



St Swithun's Half Termly News

Week ending 10th February 2023



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 Spring are: COURAGE & FORGIVENESS

Amazingly, we have reached the half way point of the academic year! Unbelievable!!

I want to start this newsletter by saying a massive thank you for your support during our recent whole school 'Number Day'. It was lovely to see so many of you joining in with the children and taking part in the planned activities. I spoke to many of you throughout the morning and enjoyed observing you interact and share valuable experiences that your children will never forget. I know that the children thoroughly enjoyed you being a part of their special morning. It was certainly evident on their faces and through the enthusiasm they showed. I'd like to thank all the staff for opening up their classrooms and for facilitating the day to make it one to remember. A special thank you to Mrs Snowden, our Lead Maths teacher, who put in a lot of work behind the scenes to help ensure the day was a success. We raised £76 for the NSPCC, so once again, many thanks for your kind and generous donations. Please look out for more Maths, Reading and Writing workshops in the future.

I have been overwhelmed by your generosity towards the school and would like to thank you for your kind donations that help provide the extras for our children. I currently have the largest bag of popcorn I've ever seen waiting in the wings for our film nights and other special occasions.

As we move into Spring 2 we edge closer to the Year 6 and KS1 testing weeks. These focused tests are in my opinion, an unfortunate part of the school year. I am mindful that particularly for the Year 6 children, testing weeks can cause anxiety and bring on levels of concern for both the children and parents. We will ensure that our children receive the guidance and care to navigate positively through the coming weeks and will include you as parents and carers on this journey. There will be a meeting for Year 6 parents and carers during Spring 2 and the children will be given regular opportunities to reflect and share thoughts and feelings during this busy part of the school year. The KS1 team will also inform Year 2 parents and carers about the up and coming testing period, although the aim will be to navigate this differently to ensure the children are not really made aware of this and therefore shouldn't become anxious or concerned about them.

I want to extend my thanks to all the staff, Governors and volunteers associated with St Swithun's School. They have once again worked extremely hard to ensure the children and staff have numerous opportunities to flourish and grow as individuals. Our journey together continues to build on positive experiences and where there are challenges, the school community work together to find solutions and ways to move forward. We continue to advocate an open door policy so please continue to connect with the school staff during the second half of the academic year. The school staff have been brilliant over this first half of the academic year, working tirelessly and very often going above and beyond. They more than deserve the up and coming break.

Key Messages

Whole School Attendance – Currently 88%

School Target is 95%



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 take attendance really seriously and I am very passionate about children attending school every day. Whilst I totally understand there will be circumstances where children are not able to be in school, the message is simple. All other times, children **should attend school and be on time** to walk in with their class at the start of each day. As a school, we continue to raise the profile of attendance through a weekly class challenge and identifying numbers of children who have a 100% record. Certificates and prizes are awarded and celebrations are held termly.*

I will continue to monitor individual attendance and in some instances may need to invite parents/carers into school to attend an attendance panel meeting.

*Children should be lined up on the playground by **08:45**. There will be an adult on the playground ready to greet them.*

Uniform

Brand Savvy will no longer be supplying our school uniform. Logo Leisurewear, a school uniform specialist will be taking over as our uniform supplier for the school.

You have the same option of home delivery or collect from school so you will not be effected by the move.

The link below takes you to the online store:



<https://logoleisurewear.com/product-category/schools/schools-st-swithuns-c-of-e-primary/>

Prior to the end of this transfer the SVP here in Retford purchased all their stock of uniforms from Brand Savvy and have some stock for families requiring them. They do not charge but donations will be accepted.

If you would like to make an enquiry for any uniform stock they may have available please do not hesitate to contact Maura Moss the President of St Joseph's SVP on 07795285424 or visit their SVP Uniform Project page on Facebook and leave them a message.



PE kits

Please make sure that your child has a full PE kit in school every Wednesday and on their specific PE days. Overall, I am really pleased with what I am seeing so thank you.

