



The Bugle

December 2024

A message from Mrs Ramsell

As we reach the end of this term, it's the perfect time to reflect on what has been a truly fabulous few months. The children have achieved so much, showing excellent learning and incredible progress—it's been wonderful to see their growth and success.

Now, it's time for families to enjoy being together, to rest, and to create cherished memories during this festive season.

We'll be back before you know it, ready to embark on a brand-new year—2025! There's so much to look forward to, and we're excited to continue this journey together.

For now, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Enjoy the holidays, and we'll see you all soon.

The first day of this term will be

**Tuesday, 7
January 2025**



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.

School Uniform

Just a reminder that our Pre-loved shop is available for anyone needing to replace uniform items. While it may not be outside due to the weather, it's always open and ready to help.

We are now starting to accept more blue uniform again as our stocks are shrinking. If you have time to do any sorting out over Christmas and have some good quality blue items, please bring them in and we will restock – thank you.

Another quick reminder about the PE kit: children should be wearing the uniform as outlined in our guidelines—white t-shirt, black/navy shorts/joggers, NSPS hoody or black/navy hoody and plain black trainers. We've noticed that many children are wearing kits in various colours and brands.



Please remember to book your child's dinner in advance using the School Gateway App.

This makes things much easier for us as well as the kitchen staff as it saves time and ensures that children are served the meals they prefer. If you don't book, we automatically book them a Red option which isn't necessarily what they enjoy. Thank you for your cooperation!

Penalty Notices for unauthorised absences: What you need to know about the changes.

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for unauthorised absences that occur after 19th August 2024.

5 Consecutive Days of Term Time Leave.

Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days, and for fewer days where this has happened before.

10 Sessions of Unauthorised Absence in a 10-week period.

Penalty Notice fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of absence in a 10-week period.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice fines will be issued to each parent, for each child who was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave will result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child when 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 Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days.

(No option to pay at £80 level)

Third offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued. The case will proceed to the Magistrates' court.

Magistrate's fines can be up to £2,500 per parent, per child.



Please consult your school's attendance policy and speak with your school if you are thinking of taking your child out of school during term-time. It is likely you will need to make a written request to take your child out of school and any leave of absence will need to be agreed by your Headteacher before it is taken.

An Incredible Term for Fundraising

This term has been truly remarkable for fundraising, with a huge total of £2,500 raised! We can't begin to express how much this will support the children's learning and enhance their experiences at school.

Highlights included our very first sponsored event—the Zumbathon—alongside the school disco, Children in Need activities, and the festive *Be Jolly with the Christmas Council*. It's been fantastic to be a part of these events, and everyone has had so much fun along the way.

The funds raised will go towards exciting projects like delivering the KS1 garden, developing a children's kitchen, and much more.

Thank you to everyone who contributed—you've made an incredible difference!

Parking in the Lane

Just our regular reminder to be respectful to our neighbours and do not block their driveways or park on them unless you have their express permission. Please also avoid parking near or in the Farmer's driveway to ensure we maintain good relationships with everyone. Thank you.

Winter Mini Reading Challenge with the Marvellous Makers!

Did you know there's a Winter Mini Reading Challenge available through the Library Service? This is a great opportunity for our avid readers to take part in something fun and rewarding over the holidays.

For more information and details on how to join, please visit <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/join-the-christmas-mini-challenge>.

Christmas Carols at Whitwick St. John Church

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for Christmas carols at Whitwick St. John Church. Despite the cold and rainy evening, it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces.

We're sure you'll agree that the children performed beautifully, with heartfelt solo performances, expressive readings, and plenty of enthusiastic singing. It's becoming a cherished annual tradition and a lovely way to kick off the festive season together. Thank you for being part of this special event!



A Brilliant Start for Our Youngest Children

Our youngest children have had an incredible first term, settling into school life so wonderfully. They capped it all off by performing their very first Nativity for their families—and what a performance it was!

The children were absolutely amazing, delivering their lines and songs with gusto and exuberance. Their enthusiasm brought smiles to everyone's faces and even a few tears! It was a truly special moment for all. Well done to our youngest stars—you've made us all so proud!



A Busy Term Packed with Activities

This term has been full of wonderful activities and experiences for all our children:

- Year 5 enjoyed taking part in **Bikeability**, learning valuable skills to stay safe on the road.
- Year 2 visited Marlborough Square Methodist Church for *The Christmas Journey*, a lovely and educational experience.
- We had a special assembly from the **Air Ambulance Service** (thankfully not a literal visit!), giving us an insight into their vital work.
- Year 6 had an exciting trip to **The Warning Zone**, learning about safety and decision-making.
- Our **Rocksteady Rock Bands** wowed us with some fantastic entertainment.
- Performances by our fabulous **KS2 School Choir**.
- We also took part in numerous **sporting events**, showcasing teamwork and determination.
- And, to top it off, the **Everyone Active Monsters** made a surprise visit, much to the delight of our pupils!

It's been a term filled with learning, fun, and unforgettable moments.



What a busy and rewarding term it's been! It has been an absolute pleasure for all of us to be part of it, celebrating achievements and creating special memories together.

There's so much to look forward to in 2025, and we're excited to continue the journey with our amazing New Swannington family.

Thank you for being part of our community. We wish you all a happy, healthy, and safe Christmas and New Year. We can't wait to welcome everyone back very soon!

