



The Bugle

December 2023

A message from Mrs Ramsell

Well here we are at the end of our Autumn Term. Where have the weeks gone to as they have literally flown by. Reaching the end of this term, actually means that we are already half way through this Academic Year – hard to believe. The children have been an absolute delight and we have enjoyed some wonderful learning time together. The progress they are all making is wonderful to see and be a part of.

As we have approached the end of Term we have all enjoyed some lovely seasonal celebrations from our now traditional Advent Calendar, to our EYFS Nativity, a School Disco and our lovely Carol Concert. Thank you to everyone for your support with all these events. It really is much appreciated and a joy to celebrate all of the children's contributions and talents. Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

The first day of term is

**Monday, 8
January 2024**



School Gateway

Please make sure that you keep your School Gateway App up to date through your App store to ensure that you continue to receive messages.



For any of our families who have younger siblings starting school in Autumn 2024, please remember to ensure you have put your application in for a school place by **15 January 2024**.

Help Yourself Hamper

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Help Yourself Hamper. We gathered a significant amount of donations which we were able to distribute at our 'Be Merry with the School Council' event last Friday.

The remaining items will be collected but the Coalville Food Bank and used to help families over the festive period.



Please make sure that children have plenty of layers on whilst at school to keep them warm. There is nothing worse than being cold during the day as this does not help their learning.

Waterproof coats and shoes are also a must to ensure that they can make the most of play times.

Please ensure that all items of clothing are named.



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**.

Life Education Bus

The Coram Life Education & SCARF team will be visiting our school on 15 and 16 January 2024.

The fun, interactive and age-appropriate workshops help children to understand the importance of physical and emotional health and they learn vital life-skills that are also known to help their overall achievement.

Further details will follow in the New Year.

Carol Concert @ Whitwick Parish Church



We enjoyed a lovely evening of Christmas Carols on Wednesday; the first of what we hope will be many such events. We know that it is such a busy time of year with many commitments and so it was such a pleasure to see so many children and families attend. We hope that you enjoyed the festive spirit of the occasion.

It's Behind You!



We had a great time at the Panto on Wednesday afternoon. West End In School came to perform Dick Whittington to the whole school and judging from the shouting that could be heard throughout the school, everyone joined in wholeheartedly and had a great time.

In previous years we have enjoyed Panto Workshops due to restrictions related to the Pandemic so it was really lovely to be able to get back to enjoying a proper 'old school' Panto that was accessible to all our children.

Christmas Festivities

We all enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner prepared for us by the fabulous Mrs O'Gara and Miss Gray. Everyone's tummies were full and we all needed a nap afterwards!



Be Merry with the School Council was very successful and we raised over £160. The School Council were in charge of organising this event and did an incredible job. They asked to hold the event as a way of raising some funds for one of their future projects, more details of which will follow.



EYFS performed their Nativity to their family and friends last week and did an amazing job. Everyone played their part to perfection and we were very proud of them all. Well done!



Good luck Mrs Jenner!



At the end of Term, we often find ourselves saying farewell to members of our team and this term is no exception.

This Term we are waving a fond farewell to Mrs Jenner who has decided to take on a new challenge and is leaving us for pastures new. Mrs Jenner has been a Teacher at New Swannington for over 17 years and has played a part in the primary education of many children. We are sure you would like to join us in wishing her well in her new school and we would like to thank her for the wonderful contribution she has made to New Swannington.



From all of us, to all you, Merry Christmas
and a happy New Year. See you all in 2024!