

# The Swanmead Pen

Parents' Newsletter – Spring Term 2.3

DATE: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

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Dear Parents and Carers

When you begin a new half term you find yourself speculating on what may happen over the upcoming weeks. Well, two and a half weeks in, and what a period of time it has been! You really must forgive me for not writing to you for rather a long time but hopefully you understand things have been rather 'full on'!

In the first week back we were visited by Ofsted and by three Inspectors called Gill Hickling, Tracy Harris and Richard Butler. They worked hard to get to know the school quickly and assess our progress. As a school staff we were happy with the process and the outcome and hope that before Easter we are able to send all parents and carers our new Inspection Report. My thanks go to all the parents that contributed to the Parent View site during the inspection and to all that got in contact with the school to wish us 'all the best'.

Also, during the first week, we welcomed back Mrs Perkins to our staff team following her maternity leave – it really is great to have her back! Alongside Mrs Perkins, we also welcomed Mrs Baker to our school as a Teacher of English and Miss Shenton who joins us as our new Apprentice Teaching Assistant. Miss Shenton replaces Miss Cox who, I am delighted to announce, gave birth to baby Freddie last week. Many congratulations and we hear that Miss Cox and baby are both doing really well.

Then, of course, to the snow! As a Headteacher, it really is of great strain to have to close your school. However, I'd like to thank parents for their support and understanding on Thursday when we shut early and then again on Friday after 'the beast' arrived. I hope it wasn't too inconvenient to you all but, in the interests of the safety of everyone, I think we made the right calls. With Thursday disrupted, it kind of interrupted some of the plans we had ready for National Reading Day. Most of the children amazingly did come to school in costume, however, to give that day the respect it deserves, we may well choose to repeat it and do all that we intended. We'll get back to you on that one.

Do enjoy the newsletter and, if things quieten down (!), I look forward to writing to you before we break for Easter!

Best wishes and thanks for your unrivalled support of the school.

**Mark Walker**  
**Headteacher**

## Success Shield Winners

Congratulations to the following pupils for winning the Success Shield for the first half of the Spring 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: William Rees
- Year 6: Lucy May Brion
- Year 7: Lily Broom
- Year 8: Holly Lewis



## Evening online chat with Scientists and Engineers - Thursday 15th March, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

This term, some of our pupils have been meeting & chatting with real Scientists or Engineers in their lessons using the 'I'm a Scientist' and 'I'm an Engineer' websites. In this online activity, they have conversations about what it's like to work in STEM.

As part of the activity, there will be a special after-school text-based chat with the Scientists and Engineers between 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. on Thursday 15th March. Families are invited to join their children as they talk with the Scientists and Engineers from home in this moderated chat.

We hope you'll enjoy making use of this exciting opportunity. Pupils have login cards; go to [imascientist.org.uk](http://imascientist.org.uk) or [imanengineer.org.uk](http://imanengineer.org.uk) to join in.

## Accelerated Reader Certificates

### Platinum Award

Flora Godfrey Laura Miller Kai Nakayama Leyla Tunç

### Gold Award

Anya Briggs Jacob Grindrod Joseph Baker

### Silver Award

Lilly De'Ath Henry Grice

### Bronze Award

Freya Davis Millie Wilkes Riley Woodard Cade Edgar Freya Kent Belle Miller  
Alex Probert Thomas Sainsbury Evelyn Sumption-Smith Keira Timson Sofia Vrabie Isabella Watts

## Numeracy Ninjas

### Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master – Rubber Prize (23 x Black Belts)

Lily Broom

### Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master – Touch Pen Prize (18 x Black Belts)

Aurora Connett Molly Conway

### Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master – Ruler Prize (13 x Black Belts)

Cameron Walters Liam Small Anya Briggs

### Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master – Pencil Prize (8 x Black Belts)

Evie Lee Charlie Lefeuvre Alice Gibbins Emma Wheeler Caelan Urquhart  
Ethan Heppell Connor Swain

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

Joe Skelsey Jamie Winchester-Hine Hugo Clemas-Turner Laura Miller Gracie Plant  
Otis Done Annie Ashdown Megan Norman Thomas Dunn Joseph Gray Owen Charles

### Numeracy Ninjas – Black Belt

Harry Thompson Leo Rich Jamie Nagy Lola Caton Katie Bolland

## **Cardiff 2018**

Year 6 were great fun and fantastic ambassadors for our school when we took them for a three day residential visit to Cardiff before the half term. Here are some highlights:



## **Dates for your diary**

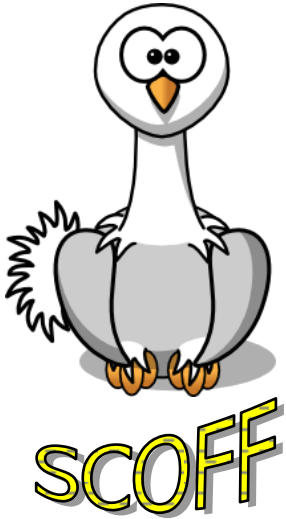
### **MARCH 2018**

7 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	4 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Year 8 Parents' Evening
8 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Ilminster Rotary Chef Competition
16 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	9.00 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Shakespeare 4 Kidz
20 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6.45 p.m.	SCOFF Meeting – Room 5
21 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday	4 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Year 7 Parents' Evening
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday	5.30 p.m.	Meeting of The Governing Body – Room 5
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Friday		Final day of Term

**Easter Holidays – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

### **APRIL 2018**

25 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	4 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Year 5 Parents' Evening
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**Swanmead Community of Families  
and Friends**

**invite the School Community to a**

# **Family Race Night**



**Date: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**Time: 7.00 p.m.**

**Venue: Swanmead School Hall**

**Admission: Free**

**Tote: 50p to win betting stake**

**Licensed Bar**

**Hot Dogs!**

**Raising money for the pupils of  
Swanmead**

