



Swallowfield Lower School

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Tolerance

Message from the Head Teacher

A very warm welcome back to our families. During the school holiday we have been very fortunate to have a new adventure playground installed along with five musical stations. We are very grateful to our wonderful PTFA for contributing to the purchase of these. In addition, our library bus is in the process of a makeover and the children are enjoying watching it being painted. You will be aware that an additional bank holiday has been added to the national calendar next year to celebrate the queens Platinum Jubilee, this date is on Thursday 3rd June, with the last May bank holiday moved from Monday 30th June to Friday 4th June. The dates fall within the May half term holiday so as a result, school employees have been granted by the DfE an additional non-contract day when school will be closed to pupils. As a local group of schools and with the guidance of CBC, we have agreed this date to be Friday 8th July. We are all looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Values Education

Swallowfield Lower School is a 'Values' School. On a monthly basis we identify a new value to be at the heart of our school community. This month we will be learning about the value of 'Tolerance'. We will be discussing this in our assemblies, and during our work in the classroom. Tolerance is being patient, understanding and accepting of anything different. We will promote openness and respect by demonstrating empathy and compassion through our words and actions. Throughout the year we will talk about new places, people, and cultures. We will share with the children's different perspectives through books, music, food, and cultural events.

Busy Bees News

Busy Bees team would like to welcome all of you back after the holidays and hello to all of our new children and their families. We have had an exciting month of activities based on our book of the month which was 'Elmer' and we are introducing our new book for October – 'Washing Line' - next week.

With the weather now changing, please make sure the children bring a coat for outdoor play and spare clothes for their drawer if you have not already done so. Please also make sure all clothes etc are named.

Reception News

We are now two complete classrooms within the reception classes. We are busy settling into our classroom routines and expectations. Our welcome meeting has gone live this week so please take some time to watch to become more familiar with Swallowfield and to find out a little more about our curriculum, and day to day running. We would like to welcome Mrs Galloway to our Swallowfield family, who started her teaching position in Reception in September. She has also settled in well, and we wish her all the best.

Key Stage 1 News (Year 1 and Year 2)

The children have had a great start to the year, and it has been lovely to see all the children settling in so well. Year One have been working hard in their Geography lessons to locate the continents of the world and they have also been busy designing their own fantastic superhero badges and capes. Year Two have been learning about how transport has changed over time, and they have also been drawing and painting some brilliant family portraits. Key Stage celebration assemblies have resumed this term and it has been lovely to see the children coming together to celebrate their achievements. If your child has received an award outside of school (e.g., swimming, gymnastics), they can bring it in to school on a Monday and we would love to celebrate it in our assembly.

Key Stage 2 News (Year 3 and Year 4)

It is so lovely to have all the children back in KS2 this term. We have made a fantastic start to our learning this half term. We have introduced quite a few changes in our learning for both Years 3 and 4 this year as part of planning our curriculum for the next four years., Year 3 have been finding out all about the Stone Age, we are looking forward to a visitor to tell us all about life in the Stone Age at the end of this half term and even recreating Stonehenge from biscuits! Year 4 have been exploring a new history topic this half term - The Anglo Saxons and have been enjoying Autumn Art. All the children are really enjoying the challenges in KS2 and looking forward to an exciting year ahead

Governors Corner

Welcome to the first Governors Corner. Each month we will provide you with an update and an insight into the work of Swallowfield's Governing Board. We will share with you what we are working on to continue to improve our school and update you on the expansion project to become Swallowfield Primary. The Governing Board is made up of parents, staff, and other members of the community, who together with the Head are responsible for a wide range of matters affecting the life of the school and the work of pupils. Our primary responsibility is to ensure the school provides the best possible education for our children. Here are some updates as we start a new academic year.

Swallowfield Now - two new Parent Governors have joined our Board. Mrs Laura Settle, & Mrs Nicola Bowley. The role of a Parent Governor is to represent the wider views of parents when working with other governors and the headteacher. We have several Governors who have children within school and represent most year groups. Please get in touch with us if you wish to share any questions, thoughts or suggestions.

Future Swallowfield - As a maintained school we are working very closely with the local council (Central Bedfordshire District Council) and their chosen contractors. We meet with them fortnightly to discuss progress and timescales. Building work is planned to begin in early 2022. We are looking forward to our current Year 4 becoming our brand-new Year 5 next September.

The Friday morning mile is back! It was great to see so many families arrive to take part and earn house points for their child/ren's houses. Last week Kingfishers ran the most laps, and this week Goldfinches. Well, done to all those who took part!

Year 2 McMillan Coffee Afternoon

Thank you Year 2, who raised a Whopping **£403.70** during their coffee afternoon to support MacMillan!



Jeans for Genes



We raised a super total of **£194.96**. Thanks to all who donated towards

Environmental News

As we slip into autumn, the polytunnel is still cropping well, providing beans, chard, beetroot, cucumbers, and herbs for our kitchen. Still to come are a range of greens. An investment in fine netting has ensured cabbage white butterflies, while lovely to watch, have no longer left caterpillars munching the leaves!

This year is the 10th year since we started the Eco-Committee. We look forward to having a new committee where pupils can share the work of previous committees and create new ideas and future plans.

School Updates, News, and Information

Pet dogs. It is great to see pupils walking to school. This eases congestion around the school and is a healthy way to travel. We do promote this method of travel, however, as nice as it is to bring along your dog, **dogs are not permitted within the school grounds. This means anywhere past the school gates, including our car park.** Please be mindful of this when dropping off and collecting.

Website. Whether you are a new parent to the school or not, please take a moment to view our website. Mr McGill spent time during the summer refreshing it. The website offers vast amounts of information including contacts, term/key dates, regular class updates for each year group and staff info.

Covid-19 Update

With the relaxation of restrictions, we have had a number of positive Covid cases in year four. We need to be extremely strict about sending children home with any symptoms such as a cough or high temperature. The only way to know whether a cough is a 'Covid cough' is through a PCR test, so please collect your child promptly if asked. The office can not presume it is 'just a cold'. Test results come back on average within 24 hours, and we urge you to book a test if asked to do so. Thank you

House News

Woodpeckers have taken the lead with Goldfinches close behind! Can they keep the top spot?

Robins



Total 56

Woodpeckers



Total 54

Goldfinches



Total 114

Kingfishers



Total 126