

Parent Bulletin - 20/11/20

- **Data and Planning Day** - Friday 4th December (school is closed for students)
- **Parent Day** - Wednesday 9th December (school is closed for students; students should attend appointments)
- **End of Term** - Wednesday 16th December (half day)
- **SwanComm Meeting** - 18th January (7.30pm - 9pm)



Next week (w/c 23/11/20) will be Week B

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Message from the headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the brand new format of our weekly Parent Bulletin! Recent conversations with parents have reminded us how difficult it has been for families to get to know us as a school because they have not been able to actually come in. This is our attempt to make the information we send to you more easily readable as well as sharing some of the fantastic things that are happening in our school every week.

We would be delighted to hear your thoughts about the new format - is there anything you would like to see more or less of? You can either send your feedback directly to us or share it with your class rep on ClassList who will be collating parent views.

Ms Wood

House Points - Term 2

Bannister (B)	556
Hawking (H)	327
Berners-Lee (L)	573
Yousefzai (Y)	317



Value of the Week - Integrity

- What will you do, when no-one is watching, to make sure you get the most out of your assessments?
- How will you unite to make sure our school is a safe and happy place for EVERYONE?

Library News

Creative approaches to social distancing in the library!

Our Readathon is coming to an end this week; huge thanks to all those who have donated sponsor money in this very good cause. You can keep doing so at readforgood.org/sponsor

I have been busy adding around 80 books to our collection, which students helped me prepare for the shelves during their Library Challenge last Friday. This week we held our first 'Have your Say in Our Display' activity, where people wrote a promotional card for a book of their choice, contributing it to our new book display which persuades readers to try something new. Next Friday will be the finale of our 'Reasons to be Cheerful' writing competition (see below).

Thursday 26 November is Thanksgiving in the USA. To keep spirits high during Assessment Week, and in line with our Friday 'Gratitudes' tradition, we are launching a creative writing project called 'Reasons to be Cheerful'. Students may write an alphabet poem, an acrostic or a free form poem of their own on this theme. They can pick up a sheet from the Library, or write on any piece of paper, on one side only. The (optional) worksheet can also be accessed [here](#). Please encourage your child to decorate their work and to bring their completed piece to the box on the Library desk by Monday 30th November. All submissions will form part of our wall display (along with recent artwork).



Books of the Week

Two feel-good works of fantasy: the super-readable **Young Dracula** ('laugh yourself batty with the FANGtastic Michael Lawrence'), and Emma Carroll's unparalleled In **Darkling Wood**, about 'a place full of magic, secrets and salvation'. Enjoy!

Anti-Bullying Week - Odd Socks Day!



It was great to see so many staff and students taking part in **Odd Socks Day** on Monday as part of **Anti-Bullying Week**. It is just one small gesture to show how we value everyone's unique qualities.



Travel Safety Week

Travel Survey Results

It's great to see that 77% of students are travelling to school by sustainable means - this is particularly impressive given the time of year and Covid making many people nervous about using public transport.

As the evenings get darker, there are lots of ways that we can help students to stay safe when they are walking or cycling (see below)

RESULTS

	%
Car, car share, park & stride	23.4
Public Bus	14.9
Scooter	1.4
Walk	10.8
Cycle	49.1
Other	0.4

- Design a poster to promote cycle safety amongst Swan students.
- Your poster should be eye-catching and have a clear message about how to stay safe.
- Lots of prizes donated by Oxford Products to be won!
- Please give completed posters to Ms Cimmermanis in reception by Friday 27th November.



Poster Competition



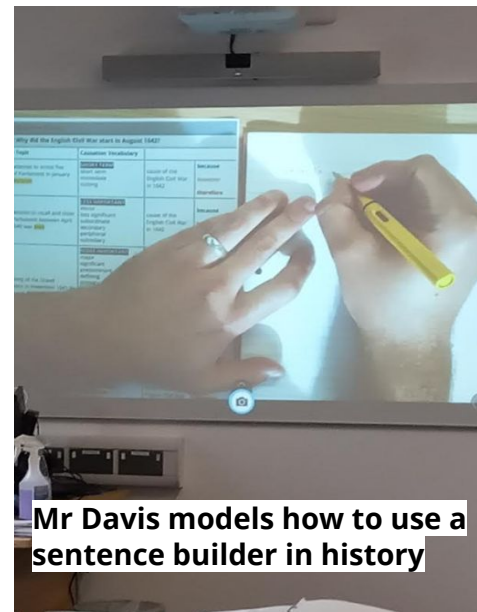
Swan Travel Action Group (STAG) have come up with lots of ways to help make safe travel easier for all:

