

# The Swanmead 'Festive' Pen

Parents' Newsletter – Autumn Term 1.6.

DATE: Friday 21st December 2018

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The final newsletter of 2018! 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. 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.

This morning we are taking over 250 pupils (in six coaches!) to Yeovil for the 'Aladdin' Pantomime. This will be, I'm sure, a fantastic experience and I have reminded the children how lucky they are to attend a school where every single pupil was invited to go along to the theatre.

I hope that all parents received the email last week regarding a few of our staffing changes for January. We've talked about this at length and are pleased with the fact that these alterations will have a minimal impact on your child. That said, we will very much miss Mr Lees' presence and positivity during the Spring Term and offer him our congratulations and best wishes as he takes up the role of Acting Deputy Headteacher at Court Fields School in Wellington.

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 2019. A reminder that we return to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

**Mark Walker**  
**Headteacher**

<b>Recognition of Excellence</b>	<b>Recognition of Effort</b>
<p><b>Christmas Baubles</b> Annie Ashdown Amelia Smith Grace White Nancy Pattisson Jess Ward Emma Spooner Belle Miller Katie Bolland Hannah Horner Liam Burt</p> <p><b>History</b> Noah Baker Chase Pas Harrison Reeve Amelia Smith Nancy Pattisson</p> <p><b>Computing</b> Owen Charles Grace White Keira Timson</p> <p><b>Science</b> Heulwen Simpson Kelsey Paul</p> <p><b>Maths</b> William Rees Oscar Poole Ryan Broome Zoe North Jacob Grindrod Aimee Purdey Arthur Lewis Ethan Hughes-Humphries Jack Dobbs Charlton Bowery</p>	<p><b>Christmas Baubles</b> Leyla Tunc Drew White Judah Cooke Isabelle Lawrence Anya Briggs Chloe Allen Lily Elswood Jasmine Knight Noah Tolman Lia Neves Heulwen Simpson</p> <p><b>History</b> Spencer Hawkins Kayla Winter Priscilla Dabanka Jordan Priddle Jake Hampton Lola Caton</p> <p><b>Computing</b> Joe Gray Aaron Biscoe Belle Miller</p> <p><b>Science</b> Hannah Horner Frankie King Noah Tolman</p> <p><b>Maths</b> Reuben Sartin Joshua McCartney Jake Hampton Jayden Westcott Kian Clapp Keira Tavener Lucy Jenkins Jordan Priddle Meadow Tolman Noah Tolman Lily Elswood Heulwen Simpson Keira Timson Frankie King Cian Enright Liam Burt Kelsey Paul Jemma Arnold Spencer Hawkins Kayla Winter Lucy- May Brion Ryan Spooner Chase Pas Priscilla Dabanka Andie Fade Ryan Collins Mia Riggs Charlie Herrick Alex Park Edie Hawkrige Layla Pike Sophie Robson Kathryn Owens Maya Clements</p>
<b>Numeracy Ninjas</b>	
<b>Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master – Pen Prize (18 x Black Belts)</b> Rees Brunt	
<b>Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master – Ruler Prize (13 x Black Belts)</b> Rees Brunt Charlton Bowery Sam Holyday William Rees Thomas Sainsbury Robert Lock Connor Swain Ryan Collins	
<b>Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master – Pencil Prize (8 x Black Belts)</b> Emma Purdey Noah Baker Harrison Reeve Rees Brunt Charlton Bowery Sam Holyday Riley Woodard Ethan Hughes-Humphries Jack Dobbs William Rees Thomas Sainsbury Ryan Collins Alex Park Emilee-Jade Phippen Jacob Grindrod	
<b>Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master - (3 x Black Belts)</b> Olivia Whinyates Lily Elswood Keira Timson Meadow Tolman Richard Godby Maya Clements James Howlett Sydney Ingram Jasper Lefeuve Nancy Pattisson Grace White George Conway Ethan Bailey Ben Hickman Freya Davis Arthur Lewis Sydney Loveless Ryan Broome Kathryn Owens	
<b>Numeracy Ninjas – Black Belt</b> Amy Cox Charlie Newbury Toby Ward Billy Lune Ollie Upshall Thea Henderson Owen Charles Drew White Jack Hine Summer Stoodley Isabella Watts Maddie Perry Jack Belobaba Kira Hole Richard Godby Aaron Biscoe Joe Gray Frankie King Heulwen Simpson Noah Tolman Aimee Purdey Sydney Loveless Emma Spooner Hannah Horner Kathryn Owens	

