

**PARENT BULLETIN -
Friday 6th November 2020**
(W/C 9th November will be Week B)



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and I hope that you have all enjoyed a restful break. We have returned to school to the news of a second national lockdown. Unlike during the first lockdown, schools will remain open to all students - we support this because we know that school is the very best place for children to receive an excellent education. However, we also recognise that we have additional responsibilities at this time when infections are rising to ensure that we make our school as safe as possible. Please do take the time to read the document attached to this email, which summarises the additional precautions we have put in place. We do apologise for all the changes in school measures recently - we are trying to keep on top of all the new guidelines that are coming in thick and fast!

I am pleased to report that our remote learning systems for ensuring that students can continue to learn if they or a teacher are unable to attend school are working well. Your children may have reported back that some of their lessons at the start of this week have been taught through video by absent teachers. We are also filming 'live' lessons in school that are sent home to any students isolating at home. We can't pretend that we have everything completely perfected yet but these measures are certainly going a huge way to minimising disruption to learning.

We know that this is a challenging period for many families and we want to be able to support our entire community, not just our students. Please do let us know if you are experiencing difficulties or if there is anything we can do to help.

Ms Wood

Information

Parent Forum - 10th November

Our first Parent Forum of the Year will take place on **Tuesday 10th November (5-6.30pm)** with a focus on **Our Approach to Behaviour**. The format will be a 15 minute presentation, followed by specific questions about the topic, then a more general Q&A. It would be great to see lots of parents there. Due to social distancing, the forum will be held on Google Meet - please click on the link below.

- Google Meet ID - meet.google.com/stc-xhiy-sqv

Parent Day - 9th December

Advanced notice that this year's Parent Day will be held Wednesday 9th December (1-7.30pm) online via Google Meet. Parents/Carers will shortly be asked to select an hour slot to attend and, after that, teachers will book appointments to meet with you. As always, parents will not be able to meet with every teacher, but we will focus instead on ensuring that conversations are more targeted and meaningful. More details will follow next week.

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!

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 the 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

Cold Conditions - Coats

Due to the coronavirus measures we are having to keep the building well ventilated, meaning windows and doors are kept open. Due to this the building may be colder than normal. We encourage students to wear plenty of layers underneath their uniform. If a child is feeling cold then they can ask their teacher if they can wear their coat.

Equipment Folders

We are in the process of getting a delivery of folders for the children to store their planners etc in. These are on order and will be sold at £1 each from reception. Children will be able to purchase these from reception and they will need to be paid for via ParentPay. As they are **NOT** available as yet, if your child does have a folder that is broken, please let them know they need to come to reception and we will try and repair this as best we can.

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.

Homework Club

Please do make sure that you keep us up to date about whether you would like your child to attend and which days. If you no longer wish your child to attend Homework Club, please do let us know so we can update our registers and make the space available for another family. We are not able to remind students about homework club so we suggest that you put a reminder in your child's planner if they are likely to forget to attend.

Cycle Helmets and High Visibility Items

It is great to see so many of our students cycling to school - we have nearly 50% of them doing so! Please can you remind your children that they do need to wear a cycle helmet and high visibility items to keep them safe - this is especially important as it starts to get dark earlier in the evening. Students are welcome to wear a high vis/reflective coat as an alternative to their plain, dark one if they are cycling to school.

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.

Annual Flu Vaccination - Year 7 ONLY

The primary school flu vaccination programme is being extended for year 7s this year. Please find attached a [letter](#) regarding your child's flu vaccination. If you would like your child to receive a vaccination you will need to complete the Consent Form, via the link below, so your child can receive their Flu Vaccination. This link will cease to work 2 working days before the session.

- **Session Date - Wednesday 2nd December 2020**

To access the online consent form, please click on the following link:

<https://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk/forms/flu>

Free School Meals

A reminder for any new or existing parents who think they may qualify for Free School Meals, please submit a request via our [website](#). This will ensure that you do not have to pay for lunches, and also means that the school can receive additional funding.

