



SWANWICK STORY

Friday 18 December 2020

We did it!

Well done everyone – we have managed to arrive at the end of term.

There have been some very worrying times with C19 cases and staff shortages, but what an achievement!

Well done to **everyone** for their brilliant efforts in trying to keep everyone safe.

School will close for the holidays at the end of **Friday 18 December 2020 and reopen to children on Tuesday 5 January 2021.**

Monday 4 January is an INSET Day, when **school will be closed to children.**

Letter from DCC's Director of Public Health

Please find attached to the Parent Hub message a letter for you from Dean Wallace.

COVID-19 – Christmas Holiday Arrangements

Miss Fogg will be on call to support Track and Trace from Friday 18 December up until Christmas Eve. With this in mind, **if your child tests positive** after developing COVID-19 symptoms at any point between 18th-24th December, please ensure you e-mail

covid@swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk including the following information:

- Child's full name
- Date of first symptoms
- What the symptoms were, including the type of any cough
- Date of test
- Date of the positive result

You do not have to let us know about a child's positive test results after Christmas Day for Track

and Trace purposes, but it would be useful for you to let us know of any positive cases so that we can support you.

Our Governors have asked that all staff have a very well earned break over the Christmas holidays. Therefore, so that we can ensure the mental health and wellbeing of our staff, **we will not be monitoring any other e-mail addresses over the holidays.**

So that staff can maintain a work-life balance, we remind parents that you should not be contacting individual staff in the first instance. Thank you for supporting us with this.

Being Social Online this December:

A parent's guide

Access to new tech over the winter period can provide new opportunities for children and young people but also present risks.

Our guide for parents looks at how they can support their child to be safer online this season by focusing on 3 key areas: viewing, sharing, chatting and friending.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/article/s/parents-guide-being-social-online/>

COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme

If you are a family on a low income you could get food vouchers for your children over the Christmas period. The money to pay for these vouchers has come from the government through its COVID-19 winter grant scheme which is over and above the other support schemes already provided by Derbyshire County Council.

The family of every child who gets free school meals in Derbyshire schools because of low income can get a £30 food voucher for the Christmas holidays. You will get another voucher in February if you are still eligible, the amount will depend on the number of children who qualify at that time. Some other families are also eligible based on financial hardship.



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You will receive vouchers if you meet one of the following criteria:

- Have a child aged 3 to 18 in a Derbyshire school (nursery to year 13), eligible for free school meals because of low household income.
- Have a child aged 3 or 4 not in a Derbyshire school nursery that receives free childcare and qualifies for 'pupil premium' based on low income (this is sometimes called 'economic funding').
- Have a child aged 2 that is eligible for free 2-year-old childcare because of low household income.

You do not need to do anything if your child already meets these criteria (see our website for full terms and conditions). We will contact you and you should receive a payment by email or text message that should arrive by 21 December 2020. If you have children and you do not currently claim free school meals or means tested free childcare you may still be eligible. For full details of the scheme or to see what help and support is available, please visit:

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/winter

We ask that parents do not contact school about these vouchers as we don't have any further information about them. They are being circulated directly from Derbyshire. Thank you.

Christmas Homework

In the spirit of all that is Christmas, we have attached to the Parent Hub message some optional Christmas 'homework' you might like your child to participate in during the holidays ☺

Breakfast Club

We are re-opening Breakfast Club on **Monday 11 January**. Please make sure you have e-mailed your requirements to:

breakfastclub@swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk

so that we can forward plan.

Walking on the school site

Thank you to those parents who have reminded their children to walk around the school site and stay with their adult – it has made a big difference!

Reception places for September 2021

We are very excited to share our virtual school tour. Please do share it with your contacts – thank you to everyone who has done so already:

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

You can find out more about applying for a school place by going to

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions_or_telephoning_01629_537499.

The closing date is January 15 2021.

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer visits to the school at this time. Thank you for your understanding.

Christmas Mini-Productions

If you haven't already found your way to these, then we highly recommend that you should!

<https://www.swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk/page/merry-christmas-everyone--mini-productions/88797>

Thank you to all staff, pupils and parents who have contributed their time and effort to these. We have had some brilliant feedback from you about how amazing you think they are – and we wholeheartedly agree. Well done everyone!



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Parking Worries

We hate to grumble, but some parents are still choosing to put the lives of our children at risk by parking on pavements or the middle of the road, and driving without due care and attention.

