



## Swanton Morley VC Primary School

Manns Lane, Swanton Morley, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4PX

Tel: (01362) 637219

Head Teacher: Mr Matthew Richards

E mail: [office@swantonmorley.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@swantonmorley.norfolk.sch.uk)

Web Site: [www.swantonmorleyprimary.co.uk](http://www.swantonmorleyprimary.co.uk)

Autumn 2024 – Newsletter 1

### **Introduction**

I really hope that you enjoyed the slightly extended October half term holiday and were able to make the most of spending time together with friends and family. Now that the clocks have gone back and we have the darker evenings again, it certainly feels like winter is fast approaching - although we have avoided the colder temperatures so far!

As always, there has been a considerable amount to celebrate over the first half term at school and lots more to tell you about as we head towards Christmas.

### **Classes**

I am now in a position to inform you of the changes to teaching staff from January 2025.

#### Birch Class

We will be very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Powell at the end of this term but would like to thank her for the tremendous amount of dedication and hard work that she has put in with a number of different classes during her time here.

I am delighted to inform you that Mr Kearse has been appointed on a full-time permanent basis to take over in Birch class after Christmas. As part of the transition, he will be coming into school to meet the children during this half term and spending some time with Mrs Powell to ensure the best possible hand over. Mr Kearse has written a lovely introductory letter to the children in Birch class which I will be sending out separately.

#### Oak Class

We really look forward to welcoming Miss Vincent back from maternity leave on a part-time permanent basis after Christmas. She will be teaching in Oak class on a Thursday & Friday. I am also very pleased to inform you that Mrs Sifleet will be returning to cover the other days in Oak class on a Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. Once again there will be a full hand over as part of the transition arrangements with both teachers coming into school towards the end of this half term. I can confirm that the new arrangements in Oak class have been put in place for the rest of this academic year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Bragger for stepping in and covering Oak class so capably for the majority of this term.

## **Parents Evenings**

Parents Evenings will be taking place over the next few weeks (see dates section). You can still sign up by contacting Mrs Wilton in the school office. All appointments will now take place in the school hall. Please ensure that you are on time for your appointment and stay within your allocated slot as it's important we are running to time for everybody's benefit.

There will also be a parent survey available for you to fill in on the evening so don't forget to complete this and put it in the box before you leave. We will send a hard copy of the survey home if you are not able to be there for the consultations.

## **Communication**

A reminder that if you have any questions, queries or concerns about anything then please do not hesitate to contact us. We always do our best to work with you to resolve any issues quickly and ensure the very best for all of our parents and children.

In the first instance, I would always encourage you to make direct contact with your child's class teacher either on the school gate, through the front office or via email. All teacher's school email addresses have been previously provided but please contact the office if you need this information again.

Most concerns can be resolved in this way but if this is not the case then please catch me on the gate or email me directly at [head@swantonmorley.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:head@swantonmorley.norfolk.sch.uk) where we can then discuss the issues further or arrange a separate meeting if necessary.

Many of you let me know when things are going well too, which is always great to hear about. Let me encourage you to keep doing this as it's good to know what we are getting right as well as what could be improved further.

## **Reading Cafes**

Each class will be running a Reading Café for parents in the lead up to Christmas so please look out for these. Class teachers will write to you directly with the details.

## **Service Children**

Please see the information below from Holly Whiting, our new Service Pupil Champion:

*My name is Mrs Whiting, and I am a Teaching Assistant and a Midday Supervisory Assistant currently working within School. I have recently been assigned the role of 'Service Pupil Champion'. I am a member of the Armed Forces community myself and I feel passionately about the special lifestyle that Forces children and families live.*

*If your child has been registered as a Service Pupil this means they have a parent/carer/close family member that has been in the Armed Forces.*

*The way this is logged in school is very important for the Government to recognise how special Forces families are and the unique challenges service life can bring.*

*In School we have extra provisions currently in-place specifically to support your child/children.*

*We feel it is important for children to receive help and support with whatever they may need. This may be in terms of academic, emotional, or pastoral support providing stability through deployments, periods of separation or other stressful events i.e., relocations, transition to civilian life or a change in family circumstances and dynamics.*

*We can also support you by letting you know how your child is coping at school through challenging periods and what we are doing to help.*

*Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact the office if you wish to share any information with us or discuss things further.*

*Mrs H Whiting*

### **Friends of Swanton Morley (FOSM)**

Please visit the school website to see the list of events that are coming up this term/year. I am particularly looking forward to the 'Winter Warmer' on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November!

