

The Swanmead Pen

Parents' Newsletter – Autumn Term 1.2

DATE: Wednesday 21st October 2020

Swanmead Community School
Ditton Street
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Dear Parents and Carers

My apologies that it has taken a while before sending you out a newsletter. We come towards the end of an intensive first half term back and with Friday in our sights, there is much to celebrate and be very proud of.

Firstly, the children have been exceptional over the past seven weeks. In what has been a different and often challenging time to be in school, they have adapted to the new rules and systems (as children always seem to) with a wonderful attitude and sense of positivity. Secondly, and I know you won't mind me stating this, my staff here have been superb. With all that they have had to contend with over this half term, their professionalism, dedication and hard work has been second to none. School unquestionably has been different to normal and I am so proud of how the whole community has supported each other to ensure we have started the academic year with such a high degree of success.

Next, the plan that was announced the other week with regard to the potential restructuring of schooling in Crewkerne and Ilminster was due to go to the cabinet of the county council today (Wednesday). At this point, I am unaware of how this matter has progressed but, as I mentioned in my email to you, I will set up a virtual parents forum at some point in November to chat through this aspect with you. Currently as a school we are 'sitting tight' and staying together until we know more of the details and what it could mean for the future. Of course, I will continue to keep you posted.

As stated, we have coped really well at school with aspects to do with Covid-19, however, there are a couple of minor additional points that we would appreciate your support with;

1. Bikes and Scooters to school – normally we really love to see children arrive to school on their bikes and scooters, however, at the moment we just can't have that. With children entering and exiting school from different exits (and our bike shed being at the back of the school) we need to ask that children leave their bikes and scooters at home for the time being. This is so that children don't end up mixing year groups before and after school by attempting to get their transport to the bike shed.
2. Face masks on buses – as I know you are aware, the fact that our school buses are not service buses means school transport are not able to insist that children wear a face mask. However, in

the circumstance we find ourselves in, I write to encourage parents, in the interests of safety for all our children, to promote that your child does wear a face mask whilst on a school bus if safe for them to do so.

Finally, of course, there is no Open Day/Open Evening this year but, over recent weeks, we have put together a little promotional video of the school to share with all parents and carers. This will be released during the first week back after half term and we encourage you to share with all local families particularly those that are due to join us up here at Swanmead over the next year or so.

Do enjoy our edition of the Swanmead Pen and I look forward to writing to you early in November.

Have a wonderful half term break with your children. I remind you that we return to school on **Tuesday 3rd November** where we will be on **Week 2** of the timetable.

Mark Walker
Headteacher

Coronavirus in children – Symptoms and Testing

We have been asked to share this advice by the Local Authority so that we have a County wide approach to keeping safe during Covid 19.

As we approach winter and more children are attending school and early years settings there is likely to be an increase in the number of children experiencing mild respiratory symptoms such as runny noses and colds. Children with these symptoms do not require self-isolation or testing for them or their wider family.

The three main symptoms of coronavirus in children are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If any child in your setting displays any of these symptoms then it is very important that they are asked to go home, self-isolate with their family and get a test.

They cannot return until they receive a negative test. We need to ensure that we can prioritise testing for people displaying at least one of these three symptoms listed above.

More information is available here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

Swanmead's Virtual Art on show

Great to see a whole range of our pupils' art work on the Lake International Comic Art festival website. Children produced this work in the Summer term and it has finally been uploaded onto a montage with Swanmead having its own page. Click on the link below and follow the page to the bottom to see our work

<https://www.comicartfestival.com/live/biographic-comic-competition>



Headteacher's Award

Caitlin J Daniel O Olaf O Edith P Sophie R

Numeracy Ninjas

Numeracy Ninjas – Grand Master

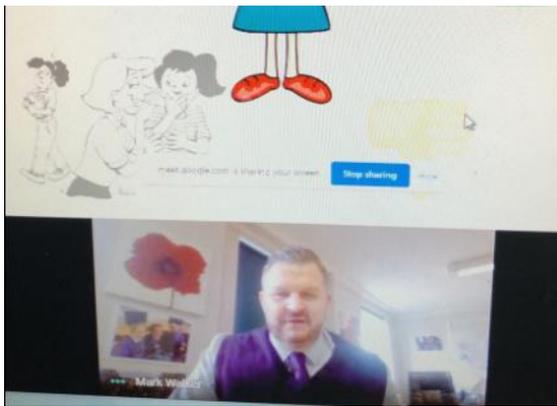
Harry W Lucas F Harry B Percy B

Numeracy Ninjas – Black Belt

Lucas F Harry W Harry B Lewis W Percy B Rhys D Charlie P Joshua S Gabriella C

New ways of working

Like most schools, we've had to sometimes be creative in how we have been working across our school in the current climate. Look at the pictures below; this has included me taking assemblies from my office and beaming it to tutor bases and even, on an occasion where he wasn't in school, Dr Watts taking his lessons from home onto the big screen in the classroom. I suspect more of this over future months but what a strange and revolutionary time we live in!



Next School Admissions

If your child is due to start or transfer school for September 2021, it is now time to make your application.

The deadline for primary phase applications is 15th January.

The deadline for secondary phase applications is 31st October.

Please apply online by visiting

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/>

Year 5 nicely underway!

Our new young people to the school are hitting the ground running and are well underway with their lessons and learning. It is sometimes difficult to start a new school but parents should be very proud of these young people who, as you can see by these photographs, are enjoying their first few weeks.





