



The Bugle

December 2021

A message from Mrs Ramsell



Can you believe it ... the end of another Term has arrived and Christmas is literally just around the corner? It's been a really lovely albeit incredibly busy term with lots going on for all our Year Groups. They've all done some wonderful learning and have really 'done you all proud'!

Our EYFS children have settled in so well and have enjoyed a very successful first term with us; we've loved getting to know them all especially as we've seen them all grow in confidence. Our Year 6 children continue to mature and are becoming wonderful young people who are proving to be fabulous role models for our younger children. I think we've always been very vocal about just how amazing we think all of our children are at New Swannington and this continues to be the case for our other Year Groups. Bearing in mind that they've all been through a remarkable time, they continue to impress us with their resilience and determination to succeed. Well done everyone!

All that remains is for me to wish you all a very safe, healthy and above all, happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you all again in January 2022.



The only cloud on the horizon is the continued uncertainty with the direction in which we are all travelling regarding the Pandemic. It just doesn't seem to want to go away does it? We have been working very hard to ensure that everyone stays safe and free from infection moving forward, however, due to the nature of the virus this can be challenging. We must remember that we are a community (albeit a small one) and are reflective of what is going on in the rest of the country.

We are all aware of the current concerns surrounding the new variant and the subsequent restrictions that have been implemented in the form of Plan B. As at writing, we are not aware of any other changes that may be imminent; as we have previously said, when YOU hear the news, WE hear the news.

Please rest assured that we will communicate any new guidance to you as soon as we possibly can. Please, PLEASE do not involve yourselves in rumour as this only causes an incredible amount of uncertainty, panic and confusion that often requires a great deal of unpicking at a time when we are better served resolving bigger issues.



Our new **Wraparound Care** provision continues to be a great alternative to childcare requirements and we have a lovely regular gang who join us before and after school.

If you need child care support at the beginning or end of the day, please book in via Pay360 **BEFORE** 4pm on a Sunday.

- Breakfast Club will be available from 7.30am until 8.30am and will cost £3.00 per child.
- After School Club will be available from after school until 5.15pm and will cost £8.00 per child.

The first day of term is

**Wednesday,
5 January 2022**



School Dinners

To clarify, Years EYFS, 1 and 2 are in receipt of Universal Free School Meals. Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 can have a school meal, however, this is at a cost of **£2.35 per day**, from the Autumn Term.

Can we please remind everyone to book their dinners via Pay360 by Saturday lunchtime – thank you.



Please make sure that children have plenty of layers on whilst at school to keep them warm as we do have to keep the school very well ventilated even in the cold weather. 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.

SIMs App

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

As you are aware, we are a paperless school and all messages are sent home via this technology.

School Reading/Library Books

We have recently been lucky enough to be able to purchase some lovely new reading books to support Literacy throughout school. It is important that these books go home with the children so that they continue to read at home with their parents/carers support.

Disappointingly, we are finding that some of these new books have been returned to us in a tatty condition ie. bent and buckled and even wet and soggy due to water bottle leakages.

Our school budget does not allow us to continually replace books and we ask you to be very careful in the way they are stored, transported and returned to school – thank you.

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the Poppy Appeal this year. We raised a fabulous £524.98 through the sale of poppies and other items.

Special thanks to our School Council children who did an incredible job of selling around school. Thank you.

Life Education Bus

The Coram Life Education & SCARF team will be visiting our school on 17 and 18 January 2022.

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.

Sporting Success

It's been lovely to get back to enjoying our sporting events.

We've enjoyed success in Sports Hall Athletics, Badminton, Dodgeball, Football and we are now slowly starting to catch up with our Swimming lessons that were unfortunately curtailed due to Covid. Year 6 have already completed their 6 weekly sessions, Year 5 have just started theirs and shortly Years 4 and 3 will begin their sessions (more details regarding these Year Groups will follow due course).



Attendance

We have recently seen a marked increase in the number of children who are being taken out of school/leaving early due to Dentist and Doctors' appointments.

Can we please remind parents/carers that it is a legal requirement for children to be in school for the entire school day and we respectfully ask that appointments are kept to a minimum (unless in an emergency) as these absences significantly impact on your children's learning. In addition, if your child leaves school during the day due to an appointment, we are legally required to record this absence in case there is an unexpected need for evacuation.

This will again be recorded on the register which will impact on their attendance percentage. Even if they arrive at school to be recorded when the register is taken in the morning, if they then leave at any point during the day, they will be recorded as absent for the time they are off site.

In addition, can we remind everyone that the school day starts at 8.50am and any children arriving after this time will be given a late mark. We are again seeing a significant increase in children arriving late and this is recorded on your child's record accordingly.

Please be aware that all attendance for all children is closely monitored by the County Attendance team. We appreciate that there is sometimes a need to have an emergency appointment, however, may we thank you for your support in this matter.

Trips/Events

Some great trips have taken place this half term with Year 6 going to Warning Zone, Year 3 went to the Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, the School Choir entertained the residents of Howe Court in Whitwick, Year 5 were entertained by 'Abbey Ayre and the Shed of Science' and Years 5 and 6 enjoyed their Bikeability week.



End of Term Fun

We've had a lovely end of term with lots of events going on in and around school.

We hope you have enjoyed the Advent Calendar that started on 1 December – the children had a great time practising, preparing and filming and we think you will agree that the results have been fantastic and is an enjoyable start to every day. If you haven't been able to access this, please go to either our Facebook page or our YouTube page where they can be viewed.

We also enjoyed a lovely Christmas singsong on Monday in the KS1 playground and we thank everyone who could come along and join in. Again, if you were unable to make it, please have a look on the Facebook page where we have uploaded some videos for everyone to enjoy.

Panto Workshops also took place on Thursday and Friday of this week with each of the classes enjoying a session with West End in Schools who delivered an interactive Jack and the Beanstalk Panto for the children to participate in. It was great fun and everyone had a fabulous time.

We also enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner prepared by our very own Kitchen staff, Mrs Daley and Mrs O'Gara. They did a magnificent job and everyone really enjoyed our special lunch. Thank you Mrs Daley and Mrs O'Gara, you're both amazing.





Staff News

We have been so pleased to welcome Mrs Heathcote back to school. Mrs Heathcote sadly experienced a serious ankle injury earlier this year and has been working hard to get better from this. We have missed having her in school as she is such a valuable member of our team and contributes so much to the children. Welcome back Mrs Heathcote!



Exciting times ahead for Mrs Matheson also as she is leaving us for a while to have her baby who is due to be born in the New Year. We know that she is going to be a very busy Mummy and we wish her and her family very happy and exciting times ahead. We are all looking forward to having a cuddle soon. Good luck Mrs Matheson.

A hello often follows a farewell and as Mrs Matheson has commenced her Maternity Leave, we have welcomed Miss Fern to Year 1. Mrs Fern has been settling in to the class, getting to know the children and really becoming a lovely and valued member of our team. Welcome Mrs Fern!

All that remains is for us to wish you a very happy and healthy Christmas and a successful and prosperous New Year. We look forward to welcoming you all back in January 2022. Have a wonderful time everyone!