Please help us to keep everyone safe by being a thoughtful driver. Even better – if you can walk to school, that would help enormously.

Timekeeping & Attendance

We know it is tricky getting a family ready to leave the house on time every morning and there are lots of factors to take into consideration. We continue to have the same children arriving late each day, which impacts on learning time and creates an unsettled start for the children.

We will be having a big push in the New Year to make sure everyone is in school and on time. Please help us to give your child the best start each morning. Thank you for your support.

Our Special Visitors



We were so thrilled that Mr and Mrs Claus could take time out of their very busy schedule to pay us a visit on Tuesday morning this week. Mrs Claus shared her expectation that everyone should be kind and in bed early on Christmas Eve, whilst Santa showed us his flossing! He had clearly been practising.

During the visit, children were presented with a special gift of a selection box. These were very kindly donated by Rob & Cheryl Jerram at AVS Scaffolding Ltd.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr & Mrs Claus and Mr & Mrs Jerram for making the children's Christmas that extra bit special.

Thank you for our presents!

All of the staff would like to thank our very generous families for the wonderful presents you have brought in for us. There certainly haven't been many perks for staff in



education this year, but judging by the size of some of the shopping bags going home today, we have some very good boys and girls on our staff team. Thank you!

Christmas Celebration Days

We have loved seeing the children come into school in their Christmas Sparkle and Panto Finery.

Thank you to Friends of Swanwick for funding our pantomime – Robin Hood and his Socially Distanced Men and the sweets and drinks to accompany it.

In true panto style (!) it was very Scottish, had some singing, encouraged audience participation and had one socially distanced (wo)man. It was very reminiscent of Disney's Robin Hood storyline.

Miss Fogg provided a box of sweets for each class to enjoy and made sure each staff year group bubble had chocolates.

Mr Hughes, our Chair of Governors also brought in treats for the staff to enjoy.



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There has been a lot of Christmas music, dancing and party games throughout the week.

It has been really wonderful to hear the festivities to punctuate what has been a really tough term.

Christmas Assembly

Even though singing is not something we are able to do much of at the moment, we have ended our Christmas celebrations today with a special assembly.

You might like to watch some of the videos we shared today and in the last week or two:

The Bottle Boys – Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4U7VFT78y6A>

Sophie Fatu– All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAQEJvBeUyM&safe=active>

Claire Crosby – Have yourself a merry little Christmas
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnQTI8vKiU0&safe=active>

US Navy Band – White Christmas
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPAqyC6GMw8&safe=active>

Carol of the Bells – Sarah Juhasz
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFBgiCCe1mo&safe=active>

Christmas Medley – Jared Halley
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8W1FyPr4EY&safe=active>

Bethlehemian Rhapsody
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxvMkSKRW0A&safe=active>

Erste Christmas Ad 2018 – What would Christmas be without love? #believeinlove

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcx7hBWeULM&safe=active>

Brian Hull – Pixar and Disney Sings a Christmas Medley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVAkTT16FXI&t=28s&safe=active>

Thank you for everything...

Thank you seems such an inadequate phrase when you take into account everything this term – this year - has thrown at us.

Thank you to all the staff, parents, governors and our amazing pupils for helping us to work together by staying apart so that we can be with our special people this Christmas.

We have had lots of wonderful messages of support and thanks from many of our families over the last few weeks – and we couldn't have done it without you. Having you cheering us on has been such a big help.

The teamwork and determination of staff to not only “get through” this time, but to do it with a smile on their faces and with great humour has been amazing. Not only that, they have continued to work on our school improvement priorities. From looking at the children's work, it is clear that there have been brilliant improvements across the board. Staff have rarely had a break to powder their noses or eat their lunch – and have quite frankly been incredible superheroes.

Our governors have, as ever, been super-supportive: cancelling and re-arranging meetings at the last minute; being on hand to look after us; and showing concern and care for the wellbeing of the staff and children.



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And of course – we wouldn't be here without the children. They have been resilient, hardworking, understanding of the new ways of working and brilliant fun.

So, as inadequate as it feels, thank you everyone - for everything.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

All that remains is for us to wish all of our school community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and peaceful New Year.

Have a good rest, enjoy time with your loved ones and we will see you all on Tuesday 5th January.

Take care, follow the rules and stay safe.

