

# The Swanmead Pen

Parents' Newsletter – Autumn Term 1.1

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Swanmead Community School  
Ditton Street  
Ilminster  
Somerset  
TA19 0BL

Headteacher: Mr Mark Walker



Telephone: 01460 52431  
Facsimile : 01460 55305

e-mail:  
[swanmead@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:swanmead@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

Web Address:  
[www.swanmeadschool.co.uk](http://www.swanmeadschool.co.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year and the next stage of your child's education with us here at Swanmead. I hope that everyone has enjoyed a pleasant time over the course of the Summer break and is refreshed ready for the year ahead.

A week ago today, we were delighted to welcome a total of 82 new pupils across the school. The regular combination of excitement and nerves was present on this very important day of change for our young people. We hope that your children will be very happy and successful during the course of their time at Swanmead. We make it our duty to ensure that they get the very best in terms of the education and opportunities they receive during their time in our care.

The school has enjoyed a highly successful couple of days back. The atmosphere is positive, fun and focussed. It continues to be an honour and privilege to be Headteacher at this committed and forever-advancing school.

There are one or two staffing updates to mention; with Mrs Perkins still away on her maternity leave, we're delighted to welcome back Mrs Oaten to the school who makes up the Year 5 team alongside Mr Lees and Mr Whitfield. Other changes see Miss Kirk moving to teach in Year 6 and our tutor groups altering with now only Years 7 and 8 making up the mixed tutor groups. Finally, it is great to see Mrs Sharman return to Swanmead, something that I know every single one of us is delighted to see.

Crucial to the success of our school over recent years has been the support we have received from our parents' group SCOFF (Swanmead Community of Families and Friends). In a quest to get the work of this group underway quickly, we would like to invite all parents and community members to a couple of events happening in the near future. Firstly, the SCOFF AGM will take place on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September** starting at **6.45 p.m.** in Room 5. This meeting enables us to vote in the SCOFF committee and set up our agenda for the year. The second event invites families to come and join us at our **SCOFF Family Barn Dance**. This will take place on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November** from 7.00 p.m. – 10.00 p.m. Tickets are priced £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children and will be available from the School Office closer to the time.

Myself and my colleagues look forward to seeing you around the school throughout the course of the year as we continue our work together for your children.

**Mark Walker**  
Headteacher

## New House Captains appointed



Introducing to you all our three new House Captains for 2017/2018.

Year 8 pupils Marcus Freeman (Herne), Evie Lee (Minster) and Megan Norman (Isle) take the reins in leading their house and playing a huge part in helping improve and develop the school. These pupils have worked so hard during their time at Swanmead and very much deserve this opportunity to represent the pupils in their house. Our congratulations to them and their families on being selected.

## **Success Shields – Summer 2017**

Congratulations to the following pupils for winning the Success Shield at the end of last Summer term for their year group. This award is made each half-term to a pupil in each year group who makes significant progress:

**Year 5: Priscilla Dabanka**

**Year 6: Frankie King**

**Year 7: Harrison Kelly**

**Year 8: Jaden Edwards**



## **Check us out on the web!**

I remind parents of our school website and this always contains updated information about the school. From policies and previous newsletters to staff information and news of our latest school performance, you can find us on:

**[www.swanmeadschool.co.uk](http://www.swanmeadschool.co.uk)**

Also online you will find:

**Stage Crew Website: [www.swanmeadstagecrew.com](http://www.swanmeadstagecrew.com)**

**Art Twitter Page: @SwanmeadArt**

## **Osmington Bay Parents' Meeting**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September – 5.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. – School Hall**

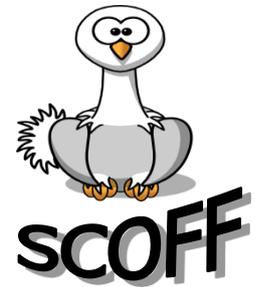


## **SCOFF Meeting (Swanmead Community of Families and Friends)**

**Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 6.45 p.m. in Room 5.**

AGM agenda followed by normal SCOFF meeting.

Representatives from any family with a child at the school are invited to attend the SCOFF Annual Meeting. SCOFF is a very important and influential parent group. Last year a couple of our longer standing families moved on to Wadham – so now is a good opportunity for new parents to get involved. All parents are members of the Committee; so if you want to influence school policy, meet other parents and wish to support the parent group, please attend the meeting. Last year we raised over £3000 for the school – funds that were used to support your children! Please come along!



