



*Inspiring learning,
nurturing aspiration*



NEWSLETTER

22nd February 2017

Dear all

Welcome back to school after last week's half term break. I hope that you all enjoyed at least a change of routine, even if it wasn't a holiday for you from work. The children have returned back to school enthusiastically: refreshed, ready to learn and to be the very best that they can be. Their attitudes to learning are fantastic!

In the news this time ...

Amid much excitement and probably a little nervousness, Monday morning this week saw almost all of our Year 6 pupils at school by 8.15am, ready to head off to Wales for the start of their residential visit to Woodlands Outdoor Education Centre. Their week has started really well – do look at our school website to see news from their week. We are, as ever, very grateful to all our staff who are willing to give their time, energy and enthusiasm in taking the children on these visits – in this case Mr Bishop, Mrs Spiers, Mrs Reaney and Miss Allen. Needless to say, if they weren't willing to do this, the children would not get this brilliant opportunity.

Still on the subject of residential visits, our **Year 2 overnight residential visit to Hill End**, near Farmoor, has now become one of our St Swithun's traditions. If you have a child currently in Year 2, there will be a meeting for parents/carers after school on Wednesday 29th March. Starting at 3.20pm, we will explain all about this visit and answer any questions that you may have. Please put the date in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you there. Usually this meeting lasts about 30-45 minutes.

Did you hear about **the Great Fire of Kennington**?

Just before half term, Key Stage 1 welcomed fire officers from the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. They came along with their mascot Drago, and the children were able to learn about fire safety, including the importance of having smoke alarms, of testing them weekly ('Test it Tuesday') and of having an escape plan, in the (hopefully unlikely) event of having a fire at home.

However, that wasn't all that kept the fire officers busy. The Year 1 children in Ash and Sycamore had been learning all about the Great Fires of London, which included building a range of thatched houses.

COMING UP SOON:

Friday 24 February
Year 6s return from Woodlands
(residential visit) approx. 7.30pm

Monday 27 February
Parents/Carers' Consultations
All classes 3.30-6.00pm

Tuesday 28 February
Silver Birch class assembly
2.30pm KS2 hall
Parents/Carers' Consultations
All classes 5.00-7.30pm

Wednesday 1 March
Parents/Carers' Consultations
Larch and Silver Birch only
3.30-6.00pm

Thursday 2 March
World Book Day (Pyjamas!)
Parents/Carers' Consultations
All classes except Larch, Silver
Birch and Saplings 3.30-6.00pm

Tuesday 14 March
Sycamore Class assembly
2.30pm KS2 hall

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Having set them out to resemble a London street and with the children safely inside, the fire officers set fire to the houses, illustrating how quickly fire can spread. In fact, it turned out to be surprisingly difficult to set fire to the cardboard! However, once blazing merrily, the fire did spread quickly and the fire officers then got busy with their hoses. If only they had been able to do that in 1666!



A very warm welcome

We extend a very warm welcome to new children who have joined us this week:

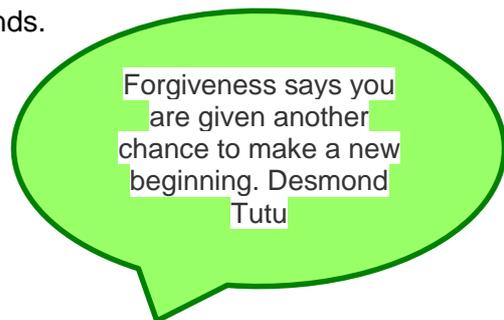
Isabell (Poplar) and her sister Eleanor (Saplings (Meerkats))
Mantas (Willow)

We look forward to welcoming Ana to Silver Birch next week.

We all hope that you will all settle in quickly and soon have lots of new friends.

Our value

Our value for this half term is 'forgiveness', and as a separate attachment with this newsletter is a sheet featuring this value, which I hope you will find of interest. It contains activities for families to do together alongside topics to stimulate discussion and reflection.



World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March this year. We will be asking the children (and grown-ups!) to wear their pyjamas to school for the day. We would like to take this opportunity to promote the pleasure in reading aloud, sharing stories with others and particularly bedtime stories. The children will be getting together with their buddy class to do exactly that, either reading stories that they have written or sharing a favourite book of theirs from home or school.

The children will also be receiving a World Book Day token. All you will need to do is to take it to your local bookseller and swap it for one of the TEN (exclusive, new and completely free) World Book Day books. Or, if you'd prefer, you can use your book token to get £1 off any full price book instead.

The World Book Day website - <http://www.worldbookday.com/> - has lots of areas to explore, including quizzes, competitions and video books. There is even a parents' 'bookfinder'.

- <http://www.worldbookday.com/ideas/parents/> - to help you select the next good read for your child.

Thank you for your support, we are really looking forward to another exciting event at St. Swithun's.

Helping our children to be safe online



Think carefully before posting pictures or videos of yourself. Once you've put a picture of yourself online most people can see it and may be able to download it, it's not just yours anymore.

Please talk about this important message with your children. We hope that our children will grow up to think of the internet as a great resource, but something of which they should be slightly wary – a bit like crossing a road - it's fine as long as you take care and take appropriate actions to keep yourself safe.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our spring consultation meetings next week, when our class teachers will all be available to discuss your child's attainment and progress so far this year. We hope that all children in Key Stage 2 will take part in these conversations. Starting next week, we will also be running our annual survey for parents/carers and hope that you will be able to take a few minutes to tell us what you think we're doing well and give us any suggestions that you have for making St Swithun's School even better. As usual, the survey can be completed online or on paper. Thank you in anticipation of your help.

With best wishes

Helen Atkinson

and all the St Swithun's staff team