



February 2023

Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to this half term – which promises to be a busy six weeks up to Easter.

Last term was very busy with the Ofsted inspection coming 2 weeks before half term. We look forward to sharing the report with you as soon as it has been finalised.

It is exciting to see the outdoor play area come back to life thanks to the hard work of FOSS and the support of our school community. The order for the new trim trail, costing £14k, has been placed and it should be installed week commencing 20th March!

This term sees the Y2 and Y6 children work towards their SATS assessments that will take place in May. Details of these assessments can be obtained at Parent's Evening (letters will be coming home shortly). The Y4's will also be taking a multiplication test in June and practice towards this will be important.



We look forward to welcoming our 2 new members of staff to Class 1 from Monday 06 March – Mrs Sam Higgs and Miss Jemma Wheeler. These 2 new Teaching Assistants will support Mrs Harrison in the classroom.

I do hope that you will join us at our Easter service on Friday **31 March at 2pm**. The Y2 and Y3's will lead in this service.

I look forward to sharing more with you as the term progresses.

My very best wishes,
Zoe Longstaff



If you have considered joining FOSS and offering to help, even for a few hours, can I urge you to think about it? FOSS meet approx. once a half term for about 30mins via Zoom/Teams. I attend every meeting and am fully involved. I would be delighted if even more parents joined. FOSS welcomed some new members last term who have already made a difference. If you are interested, please let me know personally.
Mrs Longstaff.

Current School Opening Times

Class 4: 8:45am – 3:20pm
Class 3: 8:45am – 3:20pm
Class 2: 8:50am – 3:25pm
Class 1: 8:50am – 3:25pm



Children who are late for school will be marked as such, which could be flagged up as a concern during our attendance monitoring. If your child is late on a regular basis, they then miss out on a vital routine, which helps them settle into the school day and be ready to start learning. If they are late, this disturbs the smooth start of the day for all.



Reporting Absence

If your child is absent from school you can either telephone the school on 01522 868287 or send an email to enquiries@swinderby.lincs.sch.uk before **9.15am** to inform us that your child is ill.

Absences must be reported each day your child is absent.

If your child is absent due to sickness or diarrhoea, they will need to be clear of all the symptoms for 48 hours before returning to school.



Attendance

It is vital that your children get the best possible education going forward so please send your children to school. Attendance is now **compulsory** and holidays in term time will NOT be authorised. Our normal attendance policy will now apply and Fixed Penalty Notices may be issued.

As a school, we need to meet the target of 95.9%, which is the national average. We can only do this if parents support us fully and if we all understand the importance of NOT taking term time holidays or absences from school. Attendance will be monitored each half term. In line with the new Government policy, an even greater emphasis will be placed on attendance.

Attendance Letters

Attendance letters will be issued shortly for last term. These letters are for attendance between 06.09.22 to 10.02.2023. Letters will be issued within the first week or two after returning from a break in line with our Attendance Policy.

Holidays in Term Time

We want all our pupils to achieve success, so it is important that parents do their best to support pupils in attending school for the full 190 days in an academic year – as per Section 7 of the Education Act 1996, which places upon parents a duty to ensure their child receives suitable and efficient full time education.

To support our drive to increase pupil attendance, no absences due to holidays during term time will be authorised. This means absences due to pupils being taken on holiday during term time will be recorded unauthorised.

If you do have any holidays planned during term time, please notify school as soon as possible – leave of absence forms (available from the school office) should be completed in plenty of time ahead of any leave.

We hope that our parents will support us and arrange holidays around the existing 175 days the school is closed, through weekends and school holidays, and help us support your child achieving success in school.

Please note, if holidays are still taken during term time this will be reported to Lincolnshire County Council and a fine may be issued, for any absence over 5 days.

Cold Weather

With the cold weather, please ensure your child comes to school with a coat (and hat and gloves in the winter months). We do still like to get outside wherever possible and would appreciate if the children were prepared. Wellies are ideal in rainy/snowy weather.

