

The Swanmead Pen

Parents' Newsletter – Summer Term 3.2

DATE: Friday 19th May 2017

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Dear Parents and Carers

Just a week to go until the end of another half term and then, unbelievably, into the final seven weeks of the school year. As I write I can hear the rehearsals for our Summer production of 'Bugsy Malone' occurring in the Hall. I always attempt to try and stay away until the show nights but, I must confess, the catchiness and familiarity of the songs is proving quite difficult this time!

A really pleasing couple of weeks has passed since I wrote to you last; congratulations must go to our Year 6s for their unbelievable hard work and application during their SATS testing last week. All you can ever ask is for the children to give their best and unquestionably we got that from this year group. I am sure that as parents you must have been so proud of your children during this challenging week of tests.

Also, I forgot to mention in my previous newsletter that last month, Swanmead enjoyed a highly successful Peer Review Day. The process that is managed via the Family M aspect of our Somerset Challenge work involved three senior leaders from our neighbouring Middle Schools (including two headteachers) and our Somerset Education Partner (SEP). The team of four saw every teacher in the school in action, scrutinised books and talked with children and staff. My middle school senior leader colleagues (who 'pulled no punches!') talked positively about the work the school has done over recent terms and gave us a few suggestions about improving things in the future. A really pleasing process.

Thursday evening brought us the final of our Swanmead Has Talent Competition. With the judges faced with a very difficult decision, our congratulations go to Kai Nakayama for securing the winner's crown with a brilliant action packed taekwondo performance. Some pictures to follow next time.

Next my thanks, once again, go to our SCOFF team for organising a well-attended Race Night the other Friday. As I've mentioned in previous newsletters, getting parents and families to SCOFF events has been a real headache over the last year or so, however we had over 80 people present to raise over £750.00 for the school. In these difficult financial times, invaluable money to put back into your children. Do come and join us for the SCOFF Family BBQ on Friday 7th July to do more of the same.

Finally, some more great news! At the end of April, the children were all delighted to hear the wonderful news that Mrs Perkins has given birth to a baby boy. Weighing in at 7lbs 5oz both Freddie Perkins and his brilliant mum are doing well. We all look forward to meeting the new addition!

Mark Walker
Headteacher

Amazing Felicity clocks up 35 years!

Our wonderful crossing patrol 'lollipop lady' Felicity Windsor has been acknowledged as the longest-serving in the history of Somerset schooling after working 35 years for Swanmead. Felicity's first day was back in April 1982 in the days before the internet, mobile phones and when Bucks Fizz were at the top of the charts with 'My Camera Never Lies'. The Rubik's Cube was big business, Prince William had just been born and the average price of a house was £42,000. Since those times, Felicity has stood each morning and afternoon on the High Street safely marshalling the children



over the busy road on their way to and from school. Indeed the first children Felicity helped safely to cross the road will now be moving towards their 50th birthday! When I contacted the Local Authority to discuss what accolade they had to reward this length of service they had to invent a new certificate as nothing existed to honour this number of years! Last Friday the school all applauded loudly to acknowledge this stunning achievement as Felicity attended a special assembly where she was awarded a special certificate, flowers and a bottle of bubbly. Despite reaching this landmark, Felicity intends to continue but we very much needed to let our school community know of this wonderful achievement. Congratulations Felicity!

Accelerated Reader Certificates

Silver Award

Isabel Fowler Mimi Ward

Numeracy Ninjas

Numeracy Ninjas – 5 House Points (24 x Black Belts)

Lily Broom

Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master – Earphones Prize (21 x Black Belts)

Lauren Paul

Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master – Highlighters Prize (18 x Black Belts)

Charlotte Bristow Lauren Paul George A Lewis Lilly De'Ath Ethan Heppell

Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master – Crayons Prize (15 x Black Belts)

Anya Briggs Ethan Heppell Connor Swain Sophie Gibbins Reuben Usher

Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master – Touch Pen Prize (12 x Black Belts)

Molly Harris Jaden Edwards Belle Miller Thea Henderson

Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master – Ruler Prize (9 x Black Belts)

Shay Allen Bethany Gillard Aidan Whitworth Owen Charles Leyla Tunc

Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master – Pencil Prize (6 x Black Belts)

Chloe Park Annie Ashdown Nancy Pattison Toby Ward
Drew White Thomas Dunn Oscar Knight

Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master - (3 x Black Belts)

Jess Ward Caitlin Parsons Robert Lock Isabelle Lawrence

Numeracy Ninjas – Black Belt

Star Taylor Finn Heath Sophie Dugdale

Sports' News

Lachlan in for Somerset!

