

PARENT BULLETIN - Friday 22nd May 2020



Dear Parents/Carer,

Well done to everyone for another successful term. This is certainly not how we expected to spend our first summer together - sports day, year 7 camp and our school play will have to wait for another day - but it has undoubtedly been one where all of us have demonstrated our ability to thrive even in the most difficult circumstances. The number of photos in the newsletter and our music video are testament to the continued strength and good humour of our community - please do keep them coming, we love seeing how you are all getting on!

We wish you all a lovely half term break. You can read about our plans for after half term [here](#), or watch a [short video here](#). A reminder that all previous communication with parents including bulletins, whole school letters, and newsletters can be found [on our website here](#).

Ms Wood

Parent Voice

Annual Parent Survey - Reminder

A reminder that today is your final chance to complete [our parent survey](#) to share your views about our school by **the end of half term (Friday 29th May)**. This is an important way for us to gather feedback from parents/carers and make comparisons between years. We ask you to try to reflect on the **year as a whole** rather than just the recent period of partial closure.

Relationship & Sex Education Policy

We have drafted a new Relationships and Sex Education Policy for 2020/21 and are seeking feedback from parents and carers. [You can read the policy here](#). If you have any comments or questions about the policy, please email headteacher@theswanschool.org.uk.

Curriculum

Seneca

We have been using the online learning platform Seneca Learning in school and they have just released a free parent monitoring platform. This lets you see how long your child has spent on their different subjects, their average score & number of questions answered. Here are some [instructions](#) for getting started:

1. [Click here to create a parent account](#) (if you arrive at a login page, make sure to click on the 'Sign up' option)
2. Click 'invite child'
3. Share your code with your child(ren) and ask them to click on the link
4. Login to review their progress.

Quiz Week (week starting 6th July)

When we return to school, it is vital that our teachers know how much students have learned so that we can fill any learning gaps and address any misconceptions. This will be an important part of their reintegration back to school. We will therefore be setting quizzes the week starting 6th July (the second to last week of term) to help us find out more about our students' progress. These quizzes will be completed online and will be instead of (not in addition to) lessons on particular days. The quizzes will be based on the content that has been covered this cycle. They will not require any additional preparation, apart from continuing to work hard on the distance learning tasks set over the next few weeks. Students will receive a score for each quiz and we will use this information to plan our teaching for September. Students will not be ranked or judged on their scores and we will not be producing a report.

Half Term Activity Pack

There will be no work set during the half term week (Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May). We will, however, be sharing some activity suggestions to help to provide some structure to the week. These will be emailed out to parents and posted to students on Google Classroom as normal.

Enrichment

The Swan (Audio)Book Club

Our next book is The Near Witch by V.E.Schwab, chosen by Catriona Porter. You can find it here: https://stories.audible.com/pdp/1982648244?ref=adbl_ent_anon_ds_pdp_pc_pg-1-cntr-0-13. We will aim to discuss this via Google Hangout on Wednesday 10th June, which is the second week after we return from half term. Mrs Hinze.

Poetry Competition - theme is 'Lockdown'

Thank you to those students who have already entered the 'Lockdown' poetry competition. Please encourage your child to enter and feel free to write and submit a poem of your own if you would like to! Further details are on Google Classroom. The deadline for entries will be Monday 1st June at 9am. Entries should be sent by email to harriet.hinze@theswanschool.org.uk. The competition is inspired by Simon Armitage's poem 'Lockdown', which he wrote as a response to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Poet Laureate said that he hoped that society might emerge from the pandemic 'slightly slower, and wiser, at the other end'. This may or may not reflect your own experience, but you may be interested to read his poem and accompanying interview here

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/mar/21/lockdown-simon-armitage-writes-poem-about-coronaviruss-outbreak>. Mrs Hinze.

Wellbeing

Mental Health Awareness Week - Our school nurse Caroline has very kindly shared some [resources with](#) us for mental health awareness week. Please find an information sheet about how to talk to your child about mental health [here](#). This sheet goes through some tips for starting the conversation about mental health with your child. At The Swan we know mental health is just as important as physical health, especially during trying times like these. Please reach out to Ms Walton if you have questions or concerns about mental health.

Domestic Violence

During the time of COVID-19 we have seen a huge rise in cases of domestic abuse. [Here](#) is a document explaining domestic abuse and some common myths and also advice on how to support someone affected by it. If you are concerned about a child at any time do not hesitate to contact social services and the police. You are always welcome to contact Ms Walton for information about domestic abuse and / or any concerns.'

All previous wellbeing resources shared via the bulletin can be found in this [folder](#)

Other

Eid (provisionally 23rd May)

We are aware that some children will be celebrating Eid can we please kindly ask that you let us know via office@theswanschool.org.uk or on [01865 416070](tel:01865416070) if your child will be celebrating and will therefore not be submitting work for that day. We can then ensure that all teaching staff are made aware of this.

Ski Trip Postponed until Easter 2022

Due to the current situation we are postponing the planned Ski trip for Easter 2021 and moving it back until Easter 2022. The Year groups targeted for this trip will be Year 8 and 9 (in 2022) so no children will miss out on the opportunity. Further communication will follow next academic year.

School Uniform

A reminder that [Price & Buckland](#), our uniform provider will require all uniform orders to be placed by 9th August, in order to guarantee delivery for September. All uniforms must be ordered to home delivery - we are unable to accept orders to school.

School Nurse - Newsletter

Please find attached our termly [newsletter](#) from our wonderful School Nurse, Caroline.

Access to School Health Nurse:

Even though your children may not be coming into school, you still have access to the School Nursing service and everything that it offers. If your child would like a confidential appointment via phone, video chat or a walk and talk, please email or text me at caroline.smith@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk 07717661485.

Music Video

Thank you for all the staff and students who sent in videos. [You can see the finished version here](#). Thank you so much to Ms Walton for putting it all together.

Key Dates:

- **Bank Holiday (Monday 25th May)** - The school will be closed on the bank holiday, which means we will not be offering provisional care for key worker children, and there will be no work set for children.
- **Half Term** - (25th May to 29th May) We plan to remain open for the children of key workers. Please let us know if your requirements have changed during this week. School will be closed on the bank holiday - **Monday 25th May**.
- **Quiz Week** - 6th to 10th July.
- **Staff Inset Days** - please be aware that Monday 6th July and Friday 10th July are currently planned as staff inset days.