Warm Rail

If you have any coats that your child has outgrown and you'd like to donate them to school, we're going to create a 'warm rail' in school. The warm rail will be there to act as a hand of friendship and kindness to those who are struggling. The concept is simple; if you need a coat, take one; if you want to help, donate one.

*****IMPORTANT DATES*****

Practice SATS week for Y6 – 24.04.23 to 27.04.23

KS2 Y6 SATS week – 09.05.23 to 11.05.23

Whole of May – Y2 SATS Assessments

Y4 Multiplication Screening Check – w/c 05.06.23

Y1 Phonics Screening – w/c 12.06.23

There will be assessments during the rest of the year.

Uniform

The school is keen to ensure that our children look smart and wear their uniform with pride. PE kits are part of the school uniform

NO patterned or logoed (except school logo) T-shirts. This includes PE kits



PE Kit

PE KIT WORN MUST BE INLINE WITH THE SCHOOL UNIFORM – PALE BLUE/WHITE plain or school logo t-shirt, plain black/navy jogging bottoms or shorts and school sweatshirt/ cardigan or plain royal blue sweatshirt. Trainers or plimsolls, black/white and as plain as possible.

We will be strict about this and if your child wears anything different to this we will ask them to change. Please support us with this so that your child does not feel uncomfortable. **WE WILL not accept the wearing of sports tops or football shirts.**

*****Please ensure all school uniform and PE kit is named*****

Long hair **MUST** be tied up in school & especially for PE. NO earrings/jewellery is to be worn for PE.

Online Safety

E-safety – electronic safety – is all about keeping ourselves safe, maintaining our privacy and protecting our rights in the digital world.

We all need to be aware of potential e-safety issues with all our digital devices and forms of digital communication not just computers and the internet. Computers, laptops, tablets (iPads, Kindles etc.), digital cameras, games consoles (Xbox, Wii, iPod touch, Nintendo DS etc.) smart televisions, mobile phones, texts and email are ALL part of the digital world.

Social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter, and video sharing sites such as YouTube are valuable in allowing use to maintain communication with family and friends worldwide. However, parents and children should abide by the age restrictions on such sites and carefully set their privacy settings.

Just as in the real world we need children to be aware of stranger danger and bullying (cyber-bulling) in the digital world. We need our children to recognise when it is happening and were to seek help.

At school, we educate children about e-Safety in ICT lessons but it's important that parents know some key e-Safety tips too. Below are some links to resources to help support parents and children with all aspects of e-safety.

A Quick Chat About Parent Controls on Games Consoles and Internet Usage.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9C7AyX3YGU

A Quick Chat About Game Ratings

www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHLXfn-LTl0

These short films are from Lincolnshire's Safeguarding Team and have sound advice for safer internet use.

Our ICT Acceptable Use of Internet and Online Safety Policies are available on our school website:
https://www.swinderbyallsaints.co.uk/key_information/policies/policies.html



Breakfast and After School Club

Please ensure all bookings are made at least a week in advance, where possible – ideally we'd like these termly. As the Cabin Club is becoming more popular, we cannot guarantee there will be places available on the day. It is essential that bookings are completed for **EVERY** session. Having these bookings will allow the team to plan specific activities and purchase the correct amount of food for each session.

If anyone would like to make a booking, please use the ParentMail App or see The Cabin Club team/the school office.



Clothing Bank

The Rag-Bag clothing bank is outside the school. If you have any unwanted clothing items, please bag them up and place them in the large green bin outside the black gates.

The 'Rag Bag' recycling scheme has been developed to provide regular fundraising for schools in the UK.

The scheme increases awareness about textile recycling and by increasing recycling rates we can help the environment by ensuring less material goes to landfill.

Music

KS2 will have music delivered by Ms Karen Jones from the Lincolnshire Music Service every Wednesday afternoon.



