

The Swanmead Pen

Parents' Newsletter – Term 3.1

DATE: Thursday 11th June 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that all your families, friends and neighbours are remaining healthy and positive in this continued time of unrest. It is now 12 weeks since school closed to all children on March 20th and it really does feel like a long period of time since we saw some of our children here in school.

This week, however, has been wonderful and we have welcomed back groups of Year 6s on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. It was simply amazing to see them after so long and, along with our existing group of Key Worker Year 6s, we now have around 50 of this year group back in school. Our intention is to welcome Year 6 back into school for a day next week before looking to arrange for them to attend school for three days from the week beginning Monday 22nd June. The children had a wonderful day with Mr Whitfield and Miss Cox and any Year 6 parents that wish for their children to also now join us back at school we encourage you to make contact with us by the end of this week.

The Year 6 children returning to school has coincided with an increase of our key workers children also being back at Swanmead. Each day we now have around 45 - 50 children at school with this expected to increase over future weeks. As parents you will have seen from my video message last week there are strict rules but we have been so proud with how the children have adapted and been so consider and caring of each other.

I wish to thank every parent once again for supporting your children with the completion of their school work. Please keep this going over the next few weeks until the end of the term. You may have noticed on our school website and Facebook page that there are a few more opportunities for your children to interact and have face-to-face contact with their teachers. I know you'll all agree how important this is and, as we continue to grow this over the coming weeks, I encourage you to support your children in watching the videos sent by their teachers and in allowing them to become involved in 'live' lessons and virtual discussions about their work with their teachers.

Do all enjoy the pictures of our returning Year 6s – we couldn't believe how much they'd grown over the last few months!

I look forward to writing to you soon and many thanks for your continued support.

Mark Walker
Headteacher

The Return of Year 6!

Wow, we've missed them but it was so great to see them back in school and learning again with their teachers!



Equipment Collection

We are aware that many children still have equipment left in school; from coats left on their pegs to P.E kits in their lockers. Before we finish for Summer, we encourage children to come in and collect any items they have left at school. We will open the school for children to collect any left items on the following dates and times:

Tuesdays and Thursdays between 4.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

We ask that you contact the School Office and inform us if you wish your child to come along and collect their things and we'll be ready to greet them and help them find their equipment.

Library Books

You will have received an email earlier this week about Library books and the fact that we need for these to be handed back in at some point over the next week or so. As stated in the email - by **Friday 3rd July**, please hand books back to the School Office complete with a post-it note with their name and tutor group for easy identification. Many thanks.

Awards Evening

Many of you will know that we normally end the school year with our annual Awards Evening. The most important event in our school calendar invites children from all year groups to come along to school with their families for an evening of celebration of their achievements. Due to the circumstances we have chosen to postpone this event until the Autumn Term when we hope it will be safer to have a full hall of applauding people! This will mean that we will have the opportunity to invite back to Swanmead our Year 8 award winners. Just to reassure all that this event will happen – just a little later than normal.

Staffing News

After six years at the school we said our farewell to Mrs Abi Millard a month or so ago. Mrs Millard joined us back as an Apprentice Teaching Assistant in September 2014 and has been a fantastic servant to our school and children in the way she has involved herself in all areas of school life. We wish her our thanks and best wishes as she begins a new post supporting children and families at Elmwood School in Bridgwater.

Over the last couple of months we have also welcomed two new staff to Swanmead. Ms Vicki Stacey-Masters joins Swanmead as our new Maths Teacher and Miss Cara Panter arrives as our new Learning Support Assistant. Both are already very much involved in our school, working with our Key Worker children and we wish to extend a huge welcome to Swanmead to both of them.

Diary Dates

June

Monday 8 th	The Return of Year 6
Thursday 18 th	Meeting of the Governing Body – 4.00 p.m.
Monday 22 nd	The Return of Year 6 – Increasing days per week

July

Friday 17 th	Final Day of the academic year
Monday 20 th	INSET Day