



St Swithun's Half Termly News

Week ending 31st March 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 Summer are: FRIENDSHIP & RESPECT

Hi Everyone!

I sometimes have to pinch myself when I acknowledge where we are at in terms of the school year. Two full terms already done with only one more to go. Things are moving very quickly for sure. Whilst reflecting on this, I am reminded about all the amazing things that have happened during the Autumn and Spring terms. I am so proud of the staff team here at St Swithun's as they have done nothing but work tirelessly to ensure your children get the best. It's because of this that I have been able to witness children develop and flourish as individuals, not only academically, but in growing as a unique person. For a someone who is new in post, I couldn't ask for anymore. It's been a pleasure being a part of your children's journey and I am eager to see what the summer term will bring. Even more successes I'm sure!

Thank you to all the adults who joined us on our Science day this half term. As with the math's day, it was lovely to see so many of you joining in with the children and taking part in the planned activities. A special thank you to Mrs Ogden, our Lead teacher for Science, who put in a lot of work behind the scenes to help ensure the day was a success. As a staff, we all agree that these enrichment days are really positive experiences and so they will definitely become a part of our curriculum offer going forward.

Another thank you also to those adults who have attended our workshops this half term. They have been well attended with parents and carers benefiting from EYFS through to year 6. Please talk to the class teachers or myself if there is a particular area of school life that you would like us to explore through a workshop scenario. Whatever we can do to help strengthen the partnership between home and school will most definitely benefit the children. So please, just let us know what you think would help.

Whilst focusing on partnerships, I have been humbled by the generosity in terms of donations and time given by parents and carers. We have our PTA members who have been very busy this half term and we've also had parents who have helped in terms of interior design and furniture removal. As well as this, we had some parents volunteering at our recent Food Hub partnership with Grove Church. Honestly, some things can't be done without your help so we are grateful for the time you give up that helps to enhance life here at St Swithun's and for the wider community.

The summer term always brings with it the testing 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 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 subjects. You should all be very proud of them as they are a credit to you and to the school.

As ever, I want to end by extending my thanks to all the staff, Governors and volunteers associated with St Swithun's School. The school wouldn't be what it is without them. Each adult associated with the school brings a unique talent and skill set that ensures our children are given many chances to develop positively and where possible, excel. As we move forward into the final third of academic year, I promise, there will be even greater opportunities ahead for our school community.

In other news...Mrs Ogden is fast approaching the start of her new and exciting adventure! Don't worry though, she's not going quite yet and will be with us for a short while after the Easter break. I can now confirm that we have secured a teacher for Rufford class. Her name is Miss Poluck and she will be with us from April 17th which will allow her to initially work alongside Mrs Ogden and the Rufford team to ensure a smooth handover.

Please take a few minutes to read the remainder of this newsletter and to marvel at what the children have been up to on the individual class newsletters.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a restful, peaceful and safe Easter break. Enjoy your special family time together and we will look forward to connecting again with all of you on Monday 17th April.

Mr Charly

Key Messages

Whole School Attendance – **Currently 87%**

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. Children should be lined up on the playground by **08:45**. There will be an adult on the playground ready to greet them. School starts at **08:50** so please ensure your child arrives on time as anything after 09:00 is classed as an unauthorised absence.*

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. This term our 27 high attenders were treated to a magic show! A great time was had by all. Along with this, one of our 100% attenders took home a brand new scooter!



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.

Please can we remind you that the school uniform for children is black formal school shoes – no trainers. We have seen a number of children wearing trainers in school recently. Trainers are to be worn only for PE.



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, bracelets and other non-uniform items. In terms of earrings, children are permitted to only wear studs and these must be removed for PE 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 deemed to be a family treasure.

PTA

The PTA continue to be super proactive around school and this term hosted two very successful Mother's day breakfast events along with a well-attended KS2 film night. I would like to thank all those involved in the PTA as already, it's proving to be a great success and more importantly, our children and school are benefitting in so many ways.

The PTA are always looking to recruit more volunteers so if you feel this is something you'd like to get involved with, please leave your details at the school office. More events are planned for the summer term 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. I have also asked all staff to respect your well-being and personal lives too. You should not receive messages after **18:00** or before **07:30** unless there is an emergency.

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 2 winners are, **Eason, (Butterflies) Joey, (Clumber) Esme, (Rufford) and Nathan (Newstead)** and well done to all the children who had their names in the class jar. A super effort by everyone! We also gave out a great number of certificates to our children for reading more than 3 times each week during the Spring term. These children will receive a hot chocolate treat when we return from the Easter break.

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 Spring 2. We have been involved in 5 events which have included, a dance festival, trampolining, tag rugby, basketball and boccia. In the basketball we did very well and came away with a bronze medal! 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.

We also had 5 children participate in a sponsored swimming event for the Rotary Club. The children who swam to raise money for various charities amassed a whopping **£250!** They

were all superstars as they needed to swim non-stop for 13 minutes, which is no mean feat, I can tell you. The adults there all felt tired just watching. Well done to, **Fred, Scarlett, Florence, Maddison and Nelly** and 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 again this half term delivering CW to a number of our classes as well as delivering to the whole school. These young people are to be commended as this is both challenging and nerve wracking. Despite this being the case, all children have risen to challenge and been amazing in their presentations and sharing of the Christian faith and teachings of Jesus. Reverend Ben has been working closely again with the Worship Committee so a big thank you to him. I'd like to say a special thank you to all involved with the various school committees and clubs as it's definitely ensuring these young people involved flourish and develop positively as individuals.

Our Well-Being Committee have been carrying out a pupil survey this term and will share the findings with the school after the break.

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. The Young Leaders also planned and led their first whole school competition. Well done to them all and we look forward to their next one when it happens.

School Clubs

This half term we have had Gymnastics, gardening, Choir, ECO and Year 6 RRR 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 Summer 1 there will be the addition of a computer club along with the continued gardening, Year 6 RRR club and a new multiple skills club for KS1.

Next half term



17th April - All children return to school

21st April – Rufford Class perform 'Joseph'

1st May – Bank Holiday Monday

5th May – Coronation Garden Party

8th May – Bank Holiday Monday

9th, 10th, 11th & 12th – KS2 National Tests take place

15th May – KS1 National Tests begin

18th May – Newstead begin the DART program

26th May – Last day of term

29th May to 2nd June – Half term holiday

See you next term!

School Sport Photos

