

The Swanmead Pen

Parents' Newsletter – Autumn Term 1.5

DATE: Wednesday 5th December 2018

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Dear Parents and Carers

One thing I've always noticed since being Headteacher of a school in Ilminster is the genuine sense of care our children in this town have towards others that are not quite as fortunate. Young people who attend our schools in Ilminster really do empathise with people in difficult and challenging circumstances and want to do their bit to help. Over the last few weeks, I've seen many children raising money for charities such as 'Young Minds' and 'Children in Need'. I have lost count of how many times a week children come to see me to ask whether they can do a bake sale or sponsored event to help others. As a school we raise thousands each year for charity and it is an aspect of Swanmead that maybe we don't mention as often as we should. As parents, you must feel really proud to have children in this town who care so much about others and who wish to do their bit.



As we enter such a reflective time of year, I wish to highlight our next fundraiser which will take place on **Thursday 20th December** with our **Christmas Jumper Day**. Children who wish to, are welcome to come along to school in a festive jumper for the day at a cost of £1.00. The proceeds for this will be sent along to Save the Children.

Finally, before I let you enjoy this newsletter, a reminder to all our school community that they are very welcome to join us for our annual **Christmas Service** at The Minster. This event will take place on **Thursday 20th December** starting at **2.30 p.m.** It will be good to see one or two of you there.

Also, please don't forget our annual **Children's Christmas Show** held on **Tuesday 18th December** starting at **7.00 p.m.** Tickets are now on sale.

One more newsletter to go until the end of the school term. I look forward to writing to you all then.

Mark Walker
Headteacher

The importance of a 'lockdown' system

Like all schools, ensuring the highest level of safety and welfare of the children in our care is the most important role we play. During the past couple of months, we have been working to produce a policy that focuses on emergency situations that might require the school to go into 'lockdown' for a period of time. These situations may involve an unauthorised person on site, an unruly pupil causing significant distress to other pupils, unrest in the immediate vicinity of the school, a wild animal on the loose or dangerous pollution etc...

On Friday 14th December, Mr Lees will be taking an assembly when pupils will be informed of the emergency procedures. Following this, and again in the interests of safety, we will have a brief practice so that the children are aware of the system. From the beginning of the Spring term the Lockdown Policy will then be available on the school website.

Please do not be alarmed by this, but with the safety of each individual child being of such absolute paramount importance, we wish for everyone to be in the best possible position should such a situation arise.

Sports News

12/11/18 - Kings College Cross Country

The second Kings College cross country race was an individual rather than a team event. It was great to have ten pupils from KS2 represent Swanmead in the 1400m race. Well done to Frances Evers, Sky Bunting, Harry Bowery, Ryan Muxworthy, Lewis Whaites, Rees Brunt, Tom Sainsbury, Sam Holyday, Charlton Bowery and William Rees for running. Special mention must go to William who came 7th out of 168 runners!



13/11/18 - U11 Girls Football Finals



Well done to the girls who took part in the football finals at Bucklers Mead. Despite some tough results the girls all gave 100% and have all improved greatly since the start of term. Team - Ruby Charles, Freya Kent, Emilee Phippen, Layla Pike, Zoe North, Gabriella Crook, Amber Bonning, Zena Williamson, Martha O'Nions, Poppy Ward.

Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children **Thursday, 20th December 2018**



On this day children are encouraged to come along to school in festive jumpers at a cost of a £1.00 donation. This is to raise money for Save the Children – please do support!



