

PARENT BULLETIN -
Friday 13th November 2020
(W/C 16th November will be Week A)



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am pleased to be able to let you know a confirmed date for the hand-over of the rest of our new building. Despite various set-backs - not least Covid! - our contractors are now scheduled to finish their work on our building at the end of this term, meaning that we will be able benefit from our fantastic facilities from January. This will mean that we will finally be able to deliver practical Design Technology, we will have large spaces where we are able to gather students together for assemblies in a Covid-secure way, and our new on-site kitchen will mean that we will, once again, be able to deliver an excellent variety of high quality, nutritious meals. We thank you for your understanding and patience during this difficult time - we know that the long wait will be worth it. We are looking forward to being able to welcome you in and show you round in the (hopefully) not too distant future.

Finally, it was great to see lots of parents at our Parent Forum on Tuesday. Lots of excellent questions were asked and it was particularly good to get to know some of our year 7 parents on a more individual level. Don't forget that, if you have any questions about the school, you can book an appointment at our SLT surgery which runs every Thursday morning. More information about how to book is below.

Ms Wood

Information

Assessment Week

Our first assessment week begins on Monday 23rd November. The link for timetable for assessments is below. Please support students in showing dedication and ambition in preparing for their tests, they can use their knowledge organisers and quiz booklets, as well as any resources given to them by teachers. These assessments will be used to create student reports and assess progress.

- [Assessment timetables](#)

Parent Day - 9th December

This year's Parent Day will be held Wednesday 9th December (1-7.30pm) online via Google Meet. You will receive a separate email with more information about the day and how to book your slot to attend. A copy of this letter is also [attached](#) to this email - please do make sure that you read the information carefully BEFORE you book your slot using [this form](#).

Parent Governor position

We are seeking to appoint another parent/carers to join our school's local governing body. The letter below, which has also been emailed to you, has more details of what the role entails and how to apply. We have a diverse community and as we want to make sure that we are serving the interests of all members of our community, we would particularly welcome candidates from BAME backgrounds and parents of year 7 students.

[Letter](#)

6th Form Opening - September 2021

Exciting news! We are planning to start a 6th form cohort of Year 12s from September 2021. This is an opportunity for any Year 11s who want to pursue a rigorous academic curriculum, in our fantastic new building. There will be open events, and a shiny prospectus, coming out soon. But please do let anyone know who may be interested in a place for next year and beyond! You can find out more about our offer on our [website](#).

Google Classroom & IT

Please note that all distance learning work will be set on Google Classroom. Copies of students' knowledge organisers are also available on Google Classroom, within the subject areas. Please see the [attached](#) guidance to login. Please contact the school office if you need to borrow a school chromebook but have not yet done so.

SwanComm

- **Next Meeting** - The next SwanComm meeting will be held on **Monday 16th November at 7.30pm** - please see below the Zoom link and log-in details below if you would like to join the meeting.
 - <https://github.zoom.us/j/93678042184?pwd=b1Jkd3k0ZXFNRFV4eGNyWWE4K3Fydz09>
 - Meeting ID: 936 7804 2184 Passcode: 522147
- **FREE Fundraising Tool for SwanComm**
 - Easyfundraising is a **free** website that helps us to raise funds for our school while doing our usual online shopping. It's free, safe and with no extra cost at our normal shopping. SwanComm has so far raised about £110.00 via Easyfundraising. Both parents and staff are able to sign up and help raise money for The Swan! Please see the link below to find out more and get registered.
 - <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/theswancomm1/?invite=209M68&referral-campaign=c2s>

STAG - call for your help with safe travel!

Do you have spare bike lights or high vis items for cyclists and walkers that you no longer need?

As the afternoons get darker STAG (The Swan Travel Action Group) are asking for parents/carers to look out for spare bike lights and high vis clothing or accessories for cyclists and walkers that they can donate to the school. Don't worry if the batteries are flat in the lights - STAG will replace! These items will be kept in a box behind reception to lend to students if they forget their own. If you do have any of these items, can these please be given to your children to hand in to reception. Thank you!

Anti - Bullying Week 2020 - 'United Against Bullying'

Next week we will be celebrating the annual Anti - Bullying campaign which is supported across the country. We have various activities planned including the following:

- Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th November
- Tutor time activities
- Lunch topic focus of the week

This year parents can get involved by going onto this website where they provide tips and resources:

<https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/parents-and-carers>

As you know Kindness is a key value of our school and bullying has no place at the Swan, so I hope you will join us in celebrating this very important week.

