

PARENT BULLETIN - Friday 3rd April 2020



Dear Parents/Carer,

It feels very strange to be writing this at the end of the term because I would normally be writing the newsletter instead. I am sure that you can appreciate why this has been slightly delayed in the current circumstances but, rest-assured the newsletter will be coming your way soon! Given that our students have spent a third of this half term at home, we would love your help in putting the newsletter together. **Please send us any pictures or stories of how you are making home learning work (or not - that's fine too, we've all been there!) to headteacher@theswanschool.org.uk and we'll try to include as many as possible in the newsletter.** We really value everything that you and your children are doing to keep school-work going in this difficult period. It is at times like this that it is even more important that we are genuine partners in our children's learning.

Ms Wood

Parent and Student Surveys

- We are really keen to know how you are finding this experience so that we can make our provision even better.
- We have shared a survey with students via Google Classroom - please do ask your child about their responses.
- The parent/carers survey can be found [here](#). Please do take the time to share your thoughts with us by **Friday 17th April** so that we can make any necessary changes. We really do value your feedback.

Easter Holiday Activity Pack

- We are aware that the holiday period is a time to have a well-deserved break but we are also mindful that some families may appreciate some structure, especially given that so many other planned activities are no longer possible.
- We have put together an **Easter Holiday Activity pack**, found [here](#) which will be shared to students via Google Classroom. We will also send this as an email reminder on Monday
- This contains suggested, but **not compulsory**, learning activities for each subject area. They are all designed to be fun and most can involve other siblings or even the whole family. If you prefer to do your own thing, that is also fine!

Welfare Checks

During the Easter Holiday period welfare calls will not be taking place. However, if you have a concern please do get in contact via email or using the '[green button](#)' on our website and we will respond during the holidays.

In-School Provision

If your child is coming to school over the holiday, please be aware that the day will have a much more relaxed feel, rather than being like a normal school day - it is important that they get a break too. School will not be open on Good Friday or Bank Holiday Monday.

Free Audiobooks From Audible!

- Audible have created a platform called Audible Stories to enable children to access audiobooks for free during the coronavirus. Books can be easily downloaded onto a phone or other device

absolutely FREE of charge. The categories of most interest to our students will be the Tween and Teen sections, but there is also a Literary Classics section and a section of books in French for pupils who want a challenge!

- If you have younger children at home, there are Littlest Listener and Elementary sections as well. Using this platform, I am keen to set up a virtual Swan Students Book Club, and will send out more ideas related to this in the coming weeks once I have had a chance to think it through. Follow this link to get started straight away:

https://stories.audible.com/discovery/enterprise-discovery-21103929011?ref=adbl_ent_anon_ds_ds_dbb_0-0 and find attached more instructions from Audible on how to use Stories. Happy listening!

Student Welfare

During these unprecedented times our wellbeing can sometimes take a backseat in preference of logistics and simply getting by, however, it is times like this that our wellbeing needs to be our top priority. Please find [attached](#) some suggestions for how students can look after their wellbeing at this time.

E Safety - Part 3

With learning having moved online during the current circumstances it is important for everyone to focus on keeping your children safe whilst online. [Here](#) you will find an information sheet detailing ways to keep your child safe online, good conversation topics and screen time advice. If you have any questions or concerns please get in touch with Ms Walton.

Support for Parents

We are aware that this is a difficult time for parents/carers as well as children. Some Swan parents have kindly offered to speak on the phone and provide support for any parents who are feeling isolated, struggling to cope, or simply could benefit from talking to someone. All the parent volunteers are DBS checked and have experience offering this kind of support. If you would like to make use of this, please contact Naomi Winnifrith, our parent governor, who is coordinating this support. Her email address is naomi.winnifrith@theswanschool.org.uk.

Financial Support

- **Free School Meals** - Due to changed employment circumstances, your family may now qualify for free school meals. If so, we are able to provide a supermarket voucher for £12.50 per child per week. Any parent who receives the benefits below may be eligible. **If you think this might be you, please contact the school office so that we can check and help you get set up.**
 - Income Support
 - income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
 - Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
 - Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
 - Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- **School Trip Money** - This has now all been refunded so this should help parents

- Lunch and snack money - Parents pay up-front for this and some have quite large amounts on their child's account. This can carry forward until we reopen. If you are facing financial difficulty and it would be helpful to refund the amounts paid in advance, please let us know.

School Nurse

Due to school closures the service will be running as per normal. However, instead of face to face appointments, this will be replaced by video or telephone consultation.

If you would like to contact our school nurse Caroline, we do kindly ask you call the Administrator Ali Lunn on this contact number: 07769 235 149 or email: SHN.Oxfordshire@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk. Alternatively, the main office number is 01865 904225 should you need to speak to a nurse.

Online help and information is also available from the following link:

- Child line www.childline.org.uk
- YoungMinds www.youngminds.org.uk
- NHS Choices www.nhs.uk
- Oxme.info www.oxme.info

World Book Day - We've Adopted A Chimp!

The children raised an impressive £54.15 on world book day! The children had expressed that with the money raised, they wanted the money to go to a charity for chimpanzees. The Swan School has used the money to adopt the chimp called **Chinoise** from the Born Free foundation please see the link attached for more information (see <https://www.bornfree.org.uk/adopt-a-chimp>).