

PARENT BULLETIN - Friday 24th April 2020



Dear Parents/Carer,

Thank you so much to those of you who were able to send us photos of your children learning at home. We tried to include as many as possible but simply didn't have space for all of them. It was really uplifting to see them looking so well and happy - we can't wait to see them again in person too.

Distance learning started again on Monday. In response to your feedback, we have made the following changes to our programme. Please do continue to give us feedback about how you are finding it.

1. **More accountability for students** - all subjects now set at least one piece of work that has to be submitted each week and feedback will be given. This will help us follow up on students not completing work, and recognise those going above and beyond.
2. **More teacher interaction** - we are trying to create more video content as this seems to be the most effective way for children to learn remotely. Please bear with us with any technical issues.
3. **More/less work set** - we are scaffolding our tasks to make sure all students are able to access the first part of the work. Tasks will get progressively harder and we are making it clear which tasks are optional challenges. Hopefully this will help provide the right level of difficulty for all.
4. **More social/community time** - our first online assembly will take place on Monday. Children are reminded that the Year 7 Chat function is there if they want to connect with classmates.

Ms Wood

Cycle 2 assessment reports

These are now available to view on MCAS for all students who sat assessments. Please do login and have a look! If you have not yet registered for MCAS or forgotten your log-in details, please email headteacher@theswanschool.org.uk so we can help you get set up.

Reduce Stress & Anxiety At Home.

Tip 1 - Set your child a daily routine of when they are going to work. Consider breaking this up into smaller chunks including rest breaks.

Tip 2 - During this time encourage social media devices to be away

Tip 3 - Allow time in the day for exercise, relaxation activities and also downtime.

Please find a [link](#) here from the university of Oxford and the university of Reading with some very helpful advice on supporting children and young people during this time.

Online Safety:

In the time we are in video conferencing apps have become very popular. One of the most popular is Zoom, see [this](#) info sheet from National Online Safety for safety tips and what you should know. Please get in contact with Ms Walton with any concerns or questions.

SwanComm

In a change to the advertised program we will be having a Web meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 27 April (link to follow on Monday). The agenda will be half an hour of coffee, tea, cake & general chat (bring your own drinks and food!), followed by time to discuss ways we as parents/carers can support the school, each other, and our children. Open to all parents & carers - come for some or all of the meeting.

Free School Meals

Parents/Carers in receipt of Free School Meals, please note the eCodes that are being emailed to you are only valid for 1 month from the date of issue. Once you have redeemed an eCode and used it to purchase an eCard, you will then have twelve months in which to spend it so please ensure you redeem the eCode as soon as possible. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on office@theswanschool.org.uk.

Don't forget to also get in touch with us if your circumstances have changed and you now think you may be eligible for free school meals. We can support you to check your status and apply.

Please note Aldi has been added to the supermarkets available in this scheme.

Swan (Audio)Book Club - Wednesday 29th April at 4pm

Our first Swan (Audio)Book Club meeting to discuss The Secret Garden will be on Wednesday next week. I plan to run this as a 30 minute Google Hangouts meeting at 4pm on Wednesday 29th April. I have a growing list of members and will send an invitation to join the meeting via email to all those on my list. If your child would like to join in, please make sure they email me (if they have not already done so) so that I can add them to the meeting. You are also very welcome to join in as a family - my eldest daughter will be coming! A reminder that the story is freely available for listening via this link

https://stories.audible.com/pdp/B002UZMRV8?ref=adbl_ent_anon_sc_pdp_pc_0. Mrs Hinze.