### **Bus and School Transport - Emergency Contacts**

If it is necessary for the school buses to leave school early - for example if weather conditions are likely to make roads impassable - it is not practical to contact each parent direct. We therefore have emergency contacts in the villages. In the case of deteriorating weather, please do not attempt to contact the school number, except Stocklinch and Dowlish Wake/Chillington/Cudworth, but telephone your local contact who will have been briefed about the situation. The local contacts are:

Route C164 - **The Seavingtons** – Mrs G. Ash 01460 242457 or 07730567101

Route 052B/ C194 - **Shepton Beauchamp** – Mrs. D. Small - 07841 291803 or 01460 241291

Route 192B - **Barrington, Puckington** – Mrs S Skelsey Home - 01460 52553 or

Work - 01460 59852 or 07534189168

Route 192B - **Ilton** - Mrs E Westcott 01460 55678

Route 052B - **Stocklinch** – Contact the School - 01460 52431

Route C194 -**Dowlish Wake, Chillington, Cudworth** – Contact the School - 01460 52431



Pupils who are transported by car should be dropped in the car park opposite Tesco. There is a path from the Tesco car park to the rear access of the school through the yellow gate by the ATC Hut. Please do not bring your car into the turning/parking space in front of the school or the car park at the rear of the school between 3.20 p.m. and 3.40 p.m. in the afternoon when buses are picking up pupils. If you drive to the school please help to avoid congestion by following the unofficial one-way system in the main driveway. Please do not attempt to park in the no waiting zone marked along Ditton Street as this makes it difficult for the crossing patrol.

### **No Crossing Patrol**

I write to inform parents and carers that during the following days there will be no crossing patrol service on High Street/Butts (the top road):

Tuesday 12 September pm

Wednesday 13 September am/pm

Thursday 14 September am/pm

Tuesday 26 September am/pm

Monday 2 October am/pm

We encourage parents to have a conversation with their children about this in order to encourage the safe crossing of this road during this period. We apologise for this break in the crossing service.

### **Water not squash**

We just felt it important to clarify that we very much encourage our young people to take water with them to lessons.

Research over many years has suggested that keeping hydrated is crucial towards children keeping alert and helping learning.

We would though like to emphasise that this should only be water and not squashes or juices.

Many thanks parents for your support with this.

## **High Standards and Expectations – Classroom Behaviour System**

Staff have been talking to the children regarding the expectations in the classroom and the duty of care they have to all pupils. The children have had communicated our new classroom management system and very importantly we feel we need to explain this to parents so that everyone has clarity.

### **Sanctions**

#### **Pupil Goal:**

Each term to become a member of the 'Zero' Club.

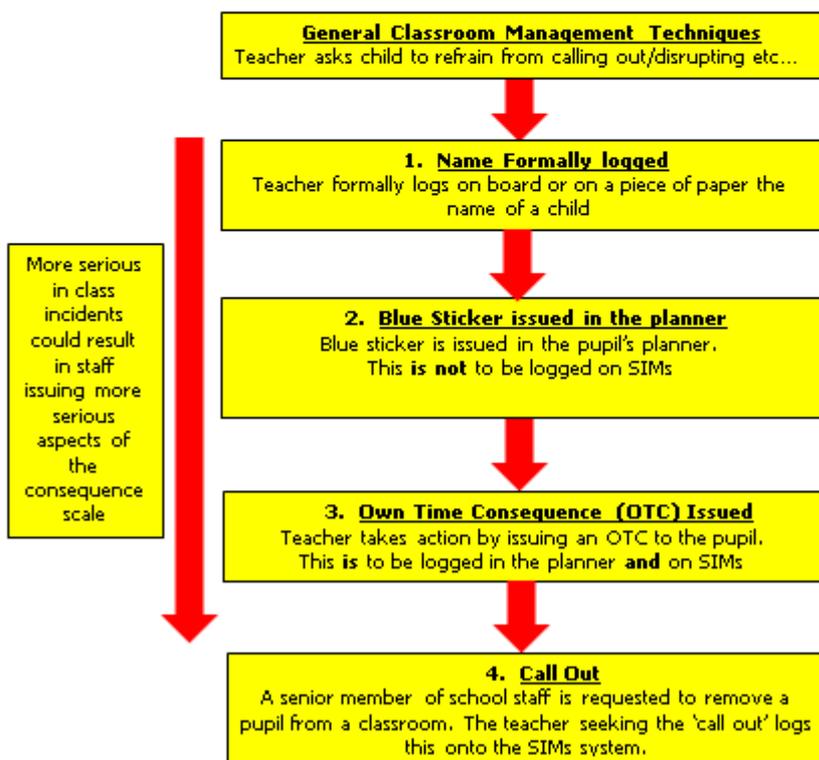
**Zero Club Membership = A pupil that has no inputs on SIMs for negative behaviour.**

This includes inputs on SIMs for lack of homework, equipment and P.E kit. It also means that a pupil does not have any blue stickers in their planner for the term.

Each member of the 'Zero' club will be rewarded at the end of each term.

At the beginning of a new term, each pupil's 'Zero' club quest is reset.