The school are very proud of Year 5 pupil Lachlan Rice after he was selected for the U10 County Cricket team. After a series of training sessions and trials, Lachlan's all round ability with bat, ball and in the field could not be ignored and he will now proudly grace the Somerset colours. Swanmead and Ilminster's proud record of producing cricketers of great quality continues and we look forward to hearing how Lachlan gets on in the future.

Well done young Ricer!



Town Touring Fun Quiz

With the co-operation of Ilminster shops, this year's Literary Festival will include a fun touring quiz. Clues will be displayed in many of the town's shop windows for the duration of the Festival.

Entrants will notice there is a connection between the answer to the clue and the shop itself. For example:- in Bonner's, the Butchers, the clue is "Sweeney Todd, although a barber, made meat pies - not as delicious as Mr. Bonner's though - What was the main grisly ingredient?"

To enter this you just collect one of the free quiz forms from one of the following shops:-

- **Just Things**
- **Airs and Graces**
- **Remains to be Seen**
- **The Bookshop**

Boxes to collect the completed entries will also be in these shops. The closing date is June 10th. The winner, and all the results, will be announced in the local press and in the four shops mentioned above. Should there be a draw, then the winner will be the first one picked out of a hat to win a smashing hamper of local produce and a surprise book.

The whole family can join in together; young people will know many of the answers. Of course, some will be difficult, but you all have ways and means of finding out! Enjoy the Festival, relish the quiz and appreciate your literary heritage!

Food News

Our new caterers BAM FM are providing the children with a wider range of options for lunchtimes. In addition to their traditional main meal, on the week days below children are also welcome to order the following options. Please remind your child these need to be reserved at breaktime.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Curry/Rice Pot Pizza	Pasta Pot Burritos Paninis	Curry/Rice Pot Pizza	Pasta Pot Paninis Nachos	Pizza Paninis



Ilminster Parable Garden



Our next meeting is on:

Saturday 20th May, 1.30 - 4pm
1.30pm meet outside the church

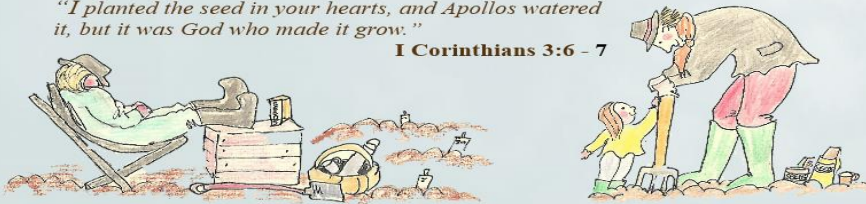
Refreshments will be provided. Please bring your own garden tools such as spades / forks etc..

A community outdoors gardening project for all ages and experience, to grow together, whilst digging, sowing, planting and pruning in the heart of Ilminster. This will be a time to enjoy the outdoors, make friends and for quiet reflection.

**If interested, please contact Sarah Milrose on
 (01460) 351698 or (07342) 930699**

"I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow."

I Corinthians 3:6 - 7



Diary Dates

MAY

22nd – 26th

Year 7 Great Wood Residential

Half Term – Monday 29th May 2017 – Friday, 2nd June 2017

JUNE

20th Tuesday 10.00 a.m. Sports Day

JULY

5 th	Thursday	Induction Day
7 th	Friday	6.00 p.m. SCOFF BBQ
11 th – 13 th		7.00 p.m. Buggy Malone Production
19 th	Wednesday	7.00 p.m. Awards Evening
20 th	Thursday	6.00 p.m. Year 8 Leavers Party
21 st	Friday	Final School Day of the Academic Year
24 th	Monday	INSET Day

Always remember to check us out on the web!

Main Website: www.swanmeadschool.co.uk

Stage Crew Website: www.swanmeadstagecrew.com

Art Twitter Page: @SwanmeadArt