



St Swithun's Half Termly News

Week ending 29th March 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 the Summer Term are: TRUTHFULNESS & SERVICE

Our Character Traits for Summer 1 are: MOTIVATION & TRUST

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the Spring 2 Newsletter.

We have had another busy but enjoyable half term where we have packed lots in. Just one of the highlights was our interactive Science Day, where the children were focusing on the topic of 'Time'. It was a fantastic day and it was great to see so many of you attend the first session with your children. To enhance the experience, we had a visit from a scientist who wowed KS2 with all sorts of exciting experiments. One nice reflection was from a child in Rufford who said they would like to be a Chemist when they grow up! We also had a visit from a member of staff from the Bassetlaw Museum who came to talk about and to share information about fossils. I know our younger children really enjoyed this experience and hopefully will be digging deep into the sand, the next time they visit the seaside. Thank you again as ever for supporting your children with their costumes. There was such a variety in terms of 'Scientist' and it was obvious that a lot of thought and time went into them. It's much appreciated as it does help to bring the day alive and to make it a special one. Thank you to Mrs. Ogden for all the hard work she put into the planning and organising of the day and to all the staff for being creative and enthusiastic when facilitating the activities.

We also had a wonderful 'World Book Day' where once again, the children came to school in an array of amazing costumes. This was enhanced with the special lunch that was well attended by parents and carers. Thank you again for your support and being a part of your child's school experiences. Other experiences have included our Mother's Day breakfast and coffee mornings. I'd like to thank the 'Events Team' for all the hard work given during this term. These special occasions don't happen easily and as you are probably aware, there's lots of preparation and planning that takes place before the actual day. All our events and occasions have been a success and therefore I would like to thank all those involved with the Events Team, as without them, none of the extras could happen.

I'd also like to give a special shout out to Mrs. Watson for the extremely generous donation of that amazing hamper! Just tremendous and such a kind thing to do. To end this paragraph, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for your generosity in giving to our various charity collections this year. We live in challenging times so I know that it's not always easy. Thank you.

The summer term always brings with it the assessment season and in particular, a focused time for our Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6 children. All children have been working hard this term but I'd like to highlight the dedication and commitment that I have seen whilst observing and working with our Year 6 children. They have really risen to the challenge and have worked extremely hard showing resilience and determination to improve understanding across the key subjects. You should all be very proud of them as they are a credit to you and to the school.

Golden Award

Big time congratulations to our Spring Term winners. Such wonderful things were said about each of the children who looked really happy to receive their well-deserved 'Wonderland' book token and certificate. Well done to **Amelia, Ana, Bradley, Sophie-Rose, Ruman, Evie-Rose, Esme & Faye!**

Reading Challenge

Well done to our winners of this term's reading challenge and thank you to you folks at home who are taking the time to sit with your children and complete their Home-School diary. We can't emphasise enough the importance of reading at home. It ultimately makes a massive difference to a child's ability to read fluently and more importantly, understand what they are reading. Our proud winners this term are **Ted, Ronnie, Joey, Nellie, Florence, Amelia, Fred & Maddison**. Thank you, Mrs. Snowden for making this happen.

EVERGREENS

We had our very first Evergreen assembly this term where we acknowledged all the children who had remained 'Green to Go' for the entire Spring term. This is by no means an easy thing to achieve and I know that the staff are extremely proud of the **45** KS1 and KS2 children who received their certificate. In recognition of this, we were lucky enough to have a visit from the Poet and Author, Paul Cookson. The Evergreen children were treated to a fun and entertaining afternoon where part of the experience was to compose and perform a poem they had written with Paul. All I could hear was laughter and enjoyment coming from the hall which tells me that they were really enjoying their well-deserved treat. I am hoping that by the end of the Summer term, the number of Evergreen children will have increased. Some children only just missed out so I am sure that they will be able to shine throughout the Summer and be a part of the celebration at the end of the school year. There will be an Evergreen 'Roll of Honour' on our website real soon, so please look out for that. The Evergreen children will be famous across the World!

