



Swanton Morley VC Primary School

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Summer 2024 – Newsletter 3

Introduction

Well, another year has absolutely flown by and as we say our fond farewells to Year 6, we can also look back on some great activities, events and memories over the summer term. We have had a Sponsored Walk, Activities Week (including Karate and a French Day), Yr6 Hautbois Residential, Class Trips, End of Year Celebration Service at the Church, Sports Day, Choir performing at Lincoln House Care Home, Y6 Leaver's Show, Discos ... oh and England ~~winning~~ falling short again in a major tournament – they say it's the hope that kills you but maybe one day!?!

Anyway, please find below some important information and reminders as this year draws to a close.

Reports

At the end of last week, you will have received your child's school report. After considering feedback from last year, you can see that staff are now providing overall comments along with the key information on effort/attitude, progress and attainment. We hope that this has given you clear, specific and more meaningful information which summarises achievements and helps to identify areas for improvement next year.

We continue to encourage constructive feedback though, especially when we are still adapting a relatively new format, and we will take these views into account when considering end of year reports next summer.

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 will open at 8.40 and all children will be required to be in school by 8.45 from September onwards. We will continue to finish at 3.15.

A polite reminder that 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.

Staffing/New Classes

You will remember that I wrote to you last month with the details of the staffing/classes from September 2024. In order to provide you with a quick point of reference I have copied the details again below.

Class	Teacher(s)	Support Staff (not all support staff will be in the class at all times and some will work across more than one year group)
Acorn – YrR	Mrs Barnes (Monday & Tuesday) Mrs Lake (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday)	Mrs Chapman Mrs Southwell
Oak - Yr1	Mrs Sifleet	Mrs Davies Mrs Lambie Mrs Restall (mornings) Mrs Quick-Evans (afternoons)
Maple - Yr2	Mrs Haynes	Mrs Muncer
Birch - Yr3/4	Mrs Powell	Mrs Riches Mrs Whiting Mrs Quick-Evans (mornings) Mrs Restall (afternoons)
Willow - Yr4/5	Mrs Kerrison (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday) Mrs O'Dell (Thursday & Friday)	Mrs Skeet Mrs Hogan (mornings)
Alder - Yr5/6	Ms Madeley	Mrs Allinson
HLTAs: Mrs Sadler & Mrs Aston – working across different classes supporting children, leading interventions and providing cover where required.		
SENDCO	Mrs King	

School Trips

We are very pleased that we can offer your child such a rich and diverse range of trips during their time with us at primary school. However, we do understand that in the current financial climate, these trips can be expensive, and costs mount up. Therefore, from September 2024 any child who is entitled to Free School Meals (part of our Pupil Premium Funding and not Universal Infants Free School Meals) will now have the full cost of all school trips paid for.

Yr6 SATs Results

We were once again delighted with our Yr6 SATs results which were released on the 9th July. Although these results can never provide a fully rounded picture of each unique individual here, they are a culmination of a lot of hard work from pupils and teachers alike over their time at Swanton Morley Primary School. As you will see from the table below our results compare very favourably with the national average, and we are extremely proud of this.

Subject Area	Pupils Meeting the Expected Standard: Swanton Morley Primary	Pupils Meeting the Expected Standard: Nationally
Reading	88%	74%
Maths	80%	73%
Writing	88%	72%
Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar	84%	72%
Reading, Writing, Maths - Combined	80%	61%

Attendance

I would like to highlight some important and significant changes to the national guidance on attendance, and how it may affect you as parents/carers.

As from the *19 August 2024* the national guidance on Working Together to Improve School Attendance becomes 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 will affect you as parents /carers and these are summarised below:

- Attendance codes are changing
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) are increasing
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 attached information sheet for full details of changes. A further letter will be sent to all parents/carers in September.

- 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 must now request that medical evidence be provided from your child's GP or another medical practitioner.

Behaviour/Language

There have been a concerning number of recent incidents where children have been reported to be using inappropriate language at break/lunch times. As we look ahead to the next academic year, please can you remind your child about the importance of the language that they are using in line with our Behaviour Policy.

Sports Day

It was fantastic to see how much the children and parents enjoyed Sports Day again this year. We are very fortunate with the facilities that we have here and I thought the balance between competition, inclusivity and support for all children taking part was a joy to see. The children were an absolute credit to themselves and the school. It was also great to see so many adults taking part in the parents' races – you can certainly see where some of that competitive edge comes from! Thank you again to the staff for organising such a successful and enjoyable event.

Church Service

The end of year celebration service which took place at All Saint's Church on Thursday 12th July was a lovely occasion. I would like to thank Rev Rachael for hosting us so well and for everybody that took part. I thought that the readers did especially well as they had to contend with a rather badly-behaved microphone, and it was also really nice to be able to say a proper goodbye to those adults that are leaving us. Thank you to Ms Madeley for helping to put the whole service together.

Friends of Swanton Morley (FOSM)

The Sponsored Walk, Garage Sale and Discos (as well as the after-school ice cream stall which pops up on sunny days) have proved to be very successful again this term. As a result, we have raised a considerable amount of money for the school. FOSM have recently spoken to the School Council and have some great ideas in the pipeline for how to spend the money...so watch this space! I would like to thank FOSM again for all of their hard work, but we still need more volunteers if we are going to be able to continue with these kinds of successful events next year. Even if you can just offer support for one event in the year it really does help! Please contact the school office if you would like to find out more about joining FOSM.

Goodbyes

As you know, Mr Vokes (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Brandwood (Music Teacher) and Mrs Cutting (MSA) will all be retiring on Friday, and I would like to take this opportunity once again to thank them all for their incredible hard work and dedication to the children at Swanton Morley over the years. They will be greatly missed.

Dates

The summer term finishes at the end of the day on Friday 19th July and the children return to school on Wednesday 4th September 2024.

The school office will open on Monday 2nd September where contact can be reestablished with the school and emails will be picked up and responded to once again.

Dates for next academic year are as follows:

Autumn term

- Wednesday 4 September - Thursday 24 October 2024
- Half-term holiday: Friday 25 October - Friday 1 November 2024
- Monday 4 November - Friday 20 December 2024
- Christmas holiday: Monday 23 December 2024 - Monday 6 January 2025

Spring term

- Tuesday 7 January - Friday 14 February 2025
- Half-term holiday: Monday 17 - Friday 21 February 2025
- Monday 24 February - Friday 4 April 2025
- Easter holiday: Monday 7 - Tuesday 22 April 2025

Summer term

- Wednesday 23 April - Friday 23 May 2025 (Monday 5 May is a Bank Holiday)
- Half-term holiday: Monday 26 - Friday 30 May 2025
- Monday 2 June - Tuesday 22 July 2025

Finally...

Thank you to everyone for their fantastic support in helping to make it such a productive and enjoyable year. I would like to wish you all a very happy and blessed summer break and we look forward to seeing you all again after the holidays.

Kind Regards,

Matt Richards

Matt Richards

Headteacher

Swanton Morley V.C. Primary



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'.
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