

**PARENT BULLETIN -  
Friday 13th March**



Dear Parents/Carer,

We were fortunate enough to be visited by Oxplore on Monday to mark the start of our school careers programme with students. Although they are still young, it is never too early for our students to start thinking about their futures. The sessions focused on the skills needed for different jobs, as well as looking at opening up the possibility of university. We are very grateful to the University of Oxford for facilitating this opportunity.

We are alert to the concerns and anxieties amongst some students and parents of the school as a result of the ongoing situation concerning Coronavirus (Covid-19). As a school, we continue to monitor the situation at school level and the advice and guidance being provided to us by the Department for Education and Public Health England. At the time of writing, we have no recorded incidents of Covid-19 within our school and we ask for your support in reassuring your son or daughter about the situation. We have included details of measures we have taken and advice for families in the section below.

Ms Wood

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**Swan Library Book of the Week - *Watership Down* by Richard Adams**

An epic story that has been beloved for generations, *Watership Down* has become one of the most famous animal stories ever written. Fiver, a young rabbit, is very worried. He senses something terrible is about to happen to the warren. His brother Hazel knows that his sixth sense is never wrong. So, there is nothing else for it. They must leave immediately. And so begins a long and perilous journey of a small band of rabbits in search of a safe home. Fiver's vision finally leads them to Watership Down, but here they face their most difficult challenge of all...

**Coronavirus**

Healthy children and adults remain at low risk of infection, however please do continue to remind your children about the importance of good hygiene in preventing the spread of any illness, for example washing hands, sneezing/coughing into a tissue, avoiding close physical contact with others.

As a school, we have taken a number of steps to help reduce the risk of infection:

- Tutor time session on coronavirus to raise awareness about the facts for students.
- Informative posters about hygiene and handwashing displayed around the school.
- Purchased additional supplies of hand sanitiser and tissues. Students are also welcome to bring their own supplies.
- Stopped shaking hands as students enter the classroom; they are politely greeted without physical contact instead.
- Moved lunch slightly later to ensure that all students have the opportunity to wash their hands before eating.

We would like to reassure you that we receive daily updates from the Department for Education and are responding to ongoing advice. We are also making detailed contingency plans to ensure that there is as little disruption to students' education as possible, should the school be directed to close for a period of time by the government.

We ask for your help in continuing to reassure your children and reminding them of the importance of good hygiene. We would also advise you to keep your child off school if they are displaying the symptoms of coronavirus, which can be found [here](#). Staff, parents, and young people can also contact the dedicated coronavirus helpline, details of which are below:

- Phone: 0800 046 8687
- Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)
- Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

### **Assessment Week: 16th-18th March**

Assessments begin on Monday and all students have been given a copy of the timetables, as well as materials and strategies for revision. A [copy](#) of the timetable is attached to this message. Please support students in their studies at home, as we will do at school. We are aware this can be a stressful time and encourage students to look after themselves as a first priority.

Assessment week will be followed by Data and Planning Day on Monday 23rd March. School is closed for students on this day to allow staff time to reflect on the assessment outcomes and plan to address any misconceptions and learning gaps.

**Oxford Literary Festival** - will be running between 27th March and 5th April. There are loads of low cost and free events running as part of this, many of which are suitable for children. You can find out what is on [here](#).

### **Swan School Choir**

I would like to remind parents that The Swan School Choir runs every Friday morning in Classroom 4. From next week, we will be starting choir at 8:20am. We sing a wide variety of challenging music, and the choir is open to both boys & girls. No previous experience needed!

If you think your child might be interested in joining the choir, please advise them to speak to Mrs Playford.

### **E-Safety Advice:**

Please follow this [link](#) to find the second installment of our E-Safety advice. This week covers the popular app TikTok. We encourage all parents to monitor their children's phones to ensure safety and age appropriate content. If you have any questions please contact Ms Walton.

### **Swan Travel Action Group – STAG**

STAG has been formed and is run by a group of parents and governors who are keen to make sustainable travel to school as easy, fun and safe as possible for all, whether a short or a longer journey.

STAG are currently looking for volunteers to help with the development of various travels plans. If you live in the following areas and would like to help the STAG would very much like to hear from you.

- Barton Park
- Headington
- Cowley

- Wood Farm

Please see [this link](#) for more details.

### **SwanComm**

- **Easy Fundraising** - SwanComm have very kindly set up an Easyfundraising account, this is to raise funds for the school. Using [this link](#), you can shop online with over 4000 retailers and each time a donation is made to our school. Happy shopping!
- Minutes from our last meeting can be found on our website [here](#). We will be meeting the second Monday of each half term at 7.30pm at The Swan. **Our next meeting will be on Monday 27th April - put the date in your diary; all welcome!**

### **International Evening - UPDATE**

- With regret, SwanComm has decided to cancel the forthcoming International Evening (was due to be held 25th March). It doesn't feel the right time to be hosting a large food-sharing event. We'll keep checking government advice on gatherings and we hope to announce alternative SwanComm events shortly. Watch out for news on Classlist.

### **Supporting your child with reading at home**

Mrs Hinze and Mr Robinson will be delivering a session on how to support your child with reading at home. There will be a presentation and some time at the end for questions. This will be held at the school on Tuesday 31st March, starting at 4pm and ending at 4.40pm. In addition, we are offering the opportunity to sign up for two short courses:

1. **Reading confidence** - this course is designed for parents/ carers who want to develop their own confidence as readers and/ or want to find new ways to support their own child's reading at home. Each session will be 90 mins, will last for 4 weeks and is FREE. It will run at a day / time which suits most participants, so at this stage please just express your interest via the Google Form.
2. **English Speaking and Writing** - this course is designed to build your confidence in speaking and writing in English. It will run for 2 hours for 4 weeks each Friday from April 24th (**excluding 8th May Bank Holiday**) @ 9.15 and is **FREE**. Your only commitment is to attend all four sessions. The programme will be run by an experienced TEFL teacher.

So that we can get an idea of numbers for the presentation and gauge the level of interest in these two courses, please fill in this Google Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1EBLoJueNbp7gd9kBpcpgWk76pAEWKJcRd0ksrqSGqU/edit>

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### **UPCOMING DATES**

- **Assessment Week** - 16th - 18th March
- **Data and Planning Day** - Monday 23rd March. *School is closed for students.*
- **SwanComm** - The next SwanComm meeting will be held on: Monday 27th April 7.30pm - 9pm