



SWANWICK STORY

Friday 8 October 2021

And just like that...it's Friday!

A big thank you to all of our school community for your support. We have had a significant number of staff absences over the last week or two. This means that we have had to shuffle staff around to ensure we have cover everywhere it is needed in order to keep everyone safe. We don't do this unless we really have to, so thank you for your understanding. A special well done to our staff who have shuffled round (and round again) at the drop of a hat and shown great team spirit.

Attendance & Covid 19

We have taken the precautionary measure of asking Y6 to work in a 'Bubble' again due to a few cases of Covid in this year group. They have done a brilliant job of quickly adapting to this. We will keep this in place until cases in Y6 drop again.

Please remember to report all Covid 19 related information to:

covid@swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk

In line with our Outbreak Management Plan, we are constantly in contact with Derbyshire Public Health and taking their advice. We will ramp up measures whenever they are needed and reduce as necessary. The current guidance is that all children who are well and not testing positive should come to school.

We only ever 'phone home for your child to be collected if we genuinely think they are not well enough to be in school, or if they are presenting with Covid symptoms. Unfortunately, we have had a small minority of parents in the last week or so who have not been supportive of this – which puts our whole school community at risk, or means we have an unhappy child in school because they are not well enough to be here. We thank the greatest majority of parents who show our staff utmost kindness and respect.

Punctuality Letters

We continue to struggle with a large number of parents who bring their children to school after the gates have closed at 8.55am. This puts an enormous strain on our office at the busiest part of our school day and causes a wobbly start for your child. ***We will be issuing letters to parents of children who have been consistently late this term to offer support and help.***

Children in Reception who arrive late should be brought directly to the office, as once the gates are locked, we need to account for all visitors on site and safeguard the rest of the school.

Thank you everyone for your support.

Toys in school

Now that school has settled back into its new 'normal', we are noticing that children are bringing toys, Pokémon cards, and the like, into school. Unfortunately, this can very easily lead to arguments, taking time out of learning to sort it out, so we ask that these are all kept safely at home.

Younger children who use their transitional mouse may still bring this in to help them to settle.

Some children, who have specific educational needs, require transitional or sensory objects as part of their learning. These will have been agreed as part of their plan with Mrs Walton, our SENDCo. Of course, these are allowed to be brought into school.

Thank you for your help and support in keeping playground squabbles to a minimum! 😊



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Parents' Meetings

A big thank you to all parents who attended these meetings. There was a lovely atmosphere in school and the system seemed to work brilliantly. Please remember that we are always here and you don't have to wait until these meetings to talk to us!

School Photographs

Our photographers will be in school on **Tuesday 12 October** to take individual photographs of children. There will be an opportunity for you to purchase these if you wish. Please note that on this occasion, we are unable to accommodate family or sibling group photographs.

So that there is no confusion, **ALL children to come to school in uniform on this day, not PE kit.**

Thank you for your understanding.

A message from our Governing Board

A warm welcome back to all our school community, after a summer that seemed to fly by!

We would like to extend our thanks as a Governing Board to all of the children, parents and staff at the school for their hard work and perseverance through what has been such a difficult time for everyone. It is great to be back to a bit more normality, especially to see the children thriving in school again.

A little introduction from me. I'm Rebecca, one of the governors at Swanwick Primary, I have been in the role for about two years now and really enjoy the challenges and responsibilities of being on the board. All of the governors are such warm and friendly people from very varied backgrounds which makes for a great team.

There are many aspects to being a governor, including overseeing the financial and educational performance of the school and providing vision for the future, but primarily we are there to support the school and the staff to ensure our children are safe and receiving the very best education.

Governors were able to meet face to face a couple of weeks ago, something we have not been able to do since the start of Covid, and start to plan the return of school visits by governors.

One of the priorities for the immediate future, is to recruit some new faces on to our Governing Board! We would love to see more of our parents involved in the governing of the school, shaping the future for Swanwick Primary. Whilst certain skill sets are advantageous, you do not need to be an expert in any given area to join the board! We are looking for parents who can commit to the school, and give up some of their spare time to attend meetings and be a critical friend. This role is very rewarding and ultimately, we are there to provide the very best for all the

children at the school. There is a wealth of training opportunities for governors, new and old, to continuously improve and help newer governors settle into the role. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, then please look out for further information to follow soon.