1. Donated bike lights and high vis accessories in reception (please donate if you have any!)
2. Poster competition - opportunity to win lots of cycle safety prizes donated by Oxford Products
3. Cycle accessory discounts - STAG have arranged for discounts at Walton Street Cycles and Summertown cycles on selected products, including 40% off the Oxford Products Talon helmet.
4. Spare cycle helmets - please let us know if there are financial reasons why your child does not have a helmet as we may be able to help with spares

Teaching and Learning

Staff Educational Research Focus: **Autism**
explained [link 1](#) [link 2](#) [link 3](#)

ACS Highlights - W/B 9th November



Building Update



Our bike sheds are nearly ready - we look forward to seeing even more students cycling to school in the new year!



The main approach to the building & the sixth form centre!



A swan welcomes visitors to the school!

The school field and 'BLUGA' are ready! You can see the final multi-use games area (MUGA) about to be completed in the foreground



Information/Reminders

Assessment Week

Our first assessment week begins on Monday 23rd November. The link for timetable assessments is [here](#). 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.

Parent Day - 9th December

This year's Parent Day will be held Wednesday 9th December (1-7.30pm) online via Google Meet. Please do follow this [link](#) to book your slot to attend if you have not already done so. The deadline for booking your appointment is Monday 23rd November.

Flu Vaccination - Year 7 ONLY. The deadline for the flu vaccination is Sunday 29th November. If you have not yet completed the consent form please click [here](#) to do so.

Information/Reminders

Parent Governor position

We are seeking to appoint another parent/carer to join our school's local governing body. The letter attached [here](#), 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.

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!

Enrichment

Piano lessons

As mentioned last week, we have a new piano teacher hoping to join us in January. If you are interested in your child taking up piano lessons, please email me (katrina.playford@theswanschool.org.uk) and I will add you to the waiting list and put you in contact with the piano teacher.

We also have teachers for the following instruments: guitar, drums, violin and brass. If you are interested in any of these, please let me know and I will put you in contact with the relevant teacher.

Performance opportunities

A reminder that we have two performance opportunities this term: a music performance compilation video, and family dining performances. We have had a number of children sign up to these already and we are looking for even more students!

If you would like your child to sign up to this, let me know by Monday 30th November. You will then have until Monday 7th December to send me your video of your child's music performance (no more than 2 minutes long).

If you would like your child to play at one of the family dining sittings, please let me know by Monday 30th November and I will add them to the schedule. These performances will take place between Monday 14th December to Wednesday 16th December.

Do get in contact with me via email. katrina.playford@th



Free online family learning courses for parents starting soon

Emotional Health: You and your family (three sessions) **either** Thursday 26th November, Thursday 3rd December, Thursday 10th December – 12.30pm to 2.00pm or Monday 30th November, Monday 7th December, Monday 14th December – 9.30am to 11.30am

- Developing communication and relationship skills
- Enhancing self-esteem and empathy with our children
- Understanding and responding to difficult feelings – our own and our children's
- Taking care of our family's emotional health & nurturing ourselves
-

Inspiring Confidence (five sessions) – Wednesday evenings: 2nd, 9th, 16th December & 6th, 13th January – 6.30pm to 8.00pm

- Overcoming low expectations and challenging negative thoughts
- Exploring different learning styles
- Developing a positive attitude to learning in your child
- Encouraging your child to develop a growth mindset

To sign up for these free family learning courses, please contact: Tony Payne, Family Learning Lecturer on tony.payne@abingdon-witney.ac.uk

CAMHS - School In Reach Support

We are very fortunate to be benefiting from CAMHS In Reach School support programme over the remainder of the school year. This will involve some staff training, Student workshops and assemblies and Parent support sessions. These sessions will be focussed on specific themes and tailored to the audience. The first Parent session is on Monday 30th November via Microsoft Teams and the link will be shared next week.

This week we are sharing videos from them on how best you support your child during COVID 19.

- Link to video: <https://www.loom.com/share/040b244d898a4bf38e226caf3b521932>
- Password: Oxfordshire

Parental Engagement

SwanComm

Sign up for the inaugural Swan School Family Quiz: 4-5pm on Sunday 29th November (Zoom). SwanComm are selling tickets for this online event to raise funds for school sports equipment. Tickets are sold on a pay-what-you-want basis from £1 per family.

Tickets via Parentmail (log into your Parentmail account and click on Payments - Shop)

We look forward to seeing you there. Please note in order to have time to email the Zoom link to participants, the deadline for purchasing tickets is midnight on Wednesday 25th November (next week!)