

The Swanmead 'Festive' Pen

Parents' Newsletter – Autumn Term 1.6 DATE: Thursday 21st December 2017

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The final newsletter of 2017! It's always a good time to reflect on all that we continue to achieve and our targets for next year. Just within the past few months I can think of so much to be proud of; the arrival of our new Year 5s, Focus Days, Osmington Bay, theatre and pantomime trips, open evening, countless charity fundraising events to name but a few of our achievements over the Autumn Term.

As I write this newsletter, children next door are rehearsing for the Christmas Show this evening. Schools are always **special** places to be at this time of year and I am privileged to be the Headteacher of a school that has young people that have such a wonderful sense of fun and enthusiasm but also know when the time is to stop.

Last week we took over 250 pupils (in six coaches!) to Yeovil for the 'Cinderella' Pantomime. This was, yet again, a fantastic experience and I reminded the children how lucky they were to attend a school where every single pupil was invited to go along to the theatre.

A reminder of the letter that was sent out a week or so ago about correspondence to you. From January, newsletters, letters and flyers will all be sent out via email. If we haven't got your email yet then please get this to us so we can include you on the mailing list.

Finally, as we come towards the end of another calendar year, can I take the opportunity to, once again, thank everybody for the support they give the school. Swanmead has had another successful year and we are all very proud of our achievements. One thing that is always consistent, and has been crucial towards our prosperous year, is the backing of the school's parent community. Through all the challenges, it is always made easier knowing that you continue to back me and my colleagues in how we try to provide the best for our young people.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and I look forward to writing to you again in 2018. A reminder that we return to school on Monday 8th January 2018.

**Mark Walker
Headteacher**

Wishing all the families, friends and members of our school community a great Christmas and a Happy 2018



Recognition of Excellence		Recognition of Effort
Frankie King – Science Izzy Parsons – Spellings Sydney Loveless – Spellings Lily Broom – Spellings Leyla Tunç – Geography Annie Ashdown – Geography	Nancy Pattison – Geography Anya Briggs – Geography Lilly De’Ath – Geography Marcus Freeman – Geography Josh Lamb - PE	Rees Brunt – Spellings Arthur Lewis – Spellings Emily Pearson – Geography Charlotte Pritchard – Geography Erin Pattemore – Geography Donnie Dennis – PE Frankie King – PE Otis Done - PE

Numeracy Ninjas

Numeracy Ninjas - Grand Master

Emma Wheeler Marcus Freeman Sam Phillips Evie Lee Louie Webber Grace White Harrison Kelly Aaron Biscoe

Numeracy Ninjas – Black Belt

Callum Bird Drew White Jess Ward Jade Winter

Accelerated Reader Certificates

Titanium

Izzy Parsons

Gold Award

Flora Godfrey Laura Miller Caitlyn Parsons Martha Godfrey Sydney Loveless
Henry Grice Kathryn Owens

Silver Award

Ryan Broome Hugo Clemas-Turner Jasper Clements Tristan Farley Alice Gibbins Flora Godfrey Martha Godfrey
Henry Grice Jacob Grindrod Kaito Nakayama
Emilee-Jade Phippen Gracie Plant Joseph Sainsbury Luke Theobald Anya Briggs Maya Clements

Bronze Award

Ethan Bailey Charlton Bowery Harley Collins Rebecca England Sydney Ingram Frankie King Robert Lock
William Purton Harrison Reeve Summer Stoodley
Connor Swain Kaitlynn Thomas-Day Ellie Ash Jack Belobaba Jack Dobbs
Ethan Hughes-Humphreys Jack Lewis Emma Purdey Lucinda Webb Molly Conway Judah Cooke Isabel Fowler
Marcus Freeman Grace White

Martha wins the Mayor’s Competition

The annual competition to design the Ilminster Mayor’s Christmas Card Competition has been won by Year 6 pupil Martha Godfrey. Martha’s superb design of an excited brother and sister sat opening their presents on Christmas Day was the choice of Cllr Val Keitch to have designed and sent to local people from organisations over Somerset and indeed to other friends of the Mayor from all over the world. Martha and her family were invited to the Council Chambers in Ilminster last week to be presented with her prize. Here Martha is pictured with a copy of her Christmas card.

Many congratulations to Martha!



Three Cheers for the Zero Club!



Swanmead's first ever Zero Club members were having huge fun on Monday afternoon this week. The school's new initiative centres on rewarding children at the end of each term that have not received any behaviour stickers relating to disrupting learning, forgetting homework, reading each week or arriving late for school. We were delighted to invite 129 pupils to an all-expenses paid party that included food, music and party games. Our Zero Club members were invited to get changed into their party gear at lunchtime and enjoy the privilege for having a 'perfect term'. The 'slate is wiped clean' as of Monday 8th January with all the school able to join next term's Zero Club. Just keep it all perfect from then until Friday 23rd March for the invite!

