

The Swanmead Pen

Parents' Newsletter – Autumn Term 1.1

DATE: Thursday 17th September

Swanmead Community School
Ditton Street
Ilminster
Somerset
TA19 0BL

Headteacher: Mr Mark Walker



Telephone: 01460 52431

e-mail:

Swanmead@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Web Address:

www.swanmeadschool.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers

Almost two weeks in and we are safely underway! What a time it has been and I thank each and every parent for the way you have supported your child returning to school over the past week or so. Like everyone in the school, I am sure you are hugely proud of your children in displaying the bravery and enthusiasm to come through the school doors after so long away. It reminds all of us how resilient and determined young people are.

To all our School Community, a warm welcome back from all the staff, governors and children to the new school year and the next stage of your child's education with us here at Swanmead. In whatever way you could, I hope that everyone enjoyed a pleasant time over the course of the Summer break and is refreshed ready for the year ahead.

Particularly to our new parents and carers, it is great to have you join us. We hope that your children will be very happy and successful during the course of their time at Swanmead. We make it our duty to ensure that they get the very best in terms of the education and opportunities they receive during their time in our care.

The school has enjoyed a highly successful couple of days back. The atmosphere is positive, fun and focussed. As I enter my tenth year as Headteacher at Swanmead, more than ever, it is an honour and privilege to lead the staff, community and children at this committed and forever-advancing school.

As well as our new children, we also welcome some new faces to our staff team. Although officially starting with us back in April, it is wonderful to properly welcome Mrs Stacey-Masters as the new face joining our Maths department. Making a welcome return to the school is Mr Mee, who rejoins us to cover lessons in Year 5 and Year 6 on Mondays and Tuesdays – it's great to have him back! Mrs Rich joins us in Year 5 classes as a Learning Support Assistant and we are also delighted to welcome Mrs Sanders and Mrs Brister to the school as our Apprentice Teaching Assistants. Like our new children, I know all the school community will welcome our new staff and wish them well in all they do to support your children.

As I know you are aware, school is slightly different to normal at the moment. Children are in learning zones with teachers moving around the school and delivering lessons in year group classrooms. Breaktimes and Lunchtimes are operating in order to keep year groups separate and our systems