We are lucky to now have additional music teachers from the Lincolnshire Music Service coming into to school to assist with the private lessons as they have proved so popular. Since Mon 09 Jan, guitar lessons are with Mr James Bourne, Piano lessons are with Karen Jones on a Tuesday afternoon until after the Easter holidays when Mr Ewan East will then take over.

Mrs Jones will also be starting a violin group on a Wednesday lunchtime. Should you wish for your child to take part, please contact Karen directly (Karen.Jones@lincolnshire.gov.uk) and she will advise how bookings and payment can be made via the Lincolnshire Music Service's online system.

Brass lessons, with Malcolm Duckett (also from the Lincolnshire Music Service) continue to be on offer. If your child is interested in private brass lessons, please contact enquiries@swinderby.lincs.sch.uk and we can put you in touch directly with Mr Duckett.



Communication with Staff

Following discussions at a Governor meeting last November, it has been decided that any emails sent to staff outside of the hours 8am-4:30pm will be looked at and responded to the next working day – unless the recipient chooses otherwise. This is entirely at their own discretion.

Part-time workers will respond between these hours on their working days unless they choose to work outside of those hours.

Emails sent at weekends will not be read/replied to unless the recipient chooses to do so.



Free School Meals

With effect from September 2018, a new system to process Free School Meals was introduced, whereby parents and guardians will need to apply online. We would encourage **ALL** parents & guardians to apply. Further information can be found on the following website: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals/>

Hot Meals

The site will open on Friday 03 March to order meals for the next cycle. This new cycle will run as follows

WK1 – 20.03.23
WK2 – 27.03.23
WK3 – 17.04.23
WK4 – 24.04.23

Please ensure that you 'check out' your selections, without doing this the order doesn't go through.

<https://schoolmeals.ginga.catering/parentLogin.asp>

If you have missed the cut off, please do not hesitate to contact Anna at Ginga Catering.

Lunchboxes

According to NHS choices a balanced lunchbox should contain:

- Starchy foods like bread, rice, potatoes or pasta
- Protein foods like meat, fish, eggs or beans
- A dairy item, like cheese or yogurt
- Vegetables or salad and a portion of fruit

As a school we encourage the above suggestions but also allow a small chocolate bar (i.e. a Penguin/Kit Kat) or a small piece of cake.

However, there are some items that are **NOT** allowed in school, these include:

- Bags of sweets (of any size)
- Large chocolate bars (Mars, Wispas etc.)
- Nuts or nut based products
- Eggs

Parking



Please could all parents ensure that they're mindful of **not** parking in the school bus bay when dropping off in the morning or collecting in the afternoon. For the safety of all the children getting on and off the bus it is important this area is kept clear.

Also, could we remind parents to continue being courteous to our neighbours and ensure we're not blocking any access or driveways. Please, show you care, park elsewhere; we've got the ideal facility (**Park & Stride**) just five-minute walk away at the Village Hall.



Letters Home

We send all letters that don't need printing out via email - Txtround. If you are unable to view these letters via your email you can view these on the school website if you prefer <http://www.swinderbyallsaints.co.uk/letters-home/>

Letters that require you to send in a reply slip are sent home as a hard copy.

Communication

All emails regarding illness/appointments/general enquiries are to be sent to enquiries@swinderby.lincs.sch.uk

Specific emails can be sent to class teachers. However, please note, class teachers are unable to check emails during the day. They will reply as soon as they can but it may not be until the next day.

PGL Payments

For those children attending PGL, the final balance is now overdue. If you're unsure how much is owed, please contact the school office.

Permission Slips

We appreciate the children sometimes have a lot of letters to bring home, but we try to keep this to a minimum by emailing copies home where possible and putting notifications on our Facebook page, however for those letters that do have to go home and require a permission slip returning, could we ask that children are provided with a plastic folder to keep them safe and contained on the journey from class room to home and vice versa. That way it tries to limit any information that could potentially be lost in transit.

