



Newsletter No.8

Dear Parents and Carers

We were delighted to welcome the children back to school last week and are pleased to say that the children seem happy to be back. They settled quickly to their learning and were calm and steady in our celebration assemblies. From talking to them all they had some exciting adventures as well as a good rest over Christmas which was lovely to hear.

As is always the case we had our visiting pantomime in school this week which was an absolute delight. I was disappointed to miss out but hear it was full of fun and all the pantomime classics which is such a positive cultural experience. I also hear from the children that some of the staff were involved and had some rather fabulous dance moves. What a team!

Looking ahead, as always you will find diary dates at the end of the newsletter, we will add to this over the term as things develop. Today you will also be sent the topic web and homework menu for child's year group this term. Please use these to talk to your child about their learning and support them with homework activities. It is so good for children to see their children taking an interest in their learning. You may be able to share some things from your own time at school or be fascinated by some of the broad vocabulary and amazing facts your child is learning this term.

As always, there is lots happening in school this term and as always we will be working together as a staff to ensure teaching and learning is meeting the needs of all of our learners. As part of this work we undertake 'review mornings' in the Spring term. These are a great opportunity for the leadership team to spend focused time in class, look closely at books and most importantly talk to the staff and children about learning in their classrooms. What is going well, what helps learning and what would be good for the future. Linked to this we will be having the first part of our staff training on metacognition this term. Metacognition is simply supporting children to think about their learning and how they learn. As a staff we will be learning more about how we can support our learners to engage with this to support their learning.

Our transfer to medical tracker has been relatively smooth, thank you to you all for your support with this. Not only will the electronic system ensure you get notification promptly, it will also save time for school staff and allow us to more efficiently track when and where incidents happen and respond accordingly. A reminder to check your SPAM folder as the first notification you get may go there. If your child is well enough to stay in school you will just receive the letter. Please be assured that we will still contact you by phone to discuss next steps if your child needs further support.

Please have a look at our attendance reminders overleaf. As was the case before Christmas, we know there have been lots of illnesses in the community. Please ensure when your child is well, they are arriving at school promptly and try to schedule appointments for outside of the school day, early pick ups are disruptive to classes.

Finally, as you all know Mrs Kendall will be leaving us at the end of this term. The Governing Body are currently undertaking the recruitment process and I am very pleased to say that our school council will be involved. They have worked very hard together to develop some questions for applicants and are excited about being involved in the process. The Governing Body will share the outcome of the process with you once it is complete.

With best wishes for a smooth and positive start to the new year for you all.

Mrs Kendall and Mrs Pentney

Attendance:

There have been a large number of bugs affecting families this term, a possible aftermath of covid isolation. Whilst we are mindful of this, we are also always keen to promote good attendance. The impact it has on attainment is clearly evidence linked. Do have a read of the attached web link which may prove helpful in the future if you need to make a decision on school attendance. Is my child too ill for school: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>. We have begun to send out attendance letters again to highlight when attendance falls below the expected standard. We always welcome discussions about improving attendance whether it be with ongoing health issues or persistent lateness.



School Term Dates:

Autumn term 2022

Last day of term: Wednesday 21st December 2022

Spring term 2023

Professional Day: Wednesday 4th January 2023 (Staff only)

Term Starts: Thursday 5th January 2023

Half term: 13th – 17th February 2023

Last day of term: Friday 31st March 2023

Summer term 2023

Term Starts: Monday 17th April 2023

May Day: Monday 1st May 2023

Half term: 29th May – 2nd June 2023

Last day of term: Wednesday 19th July 2023

Diary dates: see table overleaf

Diary dates:

Further dates will be shared over the year. Please see the previous page for **term dates** and **inset days**.

Spring term dates	Event
Week beginning 23 rd January	Year 4 bikeability (details to follow)
2nd February	Year 1 walk around Sawston
22nd February	Year 2 Tower of London trip
9 th February	Year 4 sharing assembly: 9.10 – 10.00am
1st March	Year 4 Trip to West Stow
14th March	Year 3 Colchester Zoo trip
15 th March	Mothers Day event in school am (details to follow)
21 st March	Year 3 sharing assembly: 9.10 – 10.00am
24 th March	Reports out to parents
28 th March	Parent consultations 8.00 – 11.00
30 th March	Parent consultation 3.30 – 7.00pm

Summer term dates	Event
Week beginning 8 th May	Year 6 SATS week
17th May	Reception: Vision screening
25 th May	Year 1 sharing assembly: 9.10 – 10.00am
9 th June	Sports day times tbc
28 th June	Year 6 pupils Induction day at Sawston Village College: all day
29 th June	Year 6 Induction evening at Sawston Village College: pupils and parents 4 – 7.30pm
11 th July	Year 2 sharing assembly: 9.10 – 10.00am