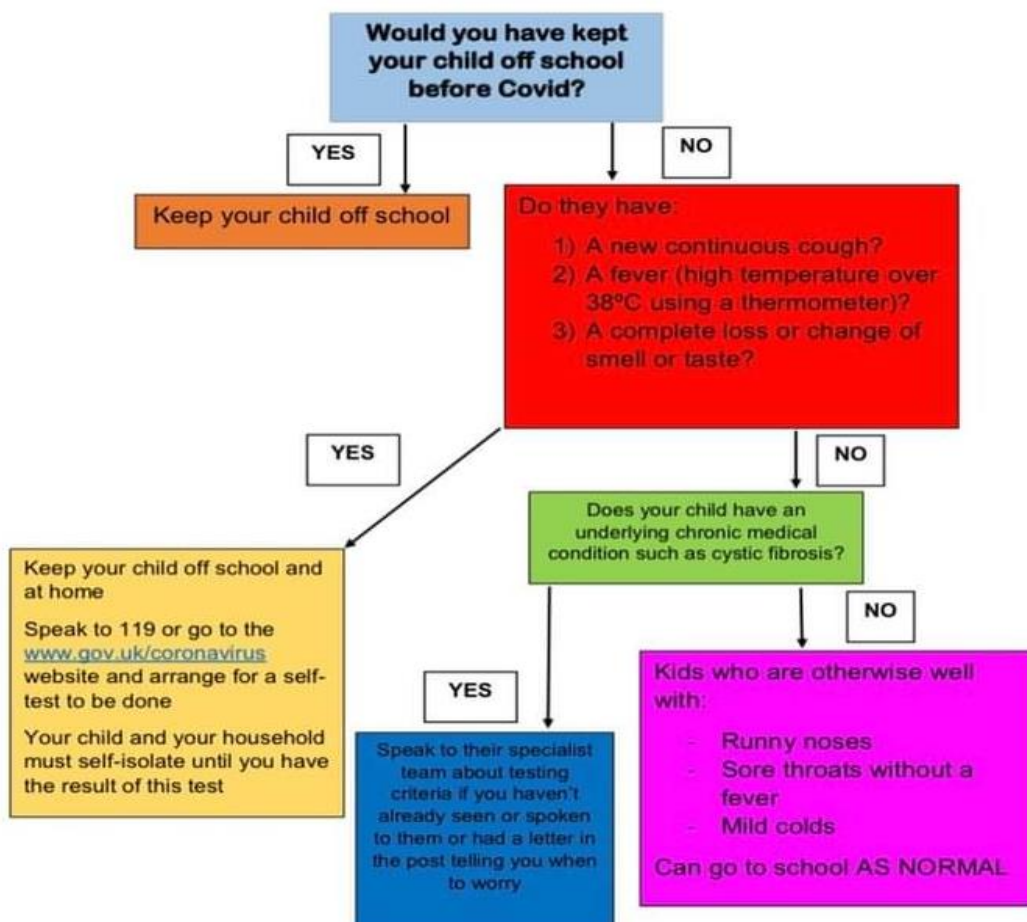
regarding cleaning, hand washing and safety are all working well with the help of your children and the additional commitment of staff. One thing we are very grateful for is the fact that parents have not driven onto the school site to drop children off to school and collect them at the end of the day. With more pupil traffic entering and exiting out of the school at the beginning and end of the day we would all appreciate in the interests of the safety of our children if this rule and commitment continues – many thanks.

Finally this time, some really good news. Over the course of the weekend we were delighted to learn of the birth of Florence Sophia Perkins. Mrs Perkins, who only started her maternity leave last week, gave birth to Florence in the early parts of Sunday morning. We pass all of our congratulations to Mrs Perkins, her husband and their son Freddie who will be a fantastic older brother to his new little sister.

Myself and my colleagues look forward to working with you and your children throughout the course of the year and I look forward to writing to you in a week or two.

Mark Walker
Headteacher

In terms of your child feeling unwell, use this flow diagram to decide what to do;



New House Captains appointed

Introducing to you all our three new House Captains for 2020/2021.

Year 8 pupils Sydney L (Herne), Layla P (Minster) and Ryan B (Isle) take the reins in leading their house and playing a huge part in helping improve and develop the school. These pupils have worked so hard during their time at Swanmead and very much deserve this opportunity to represent the pupils in their house. Our congratulations to them and their families on being selected. We all wish you good luck in your new roles.



Check us out on the web!

I remind parents of our school website and this always contains updated information about the school. From policies and previous newsletters to staff information and news of our latest school performance, you can find us on:

www.swanmeadschool.co.uk

Also online;

Follow us on Facebook – 'Swanmead Community School'

Art Twitter Page: @SwanmeadArt



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is high priority at Swanmead. We take every opportunity to ensure that our pupils' safety is paramount. We want our pupils to be healthy and happy and to develop well both physically and mentally. The school follows the latest Government Guidance to ensure we are fulfilling our duties in this important area. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and contact at School is **Mark Walker** and our Deputy Safeguarding Lead is **Jude Hattersley**. Our Safeguarding Governor is **Mrs Marian Gamper**.

The School's Safeguarding policy can be found online at:

<http://swanmeadschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/POLICY-10-Safeguarding-1.pdf>

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child you can phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

SIMS Parent App



If you're not involved already, then please look out for the email we have recently sent you to sign up for our 'SIMS Parent App'. This enables you to use your device in order to check your child's attendance and behaviour whilst in school and also to receive your child's report at the end of every term. We've had this for a year now and we encourage parents to sign up to get this free app onto their phones/tablets.