Reporting Student Absence

A reminder that the school office needs to be informed **each day of a child's absence** from school as soon as possible in the morning.

Our preferred method of communicating student absence is email as it helps make sure we get all the accurate information and can easily get back in contact:

- Parents should email office@theswanschool.org.uk including ABSENCE in the title of the email.
- Email/message needs to state child's full name and tutor, and why the child is off, particularly if they have suspected Covid or another infectious disease
- If the child is off due to [Covid symptoms](#) then the parents need to arrange a Covid test and get a negative test result before the child comes back to school. The school will provide home learning resources and a chromebook while the student is off school.

Parents still have the option to telephone the school and leave a message if they have no access to email.

Enrichment

Library News

Books and reading continue to be a great comfort and escape at this stressful time! Students have come to the Library to recite poems this week, and borrowing rates have been high as our three-week Readathon has begun.

Our showcase subject for November is Art, and we have some beautiful books on display. By the time you read this students will have made their own bookmarks as part of this Friday's lunchtime Challenge. Next week, the Friday Challenge is a repeat of our highly successful 'Be a Lunchtime Librarian' activity - I am truly grateful for all the help I receive from the children with processing donated and new books ready for the shelves.

Books of the Week (beginning 9th November): *The Owl Service*, by Alan Garner - a classic text in which the design on a china dinner service takes on a life of its own; and *Zebra Crossing Soul Song* by Sita Bramachari - a super readable novel in which music and singing enable the main character both to survive and to thrive.

Dr Tessa Roynon, School

Librarian

Instrumental Lessons

We are looking to see if any parents would be interested in their child learning the flute in school. We are on the waiting list for a flute teacher from the Oxford Music Service, but we are looking for a couple more students to sign up. If your child would like to try learning the flute, register your interest with the Oxford Music Service [here](#). Instruments can also be hired from the Oxford Music Service.

A reminder that we currently offer the following instruments in school: piano, guitar, drums, violin and brass. If you would be interested in your child learning any of these instruments, please contact me directly at katrina.playford@theswanschool.org.uk.

Mrs Playford, Head of Performance

5K Club

5K club was such a success last term, with some amazing ambition and dedication shown! Luckily this is allowed to continue this term (as it requires minimal contact) but with the following changes until restrictions change.

- Students are unable to use the changing rooms due to Covid risk, so if they are participating in 5K club, they should wear their PE kit to school that day
- We will be staying on school site to run the 5K every week, rather than doing a mixture of on and off site.

We meet every Monday, at 3.50pm outside the sports block!

Mr Macnaughton, Deputy Headteacher

Six Family Learning Courses starting in November

Tony Payne will be running [these](#) six fantastic Family Learning courses in November. To sign up just email him on tony.payne@abingdon-witney.ac.uk

OX2 Collective - amazing FREE drama opportunity!

The North Wall theatre still has some free places in OX2 Collective, a drama company made up of Swan students and St Edward's students who will make and take a play to the National Theatre Connections festival 2020. If your child is interested in drama and will turn 13 years old by the 4th January, please encourage them to sign up and take part. **Email Abie Walton: waltona@thenorthwall.com** to ask any questions or sign up. **The deadline is 9th November.**

Swan School Readathon - Read for Good!

This year we have decided to take part in a sponsored readathon with the charity Read for Good. For children in hospital, books and stories are particularly important – they comfort, distract, reassure and entertain. Read for Good provides 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. Children unable to leave their beds can choose books from our specially designed mobile bookcase which wheels right up to their bedside. Because they are brand new, the books are safe for those at high risk of infection. Plus, the Swan school will get 20% of the total we raise to spend on library books! Your child was given a sponsorship form on Monday during assembly; please encourage them to read and seek sponsorship. The readathon comes to an end on Monday 23rd November. All sponsorship money should be paid online [here](#).

Key Dates:

- Parent Forum - 10th November
- SwanComm Meetings - 16th November & 7th December (7.30pm - 9pm)
- Data and Planning Day - Friday 4th December
- Parent Day - Wednesday 9th December
- End of Term - Wednesday 16th December (half day)