Finally, we are here for you and your children and welcome any feedback or suggestions from parents and carers, so please do not hesitate to get in touch throughout the school year by e-mailing the school.

We look forward to hearing from you,
Your Governing Board.



SWANWICK STORY

Have your circumstances changed?

We are more than aware that the Government Furlough Scheme has now finished. In addition, there has been a reduction of the £20 per week uplift to Universal Credit. We know that many of our families are likely to feel the pinch. Please remember that we can support you in many ways, including supporting you to access food banks.

If you feel you would like some support, please do contact ppod@swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk for a confidential chat to see how we can help you.

New Menu

Our new menu for school lunches will start after half-term. You can view it here:

[Menu](#)

Assemblies

Our whole school assemblies are focusing on our THRIVE values. [Thrive](#)

This week, we have held assemblies exploring **Valued** and Mr Morris shared a whole school assembly around **homelessness**.

Hello Yellow

Thank you to all parents who made a donation to Young Minds this week. If you haven't got round to it yet, the collection will stay open until 9.00am on Friday 15 October when we will reveal our grand total! To date, we have received £170.00, which means there should still be some more donations to roll in.

Thank you to Mrs Walton for organising some assemblies and to all the staff for leading them.

It was fabulous being in school on Wednesday to see all the yellow clothing – and the sun even came out to say hello too!

Two of our Y6 pupils, Ava and Ruby, used the melody of Ben E King's 'Stand by Me' to recreate their own lyrics to mark the occasion. We know you will agree they would make anyone feel better:

“When you're sad, and alone,
And you've nowhere to go,
Call for a friend, cause time, ticks by without an end.

No I won't be far, oh I won't be far,
Just as long as you're close, close to me.

So darlin', darlin', stand by me
Oh, stand by me
Oh, stand,
Stand by me, stand by me!”

Well done girls! 😊



Flu Vaccine

If you haven't yet signed your child up for the Flu Vaccine, you can find more information here:

[Flu Vaccine](#)

If you have problems registering, please use the contacts on the letter, as it is not organised by school.

Friends of Swanwick Primary

This meeting is on **Monday 11 October**.

All of our school community – staff, parents and friends, are warmly invited to the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Zoom.

Please read here to learn more about how you can help your children:

[AGM Flyer](#)



SWANWICK STORY

Goodbye to Mrs Smith

Mrs Smith, our Senior Business Assistant, will be leaving us for pastures new at the end of this half term. We wish Mrs Smith all the very best for her new venture and thank her for all of her hard work, dedication and commitment to our school over the last 6 years.

Reception Class 2022

If you, or anyone you know, has a child due to start school in September 2022, please check our tour times. Feel free to share with your contacts:

[Reception 2022 Tours](#)

Miss Wright and Miss Fogg have really enjoyed the tours they have led so far.

Pirate Day in Y2

Tuesday 19 October is Pirate Day in Year 2! The children have been studying the book 'The Pirates of Scurvy Sands' by Johnny Duddle and have been planning their own pirate adventure stories. On the day, children can come dressed as pirates. Please do not feel you have to buy costumes. A simple, stripy top or old shirt and jeans can make a marvellous outfit! They will learn to talk like a pirate, learn to follow directions to find buried treasure and role-play sailing the seven seas. It's sure to be a great day and will really bring our class book to life.



Learning in Y1

The children in Y1 Elm Class have been looking at comparing numbers and ordering object groups.



A message from Swanwick and Pentrich Churches...





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EYFS Superhero Day!

"I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles"

- Superman



On **Wednesday 20 October**, the children in Reception are invited to come to school in a super-outfit of their choice. This may be a superhero, real life hero or their own personal idol; someone that they think is super! We will be using this day to do our very own Super-Hero training and looking at what makes each and every one of us super.

Just a reminder that it is not expected that parents spend money on outfits, we are sure with a bit of creativity you can use what you already have!

World Teachers' Day A message from Miss Fogg



'October 5 2021 was World Teachers' Day. To those who taught us, those we work with, aspiring teachers we grow and nurture, and those little people who are already doing registers with their dolls and toys.

Without you, nobody would be reading this.
Proud of all my teaching friends and colleagues.

It's been a tough, tough couple of years to be a teacher and continues to bring challenges which shouldn't be ours to bear. Keep going and well done!'



Wishing all of you a lovely weekend. See you all on Monday!