Any help or support that you can offer is always invaluable. Please contact the school office if you would like to find out more and join our happy and hardworking band of Friends.

### **Pantomime**

We are all extremely excited about the whole school trip to the pantomime on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. A huge thank you to FOSM for covering the cost of all of the tickets and making the trip viable again. If you have not already done so then please make your payment as soon as possible as it's not long to go now!

### **Harvest Collection**

Our donation of 67.3kg of food for the Harvest Festival will provide 3 days' worth of emergency food for 9 people. I have included a letter received from the Mid Norfolk Foodbank below. Thank you everyone!

#### Mid Norfolk Foodbank

T: 07542 106107

E: [info@midnorfolk.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@midnorfolk.foodbank.org.uk)

[www.midnorfolk.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.midnorfolk.foodbank.org.uk)

13th October 2024

*To all the pupils and staff at Swanton Morley Primary School,  
We want to say a big thank you to you for supporting Mid Norfolk Foodbank again this harvest – your donations will benefit so many in our community who can't afford to buy food during the cost of living crisis.*

*Together with Trussell, we are working to ensure no-one needs a food bank to survive. But until this happens – and with your help – we will continue to provide emergency food and practical support to people left without enough money to live on.*

*On behalf of everyone at Mid Norfolk Foodbank,  
Thank you!*

### **School Refurbishments**

Over the October half term, I am extremely pleased to let you know we have had our rather old, temperamental and inefficient boilers replaced by the LA scheme that we are a part of (cost to LA: £85,000). The school will now be running off gas rather than oil.

Also, we have been able to use the governments energy efficiency grant (£13,000) to replace a large number of lights in the school with LED fittings/bulbs.

In addition, the network cabling for our IT system and brand-new computers (purchased in summer 2024) was also replaced over half term.

It's fair to say that it was a busy old week but this should all contribute to making the school much more up to date, energy efficient and help us to save some much-needed money!

### **Attendance**

As you are aware, we have recently sent out updated information from the DfE/LA on rules around attendance. We continue to monitor attendance very carefully and I will only authorise absence in 'exceptional' circumstances. The office will contact you directly if we have any concerns but if you require any additional support/resources then please follow this link: <http://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/attendance>

### **Healthy Eating**

We actively encourage healthy eating across the school as part of our curriculum teaching about healthy lifestyles. Therefore, please can you ensure that children only bring water to school (unless there is specified medical advice) and that the children do not have chocolate, sweets or sugary drinks in their packed lunches.

### **Cold Weather Gear**

Please can we also remind you to send your child into school with a warm coat, hat, gloves etc. as the weather turns colder so that we are able to keep children playing outside happily for as long as possible at break times/lunchtimes.

### **Parking**

Parking continues to be a problem outside of the school despite repeated requests to park considerately for the safety of all our children. Please report any safety issues to the local police and Norfolk County Council (NCC).

If you are able to give yourselves just a few more minutes in the morning, I would once again remind you that the village hall car park is the safest option and only a very short walk from the school.

## Dates

### Autumn term 2024

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024
- Christmas holiday: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### Spring term 2025

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025
- Half-term holiday: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025
- Easter holiday: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

### Summer term 2025

- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 (Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May is a Bank Holiday)
- Half-term holiday: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June - Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

### Other School Dates – Autumn Term 2024

- **Parents Evening 1/2** - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 3.30-5.30
- **Parents Evening 2/2** - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 5.00-7.00
- **FOSM Winter Warmer** – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November
- **FOSM Discos** - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 5.45-7.00/7.15-8.30
- **Lower School Christmas Performance** -Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 9.15
- **Pantomime Trip** (Whole School) – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December
- **Whole School Carol Service** – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2.00 @ All Saints Church

### **And Finally...**

I'm sure that you will want to join with me in congratulating Mrs Wilton on completing her Local Authority Finance Training. She is now officially employed as our 'Finance and Administration School Support Manager'. Please remember to pay homage whenever you pop into the office! More seriously, this gives me a great excuse to thank Mrs Wilton for all that she does for the school, regularly going above and beyond, in her multifaceted role!

Kind Regards,

*Matt Richards*

Matt Richards  
Headteacher  
Swanton Morley V.C. Primary