



The Bugle

November 2023

A message from Mrs Ramsell

Having now settled back into school and speeding towards Christmas at a rate of knots, I thought it would be nice to have a brief update on how we are progressing. EYFS have settled in extremely well and it feels as if they have never not been a part of the New Swannington family, very well done to them all. In fact, all our children have continued to work very hard and are showing continued improvements in all their subjects and in everything they do.

The remainder of this term will continue to be busy with activities for many of our Year Groups including Bikeability for Year 5, the Panto for all and of course, our much anticipated Carol Concert! Oh, and as if we could forget our now famous Advent Calendar!



We held our first Parent Forum of this Academic year on 26 October 2023 and we would like to thank our Parent Reps for the discussion points they prepared and shared with us. It was a very useful meeting where a variety of issues were discussed and the points addressed are now available through your Parent Rep. Our next meeting will be after February half term.



For any of our families who have younger siblings starting school in Autumn 2024, we are holding an Open Morning on **Saturday, 18 November 2023 from 10am until 12pm.**

Please come along and see us, as you'll have the opportunity to chat to staff, have a look around school and your child can enjoy some play time in the EYFS classroom.

Our transition over to the School Gateway has continued well and the feedback we have received from our families has been positive.

Schoolgateway



At this point, the school calendar will remain on the School App as the School Gateway is currently unable to support it. This may change as the software is developed further, however, we will keep you updated and we will also continue to send updated Diary Dates.



Have you heard the news WE WON!!

What a fabulous achievement from all our children. Their efforts over the summer holidays 'in the chair' and 'crossing the Finish Line' were incredible and we are so pleased to have taken the Winner's Crown once again. Well done everyone!



As you will be aware, we place high emphasis on good attendance and the impact that absence can have on children's progress and general education.

We wanted to clarify that if a child is unwell they should not come to school. We completely understand that children pick up all sorts of bugs and infections and, in those cases, we would wish them to be at home so that they can recover fully.

The matter relating to holidays being taken during Term Time is entirely different. We enjoy lengthy holidays during the school year and we actively discourage family holidays being taken during the remaining 38 weeks. The Department of Education and LCC stipulate that family holidays during term time will result in a Fine. We are obliged to strictly adhere to the guidance we receive from LCC as we are maintained by them. We recognise that costs vary hugely in term time and during school holidays, however, the impact on your children's education cannot be underestimated. Thank you for your support in this matter.

As a reminder, please it is important that our Absence Policy is adhered to if your child is absent ie.

- ensure their child attends school every day the school is open except when a statutory reason applies;
- notify the school as soon as possible when their child has to be unexpectedly absent through sickness. In this case, parents/carers must call the school absence line as early as possible on 01530 832656 and provide details of the child's name and the reason for absence. If we do not receive contact from you, due to Safeguarding obligations, we will make a home visit and the matter be referred to social care;
- only request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and do so in advance. Exceptional circumstances do not include holidays, family events, birthdays etc. We completely understand that booking holidays in term time has a financial impact, however, please do not underestimate the impact this time away from school has on your child's education. We would appreciate your honesty in reporting this absence so that we can use the correct coding;
- book any medical appointments around the school day where possible.

In order to provide continuous monitoring of children's attendance, Mrs Smith, our Attendance Officer in school, will contact families where we have identified a concern about the level of absence or where a pattern of absence has been detected.

- Absence will also consider children who arrive persistently late. Once again, I would like to clarify that school starts at 8.45am and the registers close at 9.00am. If your child has to press the buzzer to gain access to school, this means that they are late and will receive a late mark which will impact on their attendance percentage.
- If you remove your child from school during the day to attend a medical appointment, for safeguarding reasons, they are signed out of school (and back in, if appropriate), this will also show as an absence (as they have been out of school for that period of time).
- If you remove your child from school due to a family holiday, this will be recorded as unauthorised. On their return to school, you will be provided with all the learning material that was missed during this period of absence and there will be an expectation for this to be completed and returned, in full, by the end of their first week back for marking and recording purposes.

Following the changes to the guidance around C-19 isolation, we do not expect to be absence associated with this to be a problem (although to date this has been recorded as an authorised absence). We will continue to report your child's absence percentage to you at the end of each half term which will be based on the following criteria:

- o 99% and above (excellent)
- o 95 - 99% (good)
- o 90 - 94% (poor)
- o Below 90% (persistent absentee).

As of today, our school's attendance percentage for the year to date is 97% which, based on the above criteria, is **GOOD**.

Scholastic Book Fair



You will recall that we welcomed the Book Fair into School in October. This is always a very popular visitor to school and one that supports our insatiable need for new and interesting books for the children.

Through your purchasing power we took over £750 which is incredible. As a result of this, the reward total that we accrued amounted to £350 which we can spend on new books across school. Huge thanks to everyone!



We have some staffing changes that we would like to share with you all.

First of all, we would like to welcome Mrs Wiles to Year 1. She will be joining us on 27 November 2023 as additional LSA support in the classroom. She brings a wealth of experience with her having working in primary education for many years. Welcome to the Team.

Often a Goodbye sadly follows a Hello. Some of our families are already aware that Mrs Jenner, who currently teaches in our Year 6 class, has decided to leave us at the end of this Term. Mrs Jenner has been a member of the New Swannington team for 17 years and has contributed hugely to the education of many, many children during that time. A wonderful opportunity has now arisen for her and she has decided to accept the challenge that will take her career in a slightly different direction. We would all like to wish her well and thank her for her incredible contribution over the years. She will be very much missed.

And finally ...

Since returning to school in August, we've enjoyed some lovely school trips and sporting events. Year 3 enjoyed a visit to Bardon Quarry, Year 1 had a great time at the Aeropark at East Midlands Airport and Year 6 had a great day at Warning Zone.

We've also had many teams flying the New Swannington flag at various sporting fixtures. Well done to everyone who has participated.