Water Bottles

Due to coronavirus we require all children to have a water bottle with them daily at school - children are not able to drink directly from the water fountains. From Monday 16th November this will be included as an essential piece of equipment. If a child forgets a water bottle they will need to go to reception where they will be provided with a bottle of water for the day. However, this will result in a break time detention.

PE Update

As you will be aware we are unable to currently have children changing for PE to minimise any mixing indoors between tutor groups. However, we have made some slight changes in how PE lessons run throughout the winter months. They are listed below:

- Children drop off their belongings in the changing rooms rather than leaving them outside
- If the weather is extreme which could be due to temperature or precipitation we will have to complete Supervised Study indoors
- Children can request to wear a coat if they would like.

Hopefully these changes will mean children continue to enjoy PE lessons while ensuring they and their belongings stay dry and warm. We are all excited and looking forward to being able to use our great sports facilities in the future!

Reminders

SLT Surgery – Thursdays 9.30-10am

- Parents/Carers can drop in to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team with any questions or concerns they have on Thursdays between 9.30am and 10am. No prior-arranged appointment normally is required.
- Due to Covid restrictions, we have to limit the number of visitors on-site. Parents are asked to complete [this form](#) to arrange a phone call or socially distant meeting during this time.

Parentmail - Important Reminder

Please remember to make payment for your child's lunches (the cost per week is £13) to the **Lunches** account in Parentmail. Payment should be made in advance and can be paid weekly, monthly or termly. **Dinner Topup is the account you top up if you wish your child to purchase breakfast/break time snacks.** If you have a query regarding Parentmail please do email office@theswanschool.org.uk.

Enrichment

Library News

Students have adapted well to the new seating arrangements in the Library, and reading is proving very popular during these rather dank days. Today we launched our Remembrance Day book display, showcasing the many titles in our collection that explore experiences of war, whether in Europe, Afghanistan, Iran or the American West.

Please encourage your child to attend the Friday Lunchtime Challenge on 20th November, when students will be creating a display of their own, choosing and recommending certain books on the shelves to their peers.

Books of the week (beginning 16th November): *Five Children on the Western Front* - a poignant follow-on from E. Nesbit's classic *Five Children and It* by award-winning novelist Kate Saunders; and *Now or Never: A Dunkirk Story* by Bali Rai, which explores the conflicted perspectives of an Indian soldier who is subjected to racism when fighting for the British in World War II.

Dr Tessa Roynon, School

Librarian

Swan School Readathon - Read for Good!

A reminder that we are taking part in a sponsored readathon with the charity Read for Good who provide a regular supply of brand new books along with storyteller visits to brighten up the days of children in all of the UK's main children's hospitals. Although we are encouraging pupils to collect a sponsorship form from the library as a motivational tool, your child does not need a sponsorship form to take part and all money raised should be paid online [here](#). The readathon comes to an end on Monday 23rd November. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far!

Mrs Hinze, Head of English

Piano lessons

As our current piano teacher is at capacity, we have recruited a second piano teacher. He is looking for approximately 6 students before he joins us fully, and we expect he will start with us in January. If you are still interested in piano lessons, please email me (katrina.playford@theswanschool.org.uk) and I will put you in contact with him and add you to the waiting list.

Mrs Playford, Head of Performance

Music Performance Video

Due to Covid-19, we have, unfortunately, had to suspend musical ensembles for the time being to avoid added risk of the virus. However, there is still plenty of music being made!

As we are not able to have a carol concert this year, The Swan School would still like to celebrate music being made during these difficult times. Therefore, I am asking any willing students to send me a video (approximately 2 minutes) of the music they are learning and playing at home and in instrumental lessons. I will then turn these into a compilation video to be celebrated in school and sent to parents at the end of this term. Any music sent does not need to be Christmas-themed, but Christmas music is welcome!

We are also looking for musicians to perform at family dining during the last week of term in replacement of performances at the half termly celebration assembly.

If your child is interested in either of these opportunities, do let me know and I will send further information.

Mrs Playford, Head of Performance

Key Dates:

- SwanComm Meetings - 16th November & 18th January (7.30pm - 9pm)
- Data and Planning Day - Friday 4th December (school is closed for student)
- Parent Day - Wednesday 9th December (school is closed for students)
- End of Term - Wednesday 16th December (half day)