## **Diary Dates**

### **Christmas Holidays - Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

#### **January 2019**

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

#### **February 2019**

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

### **Half Term - Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> February – Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

## **Christmas at Swanmead**

It has been a busy week of festivities for us at Swanmead with one event after another occurring to welcome in the Christmas break.



### **Christmas Concert**

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

### **Money raised for 'Save the Children'**

Thank you to parents who helped their children support our 'Christmas Jumper Day' yesterday. 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 just over £250.00 to the charity. Some dodgy jumpers on show but well worth it!

### **Christmas at the Minster**

We are so grateful for parents and community members coming along to join us at The Minster yesterday. It is always very special to be in our town's iconic building to celebrate this time of year. The performances by the children were wonderful and our thanks to parents for joining in with the carols!

### **DT projects for Christmas**

I've enjoyed working with Years 7 and 8 on some festive projects over the past month or two. Check out the wonderful hand stitched Christmas baubles from our Year 8s and, just last week, with a cloud of icing sugar still over Room 17 (!), these delicious looking Yule Logs!



### **School Uniform Price Increase**

Some items of school uniform will cost 50p or £1 more from January 2019. New forms will be available in the New Year.

### **Second-hand Uniform**

May I remind you that we still sell second-hand school uniform for £1 an item and second-hand P.E. kit for £2 an item. These are available from Mrs. McGown in the School Office.

### **Use absence line not mobile!**

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we now have a new phone system operating in the school. From January we now would ask that parents use this to let us know about their child's absence not our old method of texting the mobile phone. When phoning the school (01460 52431) select 'Option 1' and leave a short message with your child's name and the reason for their absence. Many thanks.

## **Sports' News**

### **U11 Mixed Hockey Team**

Our U11 mixed hockey team have qualified for the finals in January. Winning all four group games we then were unfortunate to lose 1-0 in the final however this was still enough to qualify. A great achievement as many of the team were playing their first ever hockey matches.



### **Three Cheers for the Zero Club!**

We were delighted to invite 138 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 7<sup>th</sup> January with all the school able to join next term's Zero Club. What a fabulous achievement for all these young people and what a great time we had celebrating your triumph on Wednesday afternoon.



### **Millionaires Club Tea Party**

What an incredible achievement for Toby, Milo, Noah, Izzy, Kathryn and Edie. The talented group have all read one million words during the course of this term. In reward for this phenomenal feat, the group were invited to a special afternoon tea party. Their parents joined them for tea, cakes and scones and in recognition for this achievement, the group were also joined at the party by Cllr Julie Fowler, the Mayor of Ilminster. Many congratulations to this team of book lovers and many thanks to their Mums and Dads for joining them to recognise this wonderful triumph.



### **Parents' Evening Dates**

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

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Appointments to be made between:</b>
Year 6	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2019	4.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.
Year 8	Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	4.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.
Year 7	Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	4.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.
Year 5	Tuesday, 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	4.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.

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## **School Admission Arrangements 2020/21 Consultation**

### **Have Your Say**

School admissions arrangements for children who are due to start or transfer school for the 2020-21 school year, and those moving schools during the 2020-21 school year will be consulted on for a period of 6 weeks ending 31 January 2019.

This consultation applies to a number of schools and academies throughout Somerset.

This consultation period allows parents, other schools, religious authorities and the local community to raise any comments or concerns about proposed admission arrangements.

To view the admission arrangements and for details of how to make comments, please visit [www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions) and choose the page School Admissions Policy or phone (01823) 356671.

**Wishing all the families, friends and members of  
our school community a great Christmas  
and a Happy 2019**