Parents' Evening Dates for the Diary

Some very important dates for your diary as we move towards 2019. As we plan our Spring and Summer calendars, below are dates for the formal Parents' Evenings. All of these events are from 4.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. and will require you to book appointments with your child's teachers. More information closer to the event but, for now, please do make note of these;

Year 6 Parents' Evening - Tuesday 22nd January

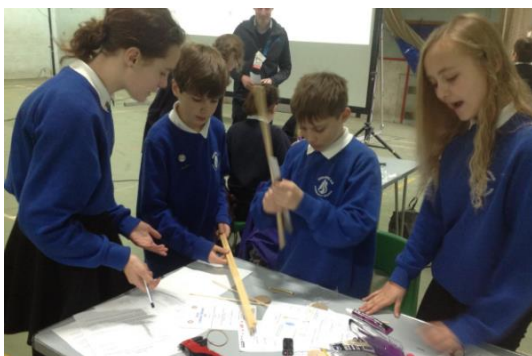
Year 8 Parents' Evening - Tuesday 5th February

Year 7 Parents' Evening - Tuesday 19th March

Year 5 Parents' Evening - Tuesday 30th April

Rotary Competition a success yet again

After our superb victory in the competition last year, it was thought that this year, perhaps, we should give the other schools in the area a chance! An excellent attempt was made by our children in Year 8 at retaining the crown we won in 2017 but we were in the presence of strong competition this year. The event, held at Wadham School, involves teams of four working upon a project and presenting it to a team of judges. Schools from Buckler's Mead School in Yeovil, Wadham and Maiden Beech Academy took part in the annual competition and the fact that we rival our opponents so well is testament to the wonderful improvements the school has made with its DT work over recent years. Below are some of our teams pictured during the competition.



Staff News

I know that a number of parents have got into contact to enquire about the welfare of Mrs Perratt. Very frustratingly for her, Mrs Perratt has an injured leg and for the past three weeks has been unable to walk. Having had a few conversations with her, she is desperately missing school and very much bored at home! We hope that with further recovery this week, Mrs Perratt will be back with us on Monday.

Phone calls to the school

A number of you will have noticed that we have a new phone system. We're still getting used to it ourselves but hopefully this will allow you to speak to the person you need more quickly. Our thanks to Nancy in Year 8 for her highly professional messages on the phone being answered!

The Christmas Service at the Minster

A reminder to all parents that they are more than welcome to come and join us for our Service at The Minster.

The Service is on
Thursday, 20th December
starting at **2.30 p.m.**

The Service will include Musical Performances and Congregational Carols and will last around 30 minutes. We look forward to seeing some of you there.



A Children's Christmas Show

Tuesday, 18th December

Our annual Christmas Show will take place on Tuesday, 18th December. Tickets are priced £2.00 for Adults and 50p for Children. They are on sale now from the School Office or from the Stage Crew in the vestibule at lunchtime. It is suggested you get them as early as possible to avoid disappointment.



The evening will start at 7.00 p.m. with doors open from 6.30 p.m. for Mulled Wine and Christmas Refreshments

DIARY DATES

13 th	Thursday	3.45 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Stage Crew Evening
17 th	Monday	All day	rehearsal
18 th	Tuesday	7 p.m.	Children's Christmas Show
19 th	Wednesday	a.m.	Carol Singing at Hazelwell Lodge
20 th	Thursday	2.30 p.m.	Christmas Service at The Minster
21 st	Friday	a.m.	Pantomime at Yeovil – Aladdin – whole school

Christmas Holidays - Monday, 24th December 2018 – Friday, 4th January 2019

January 2019

15 th	Tuesday	PSHE Focus Day (SW)
17 th	Thursday	5.30 p.m. Meeting of The Governing Body – Room 5
22 nd	Tuesday	4 p.m. – 7 p.m. - Year 6 Consultation Evening 6.45 p.m. SCOFF Meeting – Room 5
30 th	Wednesday	Youth Speaks Event – 7 p.m. – Ilminster Rotary Club

February 2019

5 th	Tuesday	4 p.m. – 7 p.m. - Year 8 Consultation Evening
11 th	Monday	Year 6 Cardiff Trip
12 th	Tuesday	Year 6 Cardiff Trip
13 th	Wednesday	Year 6 Cardiff Trip
14 th	Thursday	5.30 p.m. Meeting of The Governing Body – Room 5
15 th	Friday	INSET

Half Term - Monday, 18th February – Friday, 22nd February