

24th May 2024

Newsletter No.17

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

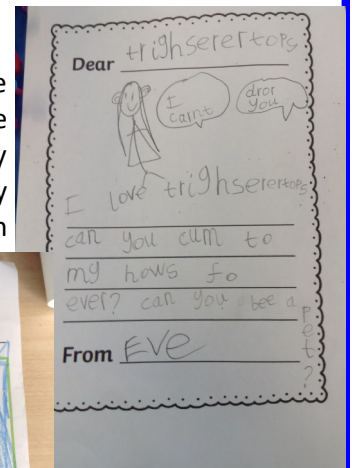
Is anyone else in disbelief that we are at the end of the first summer half term already? I feel like I say it all the time, but time really is flying. We have been so impressed with our children's progress this half term, achieved through their, and their teachers', hard work and determination, and of course your support at home. A special mention to our Year 2 and 6 children who have undertaken their SATs over the last two weeks, they didn't give up, even though some of the questions were tricky, and many children even said they enjoyed doing them! We are extremely proud of each and every one of you.

Headteacher Update

We are very pleased to say that a recruitment panel consisting of several governors and our Local Authority School Improvement Adviser have been putting potential new headteachers through their paces over the last two days. The team devised a plethora of activities to judge each candidate in all the areas within the Headteachers' Standards, to ensure they could decide who was the best person to lead our wonderful school through the next phase of their journey. Once a final decision has been made, the governing body will decide how and when to inform everyone within the school community of the outcome, and you, as parents and carers, will find out as soon as possible. Watch this space!

Reception

Wrens and Robins have loved being time travellers! Our littlest learners made their own time machines and travelled back to the time of the dinosaurs, much to their excitement. They have impressed us with their knowledge of everything from Plesiosaur to Parasaurolophus and they learnt about how dinosaurs attack and defend themselves. The children designed their very own new dinosaur, writing about its special features and then made it out of clay. The children have adored learning about fossils too and have become expert fossil hunters in our woodland area. Most of all, the children have loved writing letters to the dinosaurs that have been visiting our woodland area. The children were thrilled when the dinosaurs actually wrote back!



Year 1

Sparrows and Wagtails have been learning all about blue whales and have done some impressive writing which they are looking forward to sharing with parents and carers at their sharing assembly in June. They have also done some art work for their blue whale posters - blending chalk pastels to create different textures and using pencil to cross hatch to create shadow. They have also made class story books for their book corners, based on their English text The Storm Whale, which the children love sharing and reading.

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Year 2

Our Year 2s have been keeping a diary of how their broad beans are growing. They hope to make a salad with them next half-term! In Science, they went on a habitat walk around part of the school to see the kind of environments there are for plants and animals. They have also been developing their sketching skills by drawing different woodland creatures. In English, they have been very excited to innovate the story 'Jack and the Baked Beanstalk' and have begun to write their own versions of the story. They are looking forward to putting them in their reading corners to share with others.

Year 3

Year 3 have been looking at the story of Romulus and Remus and have written their own version. They continue to practise telling the time using both analogue and digital clocks. They have learnt about Roman numerals and have created mosaics. In topic they found out about the life of a Roman soldier and have decided whether they would have chosen to be one - parents and carers, do ask them what they decided and why! In P.E they have enjoyed practising for sports day activities and doing some running races.

Year 4

Year 4 have been dealing with money in Maths and solving lots of real-life word problems. They have been looking at instructions in English, focusing on what makes them effective. This unit links to their Egyptian topic and ends with the children creating a set of instructions on how to mummify a member of the class! In Art, they have been studying the Egyptian artist Wael Nour, creating original watercolour paintings based on his work. In Science, they have been learning about teeth and how to keep them healthy. Please do ask your children about the egg experiment! The children continue to work hard on their times tables. The MTC will take place in the first two weeks after half term and we would encourage all children to have one last push over the holidays!

Year 5

Year 5 are loving their Japan topic: from making and exploding volcanoes through to cherry blossom art and haikus, this is a topic that just keeps on giving. They have also loved getting to grips with micro:bits in computing and are continuing to code next half term as they attempt to replicate some of the early Japanese arcade games.

Year 6

Year 6 have shown fantastic efforts in their recent SATS Papers, demonstrating excellent focus and commitment to achieving their very best across the week. Breakfast club was a hit and our 'Fun Friday' game of rounders and biscuits and board game afternoon allowed the children to unwind and enjoy some quality time with their friends and teachers who joined in the fun! Recent auditions have seen that there is a wealth of talent ready to get our production rehearsals underway...an exciting final half term awaits.

