

PARENT BULLETIN - Friday 3rd July 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

You will, I am sure, be aware that new government guidance was released this week on planning for all students to return to school in September. We are supportive of the aim to get all students back as we know that, despite the heroic home-schooling efforts of parents and carers during lockdown, school is the very best place for our students to receive a first rate education.

I want to reassure you that, as a school, we are digesting the guidance carefully and starting to form plans appropriate to our unique context. Any decisions we make will have both the safety of everyone in our community and the quality of education for our students at their heart. We hope to be able to provide some more concrete information to you next week. Thank you for your continued support at this difficult time.

Ms Wood

End of Year Celebrations

Events in School - 13th to 16th July

I can confirm that these events are able to go ahead on the dates planned. I am also delighted to say that form tutors will also be joining with their tutor group so it should be a really lovely celebration.

- Monday 13th July - [7L - Register Form here](#)
- Tuesday 14th July - [7Y - Register Form here](#)
- Wednesday 15th July - [7H - Register Form here](#)
- Thursday 16th July - [7B - Register Form here](#)

Students should arrive at the normal school entrance by **2pm and should be free to leave by 3.30pm**. They will need to wash their hands on arrival and maintain appropriate social distancing when in school. Part of the afternoon will involve a picnic - children will need to bring their own snacks/drinks as, unfortunately, they will not be able to share. If your child is planning to attend with their form class, please can you:

- Complete the form for their TG above to confirm attendance. We will use this as a register on the day.
- Speak to your child beforehand about maintaining social distancing when they see their friends.
- Ensure they bring any snacks/drinks they would like to eat to school with them.

Newsletter

We are now starting to think about our end of year newsletter and would love to include some input from our students, parents and carers. Please could you (children and/or parents) write a few sentences to answer one of these questions?

- What has been your favourite/most memorable moment this year?
- What are you proudest of having achieved?
- What is the most important thing you have learned this year?

We will try to include as many as possible in the newsletter. Please send any responses to headteacher@theswanschool.org.uk.

Summer Holiday Provision

Our school will not be open to students over the summer holiday. [You can read a letter from the River Learning Trust explaining our approach here.](#) Oxfordshire County Council will be getting information together about summer holiday activities/provision in the area. Please follow this [link](#) to find out more information. The council assures us that more information will be added over time.

Curriculum

Quiz Week - NEXT WEEK!

A reminder that students will be doing quizzes for their distance learning on Tuesday 7th to Thursday 9th July. These will help us assess what students have learnt and where the gaps or misconceptions are, which will help us plan for September. **Please note that there will be no distance learning set on Monday 6th July or Friday 10th July due to staff inset.** Students should use the Monday to prepare for the quizzes, and the Friday to relax and recuperate (or catch up on any missed quizzes)!

The timetable for quizzes is below:

- Tuesday: English, History, Music
- Wednesday: Science, Geography, French
- Thursday: Maths, Art, RE

2020/2021 Electives

Please click this [link](#) to see exactly what electives we have planned.

Enrichment

The Swan (Audio)Book Club

Thanks to everyone who joined in the discussion of *Talon* by Julie Kigawa. Our final book of the year is *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* by Arthur Conan Doyle chosen by Freya Leech (7B). Please find the book freely available at [this](#) link. We will aim to discuss this book via a virtual Google Hangout meeting on **Wednesday 15th July at 4pm**. Please make sure your child emails me to request an invitation to the Hangout if they have not already joined Book Club. Mrs Hinze.

500 words Short Story Competition: Black Lives Matter theme

TV presenters Angellica Bell and Michael Underwood have just launched a brand new 500 Words competition. Children between the ages of five and 13 are invited to submit their creative writing on the theme, Black Lives Matter. Entries from children of all ethnicities and backgrounds are welcome. Those who are looking to enter the competition aren't limited when it comes to what they write about. Submissions can highlight everything from personal experiences to what entrants have learned about racism in recent times, or conversations they've had about it. It's an opportunity for children and young people to share their thoughts on a really important issue in a creative and imaginative way. Children looking to get involved in the competition will be able submit their creative pieces from Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July. Click [here](#)

Music

This term in Music, we have been learning about the instruments of the orchestra. If your child has taken an interest in this, or in any particular instrument, why don't you think about instrumental lessons for Year 8?

If you are interested in this, this is a reminder that you can register your interest with the Oxfordshire Music Service [here](#), and they will then send an instrumental teacher into school in September. You can also apply for instrument hire, and they have a discount rate for "endangered instruments"!

If you are interested in piano, guitar or drum lessons, we already have teachers in school for this - get in contact with us if you are interested in lessons for these instruments for September.

Please email katrina.playford@theswanschool.org.uk if you have any questions about this.

Virtual Cowley Road Carnival

Please find below the links available for the virtual Cowley Road Carnival, which is taking place on Sunday 5th July, from 11am - 5pm. With four 'stages' - live music, dance, hula hooping, choirs, face painting (!) and more.

- <http://www.cowleyroadworks.co.uk/carnival-online/virtual-carnival/>
- <http://www.cowleyroadworks.co.uk/virtual-carnival/virtual-carnival-live>
- <http://www.cowleyroadworks.co.uk/carnival-online/carnival-arts-home/>
- <http://www.cowleyroadworks.co.uk/carnival-online/learning-projects/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/cowleyroadcarnival>

Other

Governor Newsletter

The Swan's local governing body plays a vital role in the strategic leadership of the school. [Please click here to read our first governor newsletter.](#)

Chromebook Return - deadline Wednesday 22nd July

We will require all school chromebooks to be returned to us before the end of term. We understand that children may need to continue using their Chromebooks until the last day of term. If your child has borrowed a Chromebook from school, this will need to be returned to school by Wednesday 22nd July, at the latest. There will be a member of staff onsite between 9am and 3.30pm, from Monday 21st July until Wednesday 22nd July. Can we please ask that you email office@theswanschool.org.uk in order to arrange a convenient time to return the Chromebooks.

Free School Meals Vouchers

A note to remind families eligible for free school meals that these families will get food vouchers over the summer and subsidised uniforms. If you feel you are eligible please submit a request via the [website](#). We are pleased to confirm that vouchers will continue over the summer holiday.

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. If you think you may be eligible for financial support in purchasing a uniform, please submit a request using the [Apply for Bursary Support button](#) on our [website](#).

Well Being

I am pleased to offer our students these free relaxation sessions from Oxfordshire Nurses. They are short sessions where you will join a school nurse without your camera or mic and listen to techniques to calm and relax yourself. The poster is [here](#), and it explains how to join up. Any questions please email Ms Walton.

School 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.

Key Dates:

- 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. There will be no distance learning or in-school provision during these days.
- End of term - Friday 17th July, half day.
- Start of term - Thursday September 10th (our new year 7 cygnets will start their matriculation week on Monday 7th September) - remember, students will need to come to our new site!