



Swallowfield Lower School

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Message from the Head Teacher

It has been a very busy half term for both the children and staff. The children have been engaged in their learning and have enjoyed experiencing many additional activities. We have been continuing on our journey to grow into a primary school and have weekly meetings with Central Beds to discuss the new build and prepare for the upper key stage two curriculum. We have been very fortunate to have recruited two excellent new teachers to join the team ready for our growth in September. We will also be recruiting additional support staff to work with the older children.

Enjoy the Easter break with your families.

Values Education

Our value for March is Humility.

In school we have emphasised the close link between the values of humility and friendship by pointing out that self-importance and boastful behaviour will not attract friends. We have read the story of 'The Tortoise and Hare' reflecting on the fact that the boastful actions of the hare didn't help him to win the race. We want our pupils to have high self-esteem so we will emphasise how they can be proud of themselves and their achievements without boasting or undermining others.

Thought for the month: *'It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.'*

Ukraine Appeal and Red Nose Day Friday 18th March



A huge thank you to all who helped support both causes on this day. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our families, supplying medical supplies for Ukraine, and monetary donations towards both causes. The medical supplies have now been shipped, and we are pleased to say we raised a total of **£439.45** which was split between both the charities.



Busy Bees News

We hope you are enjoying this lovely weather, the Busy Bee's children are really enjoying the sunshine and making the most of being outside in the sun.

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Coffee morning on Tuesday in aid of 'Reach' - it was lovely to see you all and we thank you for your support. We will let you know the final total raised as soon as we know. The pre-reception children have started their transition sessions this half term and they are really enjoying them. These take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons for the children going to school in September. Happy Easter to you all.

Reception News

This half term the main theme we have been exploring the theme fairy- tales. We have enjoyed creating lots of learning experiences inspired by Little Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Gingerbread Man, and our current theme of the Chinese traditional folktale 'The Magic Paintbrush'. We are looking forward to hopefully venturing out on a trip during the summer term, so it would be great if you were considering requesting a DBS check from the office to go ahead and do so now as they take a little bit of time to process. You will not be able to volunteer on a trip without this clearance beforehand and we would love to invite you along. Please note there is a £10 charge to pay for a DBS request.

Key Stage 1 News

Year 2 have continued with their learning about Famous People this term. They have learnt about significant individuals such as Rosa Parks and Emmeline Pankhurst and more recently The Queen. The children have enjoyed learning different joining techniques in their DT lessons, including sewing, to make some fantastic fabric faces of The Queen. In our maths lessons, we have been learning to tell the time on an analogue clock and it would be great if the children could practise this over the Easter holidays. The children need to be able to tell the time to o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. For a challenge, they could practise telling the time to the nearest five minutes!

Year 1 have been learning about maps in their Geography lessons this half term. They have been finding out about human and physical features, map symbols and the countries of the UK. Year 1 have also been enjoying their Art lessons where they have been developing their drawing, sketching, and shading skills to create some fantastic castle scenes.

The children in KS1 have also enjoyed taking part in some exciting Science Week activities. Year 2 have been investigating how plants 'drink' water by putting celery into jars of coloured water and observing what happens. Year 1 have been using tissue paper and felt tip pens to grow their own rainbows and they have also been conducting experiments to understand why it is so important to wash our hands regularly.

Key Stage 2 News

We are nearly at the end of another incredibly busy term and it is so nice that the sun is shining, and we can start taking more of our learning outside.

Year 4 have been exceptionally busy this half term. They have really enjoyed creating their models, characters, storyboards and sets for their Egyptian themed 'stop-motion' animation and can't wait to start filming using an animation app. Y4MP had a lovely afternoon at Fulbrook attending a sports festival organised by our School Sports Partnership and led by the Fulbrook Sports Leaders - it is so nice to finally be able to go out and enjoy different locations and experiences.

Year 4 Sports Leaders have also been busy and organised a Mini-Festival for the children in Year 2 and will be running another festival for Year 1 before the end of term.

Year 3 have been working hard and are particularly enjoying combining their work in Geography with Art and creating 3D models of our school grounds. We have also been finding out what our school might look like when our new buildings are in place.

Both year groups loved the performance of 'The Jungle Book' - we are so lucky to have such an amazing PTFA who can fund these events - thank you.

Hopefully the lovely sunshine will continue into the Easter Holiday, and we can all enjoy a well-deserved break.

World Book Day 2022

Great to see everyone dressed in book characters of their choice. Willy Wonkas, Fantastic Foxes, Lost thing costumes, Wallys, Princesses, Wizards, and more. A great day was had by all. Don't forget to spend your book tokens. They are valid until the 31st of March 2022.



Governors Corner

Future Swallowfield Thank you for completing our recent uniform survey. We have collated the results and will be working with the school to confirm our uniform for Swallowfield Primary. Families will be allowed to phase any new designs in as the children grow out of the current uniform.

Swallowfield Now Welcome to George Foy as our new Parent Governor. We have several Governors who have children within school and represent most year groups. Please get in touch with us to share any questions, thoughts or suggestions.

We also have vacancies for Co-opted governors and a Local Authority governor for the school. Do you know anyone who may be interested in either of these roles and offer their time and expertise? With an exciting future ahead, this is a great time to join our friendly Board.

News and updates

- ❖ Friday 1st April spring term ends.
Monday 18th April Bank Holiday,
Tuesday 19th April Staff Training Day.
Return to school Wednesday 20th April
- ❖ **Uniform** Children can return to school in their summer uniform. Please see our website for our uniform list. Children are welcome to wear the blue summer dresses, shorts, and short sleeve shirts.
- ❖ **Swimming lessons** Our pool is currently being renovated. This should be completed by next term. Year groups will swim on set days, and this information will be given in due course. Please ensure your child/ren have swimming kits ready for the first week back. Navy blue costume or navy-blue swimming trunks.

Environmental News

Spring has sprung! Signs of past planting are appearing. Just outside school you will have seen daffodils planted by pupils last year with the Parish Council. At the entrance, our daffodil swallow is still appearing after all these years! Spring bulbs planted by past generations are blooming all over our grounds.

Thanks to all who took part in Morrisons 'Good to Grow' scheme. We have some superb tools ready for a new season, good quality child size fork and spades, trowel and fork sets, gloves and tools for our older pupils, a tub trug and seed packets.

The Eco-Committee have been gathering our last few crops from the polytunnel, delivering to the kitchen, and taking some to try as reward for their efforts.

We have been awarded a Greensand Champions reward of a Bee Hotel for all our work on the environment!

There have been great ideas for the Woburn Sands Town Councils 'Young Environmentalist Award.' I hope there are more. Remember, the entry criteria range from activities such as litter picking to bug hotels and evidence in any form - pictures, photos, writing. We really look forward to seeing those in school. Do not forget to start bringing them in to share, entries need to be in before the end of April. Check PING or ask in school for more details.



House News

Robins



Total 620

Woodpeckers



Total 730

Goldfinches



Total 695

Kingfishers



Total 802