Mini G!

We were delighted to take our mini g competition winners to see our school giraffe in the Cambridge University Press bookshop window. The children were excited to see their giraffe and talked to the University Press team about how they put their designs together. The team were really impressed and told the children how many people had come into the shop just to see the giraffe. They were also impressed with our children, calling them 'a credit to the school'. On our way to and from the shop we spotted lots more giraffes on the trail, some dinky doors around town and lots of fossils in the grand arcade flooring. A fun time was had by all!

The Bellbird sculpture pulls together four children's winning designs from a whole school competition. The designs were chosen as it was felt that together, they represented the school community most successfully. The winning children worked as a team to put their designs together. The name United was chosen to represent the team work they and the Mini G represent. Key features of note on the Mini G are: the school name and all of the classes (bird names), the school motto, three birds to represent foundation stage, key stage one and key stage two, hand prints of our winners and hearts, smiles and leaves to represent growth and love! All of the children who entered our competition added a brightly coloured dot to represent their enthusiasm and involvement in the process. 'United' shows the wonderful things children can achieve when their ideas and creativity come first.



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Swimming

With our Year 6s beginning swimming this week, all of our Key Stage 2 children have now begun or completed their scheduled swimming sessions at Sawston Village College for this academic year. As a school we are fully committed to getting all our children to meet the minimum requirement expected by the time they are ready to leave Key Stage 2.

The minimum requirement being that every child is able to:

- ♥ swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- ♥ use a range of strokes effectively
- ♥ perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

This is all able to happen due to the significant contributions from FABs, who cover the cost of all the swimming sessions. A very big thank you to the FABs team who continue to generously give their time to organise and lead events to raise much needed extra funds for the school.

Sports Day and Speed Kick Challenge

It has been a busy sporting week too, with Sports Day today and The Euro 2024 Speed Kick Challenge run by Premier Education. Thank you to those parents who have already returned their child's sponsorship money in a named, sealed envelope to the school office. All monies must be handed in by Tuesday 4th June.

Every child taking part will receive a certificate and from what we have heard, several children have also qualified for the incentives outlined below:

- Any child raising £20 or more will receive a water bottle.
- Any child raising £40 or more will receive a water bottle and a PE bag.
- Any child raising £60 or more will receive a water bottle, a PE bag and a branded leather football.
- The child that collects the most sponsorship money will also receive the replica shirt of a team of their choice.



International day of play—11th June

Thank you to one of our lovely parents who brought the new 'International Day of Play' to our attention. To mark this, on Tuesday 11th June, the last hour of the school day will be for children to play with their friends as we recognise play is a fundamental right; building resilience, instilling confidence and helping children develop. More information can be found at: [International Day of Play](https://www.internationaldayofplay.org). See some two of the promotional images below.

All that is left is for us to do I wish you a wonderful half term break. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 3rd June at 8.45am.

Best wishes, Mrs Emma Clayton and Mrs Rebecca Pentney, Co-Headteachers



Week beginning	Diary dates
27 th May	HALF TERM NO SCHOOL
3 rd June	Year 4 Multiplication check week 1 Wednesday 5 th June: New to Reception Parents Evening Friday 7 th June: FABS Fun Friday
10 th June	Year 1 phonics screening check week Year 4 Multiplication tables check week 2 Tuesday 11 th June: International Day of Play Friday 14 th June: Whole school Premier Sports Football Euros Celebration Assembly
17 th June	Sawston Village College Work Experience Students at The Bellbird
24 th June	Sawston Village College Work Experience Students at The Bellbird
1 st July	Monday 1 st July: Year 6 production evening Tuesday 2 nd July: Year 6 production evening Wednesday 3 rd July: Year 6 induction day at Sawston Village College Thursday 4 th July: Year 6 induction evening at Sawston Village College Friday 5 th July: EYFS trip to Southangle Farm Friday 5 th July: Year 6 swimming gala at SVC Friday 5 th July: FABS Summer Fair
8 th July	Monday 8 th – Wednesday 10 th : Year 6 Residential trip to Norfolk Lakes Wednesday 10 th July: Shake, Rattle and Roll Music Workshop Friday 12 th : Geography and Music Day Friday 12 th : Reports to parents
15 th July	Tuesday 16 th : Leavers BBQ Year 6 Thursday 18 th : Leavers assembly Friday 19 th : Staff training day NO SCHOOL
22 nd July	SUMMER HOLIDAYS BEGIN NO SCHOOL