What a fabulous achievement for all these young people and what a great time we had celebrating your triumph on Monday afternoon.

Money raised for 'Save the Children'

Thank you to parents who helped their children support our 'Christmas Jumper Day' last week. Many of our staff and pupils swapped sweatshirts and cardigans for Christmas jumpers in order to raise money for 'Save the Children'.



Children brought in contributions from their piggy banks and we were able to send off a cheque for £252.10 to the charity. Some dodgy jumpers on show but well worth it!

Daffodils planted in memory of Lin

Unbelievably it has been well over a year since I wrote to parents about the sudden death of our long-serving Crossing Patrol 'Lollipop Lady' Lin Trott. Lin worked for the school for over 30 years safely guiding children over busy Ditton Street at the beginning and end of each day. Many parents that attended the school will probably remember 'Lollipop Lin'! After a time of considering how we could commemorate Lin's life and dedication to the school, last month we planted around 250 daffodil bulbs in the front of the school. We look forward to seeing them appear in the Spring for years to come to remind us of this special member of our school community.



Sports' News

KS2 Hockey

Swanmead sent two teams to Holyrood to play in the area Year 5/6 hockey tournament. The 'B' team had a tough start, playing Chard School 'A' team in their first game. They went on to show some great defending and became hungry to score. It was good to see resilience and determination from all, in what was many of the girls' first experience of playing hockey. They beat Ashill in the play offs to finish in 8th place.



The 'A' team dominated their pool. There was some superb defending and we took great advantage of our goal chances - when we went through to play for 1st/2nd place we had only conceded one goal! Tatworth proved a strong team in the final and we dominated again. We had a number of chances at goal but Tatworth proved too strong in defending their goal. We were unfortunate when they made a break in the last 30 seconds to score and win the game 1-0. We are, however, through to the next round!

Year 6 Interhouse Hockey and Football

Year 6 braved the winter weather last Friday afternoon to compete in Interhouse hockey and football. The girls hockey saw lots of enthusiasm and some close games with goal differences deciding the overall winner as Minster and in joint second Herne and Minster. The boys football was very close between Isle and Minster, with Minster winning their final game, taking 1st place, leaving Isle 2nd and Herne 3rd.



Christmas at The Minster

From acting, musical performances and singing, our Year 5s did a terrific job hosting the event yesterday at The Minster. Many thanks to the parents that came to join us for our annual Christmas service. Always good to have so many of you join us for that special event and we are, as ever, very grateful to The Rev Nigel Done for allowing us to celebrate Christmas in the magnificent Minster building.



Christmas Concert

The school community enjoyed the ever popular Christmas Show on Tuesday. Some tear-jerking performances, beautiful singing and comedy moments sent the Swanmead community home feeling far more Christmassy than when they arrived! Many thanks to all our school community for supporting.

Parents' Evening Dates

Please make a note of the Parents' Evenings taking place in the Spring Term.

Year Group	Date	Appointments to be made between:
Year 6	Tuesday 16 th January 2018	4.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.
Year 8	Wednesday 7 th March 2018	4.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.
Year 7	Wednesday 21 st March 2018	4.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.
Year 5	Wednesday 25 th April 2018	4.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.

A great time down on the farm

Some great shots of Cameron, Malachi, Marley and Charlie who finished off their term's 'outdoor project' with a trip to Magdalen Farm a week or so ago. They learnt about farm life, fed the animals and congratulations to Cameron who managed to catch an elusive hen!



Family wanted for TV documentary

I'm sure this won't be for everyone but promised I would pass this on. Channel 4 are looking for families to assist with a TV documentary. Information is below;

ALONE AT HOME
(WORKING TITLE)

What would happen if you left your children alone at home?

What would they do with a long weekend to themselves?

Do you wonder how capable and independent your children are growing up to be?

We are looking for families with children aged 8-16 who want to participate in a unique experience that explores issues around parenting and child freedom.

Alone At Home (working title) is a new series for Channel 4. In each episode, the home featured will be fitted with remotely operated cameras that will film 24 hours a day with the aim of observing the children's experience. Working with respected senior child development psychologists, the series will explore how the children deal with increased freedom and responsibility and will show the children's ability to cope. There will be designated spaces in the home for privacy.

For more information, please email families@electricray.com or call 020 7061 8924

The children will be monitored by chaperones and psychologists to help safeguard their physical and emotional welfare. All data will be processed in accordance with Electric Ray's privacy policy. An expression of interest does not guarantee participation in the series.

ELECTRIC RAY