Somerset School Terms and Holidays 2020/2021 Academic Year

1/10/20

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September 2020					October 2020					November 2020							
M		7	14	21	28	M		5	12	19	26	M	2	9	16	23	30
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu		6	13	20	27	Tu	3	10	17	24	
W	2	9	16	23	30	W		7	14	21	28	W	4	11	18	25	
Th	3	10	17	24	Th	1	8	15	22	29	Th	5	12	19	26		
F	4	11	18	25	F	2	9	16	23	30	F	6	13	20	27		
Sa	5	12	19	26	Sa	3	10	17	24	31	Sa	7	14	21	28		
Su	6	13	20	27	Su	4	11	18	25	Su	1	8	15	22	29		
December 2020					January 2021					February 2021							
M		7	14	21	28	M		4	11	18	25	M	1	8	15	22	
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	2	9	16	23	
W	2	9	16	23	30	W		6	13	20	27	W	3	10	17	24	
Th	3	10	17	24	31	Th		7	14	21	28	Th	4	11	18	25	
F	4	11	18	25	F	1	8	15	22	29	F	5	12	19	26		
Sa	5	12	19	26	Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	6	13	20	27		
Su	6	13	20	27	Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su	7	14	21	28		
March 2021					April 2021					May 2021							
M	1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26	M	3	10	17	24	31
Tu	2	9	16	23	30	Tu		6	13	20	27	Tu	4	11	18	25	
W	3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28	W	5	12	19	26	
Th	4	11	18	25	Th	1	8	15	22	29	Th	6	13	20	27		
F	5	12	19	26	F	2	9	16	23	30	F	7	14	21	28		
Sa	6	13	20	27	Sa	3	10	17	24	Sa	1	8	15	22	29		
Su	7	14	21	28	Su	4	11	18	25	Su	2	9	16	23	30		
June 2021					July 2021					August 2021							
M		7	14	21	28	M		5	12	19	26	M	2	9	16	23	30
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu		6	13	20	27	Tu	3	10	17	24	31
W	2	9	16	23	30	W		7	14	21	28	W	4	11	18	25	
Th	3	10	17	24	Th	1	8	15	22	29	Th	5	12	19	26		
F	4	11	18	25	F	2	9	16	23	30	F	6	13	20	27		
Sa	5	12	19	26	Sa	3	10	17	24	31	Sa	7	14	21	28		
Su	6	13	20	27	Su	4	11	18	25	Su	1	8	15	22	29		

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Day

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 03 September – 23 October 2020 (37 days)
 Term 2: 02 November – 18 December 2020 (35 days)
 Term 3: 04 January – 12 February 2021 (30 days)
 Term 4: 22 February – 01 April 2021 (29 days)
 Term 5: 19 April – 28 May 2021 (29 days)
 Term 6: 07 June – 23 July 2021 (35 days)

INSET DAYS: 2 September 2020, 3 September 2020, 2 November 2020,
 12 February 2021, 23 July 2021
TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	25 December 2020	Easter Monday	05 April 2021
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	28 December 2020*	May Day Bank Holiday	03 May 2021
New Year's Day Holiday	01 January 2021	Spring Bank Holiday	31 May 2021
Good Friday	02 April 2021	Summer Bank Holiday	30 August 2021

*Replacement bank holiday day when the bank holiday falls on a weekend

Anticipated start date for the 2021/2022 academic year: 06 September 2021

The Local Authority will consult on prospective dates for the 2021/22 academic year and the finalised dates will be published in April 2020



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1/10/2020

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M		6	13	20	27	M	4	11	18	25	M	1	8	15	22	29	
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu	5	12	19	26	Tu	2	9	16	23	30	
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M		6	13	20	27	M	3	10	17	24	31	M		7	14	21	28
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu	4	11	18	25	Tu	1	8	15	22		
W	1	8	15	22	29	W	5	12	19	26	W	2	9	16	23		
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th	6	13	20	27	Th	3	10	17	24		
F	3	10	17	24	31	F	7	14	21	28	F	4	11	18	25		
Sa	4	11	18	25	Sa	1	8	15	22	29	Sa	5	12	19	26		
Su	5	12	19	26	Su	2	9	16	23	30	Su	6	13	20	27		
March 2022					April 2022					May 2022							
M		7	14	21	28	M	4	11	18	25	M	2	9	16	23	30	
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu	5	12	19	26	Tu	3	10	17	24	31	
W	2	9	16	23	30	W	6	13	20	27	W	4	11	18	25		
Th	3	10	17	24	31	Th	7	14	21	28	Th	5	12	19	26		
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Sa	5	12	19	26	Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	7	14	21	28		
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Sa	4	11	18	25	Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	6	13	20	27		
Su	5	12	19	26	Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su	7	14	21	28		

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Day

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 06 September – 22 October 2021 (35 days)
 Term 2: 01 November – 17 December 2021 (35 days)
 Term 3: 04 January – 18 February 2022 (34 days)
 Term 4: 28 February – 08 April 2022 (30 days)
 Term 5: 25 April – 27 May 2022 (24 days)
 Term 6: 06 June – 26 July 2022 (37 days)
INSET DAYS: 6 September 2021, 7 September 2021, 1 November 2021,
 25 July 2022, 26 July 2022
TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2021/2022

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	27 December 2021*	Easter Monday	18 April 2022
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	28 December 2021*	May Day Bank Holiday	02 May 2022
New Year's Day Holiday	03 January 2022*	Spring Bank Holiday	30 May 2022
Good Friday	15 April 2022	Summer Bank Holiday	29 August 2022

* Replacement Bank Holiday day when the bank holiday falls on a weekend
 Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with individual schools for their term dates

Anticipated start date for the 2022/2023 academic year: 05 September 2022

The Local Authority will consult on prospective dates for the 2022/2023 academic year and the finalised dates will be published in April 2021