Snowdrop Event

The District Council is delighted to be supporting the North Kesteven Snowdrop Event in aid of Child Bereavement UK again this year.

In partnership with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust the Snowdrop Event will bring families together to remember those that are no longer with us.

This year's event is due to take place between **midday and 3pm on Saturday 11 March** at Whisby Nature Park. Snowdrop bulbs will be kindly provided by Pennells Garden Centre in South Hykeham, and will be available

on the day for a small donation. Volunteers will also be on hand to help with the planting.

All proceeds will be donated to Child Bereavement UK, which supports families and educates professionals when a baby or child of any age dies or is dying, or when a child is facing bereavement. Information on the charity is available via the link

<https://childbereavementuk.org/about-us/>



Spring Clean

We are looking for volunteers to help with the annual spring clean of the school grounds. This will take place in the morning on **Saturday 25 March**. It usually involves painting of fences/sheds, weeding and general tidy up of the school grounds. Any help would be much appreciated.

Term Dates



March

Wed 01	Y7 Secondary places issued to parents
Thurs 02	World Book Day
Sat 11	Snowdrop Event – see above for details
Mon 13	Y5 Bikeability
Tues 14	Y5 Bikeability
Tues 14	C2 Magna Trip
Wed 15	Y5 Bikeability
Wed 15	Music & Drama Festival
Thurs 16	Y5 Bikeability
Mon 20	Parent's Evening – C2
Tues 21	Parent's Evening – All Classes
Wed 22	Parent's Evening – C1, C3 & C4
Sat 25	Spring Clean of school grounds
Tues 28	FOSS Film Night
Fri 31	Easter Service – C2 Focus
Fri 31	LAST DAY OF TERM

April

Mon 03	Y6 Easter School 9am-12pm
Tues 04 Y6	Easter School 9am-12pm
Mon 17	Sept '23 Reception places issued to parents
Mon 17	INSET DAY
Tues 18	FIRST DAY OF TERM
Thurs 20	Stay & Play Open Morning 09:45-10:25
Mon 24	Y6 Practice SATS weeks
Tues 25	Next FOSS Meeting - Teams

May

Mon 01	BANK HOLIDAY
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Mon 08	Additional Bank Holiday for King's Coronation
Mon 08	Y6 KS2 SATS WEEK
Fri 12	Y5 & Y6 Leave for PGL
Sun 14	Y5 & Y6 Return from PGL
Fri 26	LAST DAY OF TERM

June

Mon 05	FIRST DAY OF TERM
Tues 06	Swimming starts for Y4 and Y6
Fri 09	Y5 & Y6 Positive Health Session
Wed 21	Lincolnshire Show
Thurs 22	Lincolnshire Show
Fri 23	Y6 Substance Awareness Session (PM)

July

Tues 04	Sports Day – 1pm
Thurs 06	LSST Induction Day (New Y7)
Fri 07	LSST Induction Day (New Y7)
Fri 07	Reserve Sports Day – 1pm
Wed 12	C4 Play
Mon 17	Move up afternoon
Tues 18	Reports Issued
Fri 21	Leaver's Assembly – 2pm
Fri 21	LAST DAY OF TERM

There may be more dates added to the diary as time goes on



A HUGE thank you to Fir Tree Timber in North Scarle for donating some of the wood for our new fence in the playground. This is massively appreciated.

<https://firtreefarmtimber.com/>

And finally

For those of you who have 'liked' the School's Facebook page. **Please can you make sure you like the posts. As the School is a business page if you don't like the post or interact with the page the updates/posts will stop coming up on your Newsfeed.** The school facebook page is used as an additional way of getting information out to our parents.

www.facebook.com/SwinderbyAllSaintsPrimarySchool



We like to keep in regular contact with you and all our latest news can be found on: Facebook, School website and via Txtround.