Once again, the staff at St Swithun's have worked their socks off all term and have been outstanding in terms of wanting the best for the children. I make no apologies for continuing to highlight how much I value their selfless approach to providing the best for the St Swithun's community. They are tired and the Easter break has come at just the right time. The holiday is more than deserved. As ever, the Governors, SNMAT and myself, want to thank each of them for all their dedication and hard work and wish them a well-earned rest and enjoyable R & R with family and friends.

The school would also like to thank the support received via the local community. This comes in many forms: St Saviour's Church, The Grove Church, The Bassetlaw Museum, the Local Library and the Retford Rotary Club who have been so generous in donating funding to help us with our new Library.

In other news...

Whole School Attendance – Currently 90.6%



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

Congratulations to all our children who received their certificates for 95% and above this week. And an even BIGGER WELL DONE, to those children who received a certificate for 100%. It was great to see so many smiling faces. While this is great news for these children, there are still too many other children who have worrying attendance and this is ultimately affecting their academic and social and emotional development. This is becoming more apparent and is highlighted through our assessments and is observed daily during lessons. We currently have nearly a third of the school who are classed as persistent absentees (Attendance below 90%). Unless your child is ill, please ensure they attend school. Each and every year group is important and none more so than when embedding key learning and developmental skills in Nursery and Reception. We are here to help if we can, so if there are challenges that we can support with then please contact the school office or talk with your child's class teacher. I am truly worried about some of our children as they have already missed a huge chunk of school life brought about by the pandemic. More missed school will ultimately lead to extra future challenges that can be avoided with regular attendance and engagement with school. Thank you for your on-going support and partnership. Together, we can make the future brighter for all children.

School Sport

A huge 'Well Done' to all the children who have represented the school this term. Once again, they have been great role models when out and about and have done St Swithun's proud. We have been involved in basketball, dodgeball and rugby events and we need a big shout out for our KS1 children who were superstars when they performed their dance routine in front of a packed crowd at the Retford Oaks Academy. They should be very, very proud of themselves. Thank you, Mrs. Tunnard for ensuring these events happen! Please see Dojo for the photos of our children in action.

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 you ensure your child wears the correct uniform.



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.

School Meals

We have an exciting new summer menu for the children on their return to school. Please see the school website for the full menu <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/st-swithuns-cofe/UploadedDocument/cb5ac3ad-29cb-4e6d-81a4-d60500b5fa95/st-swithuns-summer-menu.pdf>

We encourage you take a look and check out the new menu with your child, we have build your own lunch option as part of the main meal option and for puddings, chocolate crispy and strawberry milkshake, crispy lemon tart, Noah's apple sponge and custard and lots more!

A reminder to parents the price for a school lunch will be £2.75 after Easter, we have had to increase the cost. Our Catering Services had been subject to significant inflationary pressures over the previous 12 months, with significant upward pressures on labour and food



costs. That pressure is set to continue. We recognise the financial pressures faced by families and have kept the price increase as minimal as possible.

Walking to school

At present, our Year 5 & 6 children are allowed to walk to school with permission from a parent or carer. Please be aware, that next academic year, Sept 24 – July 25, it will only be our **Year 6** children that will be allowed to walk to school unaccompanied. These children will still require written consent from a parent or carer.

St Swithun's children, staff and Governors wish each and every one of you a happy Easter break. Enjoy it to the max!

We look forward to welcoming your children back to school on
Monday 15th April 2024.

Look after yourselves and each other...

Mr. Charly



15th April - All children return to school

26th April – Winnie the Pooh lunch

6th May – Bank Holiday Monday (No School)

13th May – 17th May – Key Stage 2 Assessment Week

15th May – Coffee Morning with Mrs. Howlett and Mrs. Furmage

24th May – 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.