### **The system for dealing with in class behaviour**



#### **The sanction equation**

Call Out = After School Detention

X 3 OTCs in a Half Term = After School Detention

X 5 Blue Stickers in a Half Term = After School Detention

## **Swanmead Breakfast Club - Sponsored by Tesco**

For a healthy start to the day join in with fun activities, computers, homework, games, Lego or films

**7.45 a.m. – 8.45 a.m. in the Hall - £1.00 per session**

Pick up a letter from the School Office for further details and to register your child

**AUTUMN TERM 2017 - EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES - (starting 18.09.17)**

	<u>Lunchtime</u>			<u>After School</u>	
	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
<p><b><u>MONDAY</u></b></p> <p>Breakfast Club JB 7.45 a.m. – 8.45 a.m. Hall</p>	<p>Year 5 - ICT Club Homework Club Writers' Club Trading Cards Club KS3 Badminton (1.30 p.m. – 1.55 p.m.) Stage Crew Meeting</p>	<p>CH-W CW AW AW MH HI</p>	<p>Room 6 Library Room 8 Room 8 Gym Room 18</p>		
<p><b><u>TUESDAY</u></b></p> <p>Breakfast Club JB 7.45 a.m. – 8.45 a.m. Hall</p>	<p>Year 6 - ICT Club Homework Club Gymnastics – All Years KS3 Girls' Hockey Club Tables Club – 1.05 p.m. – 1.35 p.m. Singing Group</p>	<p>CH-W CW ML MLa JO HI</p>	<p>Room 6 Library Gym MUGA Room 9 Room 18</p>	<p>Art Awards Room 18 3.45 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.</p>	HI
<p><b><u>WEDNESDAY</u></b></p> <p>Breakfast Club JB 7.45 a.m. – 8.45 a.m. Hall</p>	<p>Year 7 - ICT Club Homework Club Art Club Science Club Golden Mile Club - KS2 1.35 p.m. - KS3 1.45 p.m. Music Rehearsals Photography Club</p>	<p>CH-W CW AR CH MLa MLa HI DMcM</p>	<p>Room 6 Library Room 10 Room 2 MUGA MUGA Room 18 Room 12</p>		
<p><b><u>THURSDAY</u></b></p> <p>Breakfast Club JG 7.45 a.m. – 8.45 a.m. Hall</p>	<p>Year 8 - ICT Club Homework Club Chess Club Trading Cards Club KS2 Football KS2 Hockey – Girls Lego Club</p>	<p>CH-W CW AW AW ML ZC JHat</p>	<p>Room 6 Library Room 8 Room 8 Field MUGA Room 5</p>		
<p><b><u>FRIDAY</u></b></p> <p>Breakfast Club JB 7.45 a.m. – 8.45 a.m. Hall</p>	<p>All Year Groups - ICT/Homework Club Homework Club Year 6, 7 &amp; 8 Rugby KS2 Girls High 5 Netball Film Club</p>	<p>CH-W CW ML MLa HI</p>	<p>Room 6 Library Field Gym Room 18</p>		

**after-school homework Drop-In**  
the Minster

join us for

**Homework!**  
**games**

**Important Notice**  
...we are back again on Wednesdays starting 20th September 3.30-5pm

It's FREE and there is toast and juice .....

**homework Drop-In social** 3.30-4pm  
**homework from** 4-5pm

The Minster Rooms, Ilminster for ages 9-16

Tracey Hallett : 07854 489753

## Diary Dates

### SEPTEMBER

19 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6.45 p.m.	SCOFF AGM – Room 5
21 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday	5.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Year 5 Meeting with Parents and Pupils re Osmington Bay Trip
25 <sup>th</sup>	Monday		Wadham Open Evening
28 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	2.10 p.m.	Gideon Assembly (Year 7)
		5.30 p.m.	Meeting of The Governing Body – Room 5

### OCTOBER 2017

4 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	9.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. – 8.15 p.m.	Open Day and Evening
10 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6.45 p.m.	SCOFF Meeting
11 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday		Year 5 Residential Trip - Osmington Bay
12 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday		Year 5 Residential Trip - Osmington Bay
13 <sup>th</sup>	Friday		Year 5 Residential Trip - Osmington Bay
19 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	5.30 p.m.	Meeting of The Governing Body – Room 5
		Time t.b.c.	Halloween School Disco organised by Performing Arts

**Half Term – Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 – Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

30<sup>th</sup> Monday **INSET DAY**

There is always the option to have your newsletter sent to you via email.

If this is the method you would prefer then please cut out the slip below and send it back to the School Office.

*(Please return to Mrs. Ann Kivett, c/o The School Office)*

**Request to receive (Please tick):-**

**Newsletters via email.....**

**SCOFF Minutes via email.....**

**Pupil Name:.....**

**Tutor Group:.....**

**Email Address:.....**

**Signed:.....**