

PARENT BULLETIN - Friday 6th March



Dear Parents/Carer,

There has been much excitement at The Swan this week with World Book Day on Thursday, which saw staff and students alike dressing up as their favourite book characters - you can see a few pictures in the ['News'](#) section of our website - and taking part in other reading-related activities. The event was very special because it was organised by our school council. I would particularly like to share our thanks to Lucy, Rosie, Sean, Aman, and Cameron for their efforts and, of course, Mrs McCoy who work with them to make the day such a success.

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

Assessment Week: 16th-18th March

Students have been encouraged to start their preparation for assessment week, and received their copy of the timetables today. A [copy](#) of this 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.

Oxford University Visit

As a part of our careers provision we are delighted to have Explore from the University visit us on **Monday 9th March - apologies the date given in the previous bulletin was incorrect**. They will be speaking to all students about University as an option and also deliver some Thinking and Speaking skills sessions. Please, if you get the chance, ask your child how this went on Monday.

SwanComm

- **Easy Fundraising** - SwanComm have very kindly set up an Easyfundraising, 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!

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 Library Book of the Week - highly recommended by Swan students!

Noughts & Crosses by Malorie Blackman

Sephy is a Cross – a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought – a ‘colourless’ member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses.

The two have been friends since early childhood. But that’s as far as it can go. Until the first steps are taken towards more social equality and a limited number of Noughts are allowed into Cross schools... Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity by Noughts, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum – a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger...

World Book Day Token

As you probably know, Thursday 4th March was World Book Day. On the day, your child received a £1 token to swap for a FREE book of their choice at any local bookseller. To find out more, including read extracts and reviews, go to <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>. Tokens are valid until 29th March. Make sure you don't miss out!

Instrumental Music Lessons

We would like to remind parents that students have the opportunity to have private instrumental lessons in school. We currently have drum and guitar lessons available on a Monday. We will also have a new piano teacher starting on Wednesday 5th June, from which, piano lessons will be available again.

If you are interested in your child learning one of these instruments, please contact Mrs Playford and she will put you in contact with the relevant teacher.

Uniform - Reminder

We hold a small supply of school uniform in reception, this is for students to borrow in an emergency (if they rip theirs/forget it etc) and we have several items missing. Can we please ask that you kindly check to see if you have any such items at home. They will be marked Swan 1, Swan 2 etc on the label. Many thanks for your help with this.

E-Safety Advice:

Please follow this [link](#) to find the first installment of our E-Safety advice. This week covers smartphone apps we believe have the potential to negatively affect our students' wellbeing. We encourage all parents to monitor their children's phones to ensure safety and age appropriate content. Please note that most social media apps have a minimum age of 13, but rely on parents to enforce this. If you have any questions please contact Ms Walton.

Coronavirus

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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. Children are welcome to bring a small hand sanitiser gel into school if they would like to use it.

We are aware that some students and parents may have been away over the half term break last week, so it might be helpful to advise you of the Public Health guidance we are following at the present time, and to ask you to observe the same, in respect of your immediate household. Please do let us know if you have travelled to any of the affected regions outlined in this [list](#).

Parent Voice

- **Structure of the Day Consultation** - if you have not already, please take the time to read the [paper that we have circulated](#) outlining some possible changes to the school day. Once you have read and discussed the proposals, please do share your views with us using [this form](#) **by the end of Friday 13th March**.
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UPCOMING DATES

- **Assessment Week** - 16th - 18th March
- **SwanComm** International Evening - 25th March - more details to follow regarding this.
- **SwanComm** - The next SwanComm meeting will be held on:
Monday 27th April 7.30pm - 9pm