



St Swithun's Half Termly News

Week ending 18th October 2024



Valuing individuals
Aspiring and achieving together in faith

St Swithun's C of E Primary Academy's Vision

Love bears all things

Believes all things

Hopes all things

Endures all things

(1 Corinthians 13:7)



Our Gospel Virtues for Autumn are: GENEROSITY & COMPASSION

Our Character Traits for Autumn 2 are: RESPECT & INCLUSION

Dear Parents and Carers,

'Sweet Caroline'

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 24/25 academic year! As we embrace the new school year, we are excited to share the wonderful experiences and achievements of our children at St Swithun's. Our school community continues to thrive, and we are grateful for your ongoing support.

I have to start by acknowledging the amazing PopUK Event that took place this term. The whole school participated in the PopUK singing event that culminated in two performances at the Grove Church. This fantastic opportunity allowed our children to engage with music in a fun and inspiring way. The event featured a range of popular songs, and our children showcased their talents with enthusiasm and joy.

A special thank you to the PopUK team and to our school staff for bringing the whole thing together. Thank you also to all the parents, carers and extended family members who supported the children and the school by attending. The energy, excitement and enthusiasm in the Church was simply amazing and ultimately, it was heartwarming and a pleasure as the Head teacher to see our children shine on stage. As a school we look forward to more musical opportunities in the future!

Our School Council have engaged in a partnership with the Retford Rotary Club and will be leading Collective Worship on Friday 15th November where they will be sharing with the school an initiative called 'Aquabox'. 'Aquabox' is a charity and community project set up by the Rotary Club to provide safe drinking water, through the use of filtration units, and humanitarian aid to crisis zones around the world.

St Swithun's is also proud to announce that we have our new team of 'Rotakids' who will work alongside Mrs Tunnard and the Rotary Club. We look forward to **Leo, Miya and Casey** getting involved in various projects as the year progresses.

We now have our newly trained Sports Crew and Mini medics. They will be supporting our children during breaktimes after the holiday. Mrs Tunnard said that during the training day they were a credit to the school. Well done to, **Angel, Rumen, Emilie, Coen, Evi and Amelia.**

In other exciting news, we are delighted to announce that Mrs Snowden is expecting her second child. Mrs Snowden will be with us until early in the New Year so she has all the fun of the build of Christmas to enjoy before she heads off on maternity leave.

Thank you for your generous donations during 'Harvest'. We have gathered quite a substantial amount of food which is amazing. We will take the collection to the local food hubs so that members of the Retford community can directly benefit from your kindness.

My final thank you goes out to the dedicated and hard-working staff at St Swithun's. I make no apology for continually highlighting how great they all are and how much they give on a daily basis to support your children and the community. A fantastic and committed team for sure!

Please continue to support your children at home through the encouragement of daily reading and helping with any homework tasks or extended activities. We will be looking at planning some more theme days moving forward so please look out for these as we would like you to visit us and be a part of the experiences on offer.

Key Messages

Whole School Attendance – Currently 94%



95%	=	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

**ATTENDANCE
MATTERS**

**WHAT DO YOUR
ATTENDANCE
FIGURES
ACTUALLY MEAN?**

BE SMART BE THERE!

Percentages based on 190 academic days

We have had a good start to the year, with many classes having a large number of children in each day. Most classes are at or around the mid 90% mark when we do the weekly checks, so this is really encouraging. Thank you.

Our Governors continue to look closely at the school attendance and whilst they are pleased with many of the things they hear and see, they are concerned about some of our children who have missed a significant amount of school time, not only last year, but in previous years too. The facts above, highlight clearly the negative impact that not regularly attending school can have on a child. I am truly concerned about some of our children who are not where they could or should be in terms of their age and stage. While sometimes, there are other contributing factors that impact learning, many of the case studies explored by the Governors show that it's the persistent absentees who are the furthest behind in terms of academic progress and personal growth.

I connected with many families last year in terms of their child's attendance and while in some cases there has been a marked improvement, I feel that there is still a long way to go. Please ensure that if your child is fit to do so, they attend school each day.

Uniform

The new school year has started really positively in terms of children wearing the correct uniform. On the whole, it's really good, however, there are still a small number of children coming to school wearing trainers and hoodies that are not part of the school uniform. Please can this be looked at during the half term break. Thank you.

PE kits

Please make sure that your child has a full PE kit in school every Tuesday and on their specific PE days. Overall, I am really pleased with what I am seeing so thank you. At present, there are only a handful of children who do not have the correct kit in school. We are working with parents and carers to remedy this. KS2 children can bring their kit to school on a Monday, leave it in their locker and take it home again on the Friday. As we move into the winter months, children should also bring warmer outer layers such as tracksuit bottoms and a thicker top to put over their white t-shirt.



Jewellery

Earrings - children are permitted to only wear studs and these must be removed for PE and swimming sessions. All other non-essential items of jewellery should remain at home. Watches are permitted but children must understand that they are responsible for their watch so I would urge that they don't wear anything too expensive or something that's deemed to be a family treasure.

EVENTS TEAM

Please see diary dates below for up and coming events.



- 4th November – All children return to school
- 5th November – Bonfire Night Themed Lunch
- 8th November – Remembrance Day Themed Lunch
- 11th November – Start of Anti-Bullying Week
- 12th November – Year 5 children have a Taster Day at Retford Oaks Academy
- 15th November – Children in Need Day
- 18th November – Start of UK Parliament Week
- 21st November – KS2 Orienteering Event
- 28th November – Christingle Service TBC
- 3rd December – Jingle Jog Event
- 3rd December – Flu Vaccinations
- 9th December – Golden Assembly
- 11th December – Christmas Service TBC
- 11th December – Events Team Christmas Disco
- 12th December – Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day
- 18th December – EYF5 Nativity (am)
- 18th December – KS1 Nativity (pm)
- 19th December – KS1 Nativity (am)
- 20th December – Last Day of Term

NB: Whilst we will make every effort to keep to the above dates, sometimes events need to be moved. We will inform everyone through class Dojo should this be the case.

Wishing each and every one of you a peaceful and enjoyable half term.
We look forward to welcoming back all the children on **Monday 4th November 2024**.

Look after yourselves and each other...
Mr. Charly