtime routine – especially with the younger children. Please take a look at their website:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/bath-book-bed/#!?q=&sortOption=MostRecent&pageNo=1>

## Attendance

After a flying start, we have noticed a dip in attendance this week – this is something we need to improve by working together.

**Whole School Attendance is 95.5%** this week.

We don't expect children to be in school if they are ill, have Covid symptoms or self-isolating. However, sometimes we know that they may have a bit of a sniffle or a few butterflies in their tummies but generally well enough to be in school. If you think your child is well enough to be in school but think they are a bit under the weather – we will always let you know if we feel they need to come home.

If you do not contact us to let us know your child will not be in school, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. If you don't let us know your child will not be in school, we will contact

you to make sure they are safe. There have been times we have done that this week and not had a response or a call returned. Please do keep in touch with us, as children who are unaccounted for are a safeguarding concern.

Again, a really big **well done to Y1 this week** – an average attendance of **98.4%**. This is significantly better than all other year groups.

***Let us work together to really improve attendance across the school. We can do it!***

## Exceptional Leave

We understand that occasionally, children will need time off school for exceptional circumstances: exams, medical appointments, weddings, funerals, graduations etc. A form can be found here which should be completed and returned to school:

<https://www.swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk/servefile/748331>

Whilst we appreciate that employees have their own approaches to allocating annual leave, we are unable to authorise holidays during term time. Thank you for supporting your child's attendance at school.

## 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)



***Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!***