However, there are a still a small number of children who are still not coming to school with kit or if they do have kit, it's not necessarily the correct kit. KS2 children can bring their kit to school on a Monday, leave it in their locker and take it home again on the Friday.

Jewellery

I have notice that some children have come to school wearing hooped earrings. Children are permitted to only where studs and these must be removed for PE sessions. This rule is in place to reduce the potential risk of injury.

PTA

The PTA continue to be proactive around school and this term put on a film night for our Foundation and KS1 children. More events planned for Spring 2 so keep those eyes peeled.

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is an effective tool that allows instant communication between school and parents and carers. It's great to see so many of you interacting and using this app to its full. However, could I please ask that you think about the times you send staff messages, thinking mainly about their well-being and personal lives outside of school. I feel that in terms of regular interaction between yourselves and members of staff, the hours of 07:45

and 18:00 are more than acceptable and should allow that free flow of information between both parties.

What else is going on at SWI?

Reading Challenge

Our whole school reading challenge continues to prove popular with a great many of our children. Our Spring 1 winners are: Well done, **Mason H & Peyton H (Clumber) Jayden, (Rufford) and Tilly (Newstead)** and well done to all the children who had their names in the class jar. A super effort by everyone!

Reading Mornings

We will continue to offer parents and carers the opportunity to have some special reading time with their children at the start of the day in Clumber class. The doors open on a Tuesday and Thursday morning at 08:30. It's been lovely seeing so many of you take up this opportunity already so I would encourage more of you (if you can) to come along and share some quality reading time with your child before school starts. If you need to bring siblings along too, this is fine. The only thing we'd ask, is that they also use this time to read with you.

School Sport

A huge 'Well Done' to all the children who have represented the school during the last 3 half terms. So far, we have entered lots of inter school competitions and festivals. We have been involved in 10 events so far with many more planned for next half term. Children from Year 1 through to Year 6 have represented the school and truly benefitted from the opportunity to explore and excel in different environments and with different children. Thank you, Mrs Tunnard for ensuring these events happen! Please see the page below for photos of our children in action.

Leadership Opportunities

Our Collective Worship group has been very proactive this half term delivering CW to Clumber class, working with Reverend Ben and taking lead roles in whole school events. Well done and thank you to everyone involved.

The 'Sports Crew' and 'Young Leaders' have been out and about over lunchtimes supporting children in a variety of activities. We are all looking forward to the warmer weather where these activities will continue to offer alternative focused games for all children.

We were lucky enough to have the Town Hall at our disposal this term and last week we took the School and Eco council, along with the newly formed 'Well-Being committee to have a joint meeting. Whilst there, the children discussed new projects that we will embark on next term.

School Clubs

This half term we have had Gymnastics, Choir and ECO clubs happening. A big thank you to the staff who are organizing and supervising these. With staff going above and beyond, they wouldn't happen. For Spring 2, there will be a Year 6 club starting (RRR) and a KS1 Gymnastics club. As well as these, our Gardening Club is starting up again on Tuesdays after school.

Food Hub

After our Christmas efforts to serve our community we are now venturing into another project which will once again see our children, staff, Governors and parents involved in helping serve others. Working in partnership with Grove Methodist Church, we will be helping facilitate a Food Hub each Thursday afternoon for the local community.

School Sport Photos



Next half term



20th February - All children return to school

22nd & 28th February – SEN Reviews

24th February – Stand up to Bullying Day

2nd February – World Book Day (You are a reader!)

7th March – Mother's Day Breakfast (PTA)

14th March – Whole School Science Day

28th March – KS2 Film Night (PTA)

29th & 30th March – Parents' Evening

31st March – Last Day of the Spring Term

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a restful, peaceful and safe half term. Enjoy your special family time together and we will look forward to connecting again with all of you on Monday 20th February.

Mr Charly