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Dates for your diary

Please see the 'Calendar' page on our website for a full list of upcoming events.

Friday 27th and Friday 3rd January - 5B Forest School

Tuesday 31st January - E-Safety Evening at Bredon Hill

Wednesday 1st February - 4W Class Assembly

Wednesday 8th February - 3F Class Assembly

Friday 10th and Friday 17th February - 5K Forest School

14th, 15th 16th February - Parental Consultations

Monday 20th - Friday 24th February - Half Term

Monday 27th February - Back to school

Tuesday 28th February - Scholastic Book Fair arrives



Swan Lane First School

Learn, Play and Grow Together



There is a new 'Ethos, Vision and Values' section on our website. Log on and take a look!

Notices

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2017! We have already been back at school for almost four weeks, so there is much to update you on.

A Note on Attendance

I would like to remind all parents and carers about the position the school is in when granting leave of absence.

The granting of leave of absence in school term time is, by law, a matter for consideration and decision by the school. **There is no automatic right to any leave in term time.** The Department for Education (DfE) and Worcestershire County Council (WCC) policy is that family holidays should not be taken in school term time. Where such requests are made, in order for the leave to be granted, the Headteacher must decide if there are **exceptional circumstances**.

Should the school decide **not to grant leave of absence** and parents/carers still take their child out of school the absence will be recorded as **unauthorised** which

may be subject to an initial Holiday Penalty Notice fine of £60 per parent per child.

At Swan Lane First School we are constantly working hard to improve the attendance of the children. We have a weekly class attendance award and at the end of the academic year, children who have managed to achieve 100% attendance, are rewarded with a badge and a certificate. The Data Leader and office staff meet weekly with the Education Welfare Officer to look at attendance in detail. Last year we managed to achieve an attendance level of 96.2% so this year our target is 96.3%. We ask for your help in achieving this target by making sure that your child/children are in school when they are well enough to attend.

Thank you.

Mrs Roberts.

Rynal Street Gate - For health and safety reasons, the gate at the Leicester Grove end of Rynal Street will now be closed between 9.15am and 2.45pm. Drivers have been using our private road as a short cut throughout the day and this has become a potential danger to the children.



An Expedition with Google Virtual Reality

This week, we were lucky enough to go on trips all over the globe (and outer space), without even using a passport! A technician from Google visited us in order to lead their 'Pioneer Expedition Programme'.



Each child was given a smart device and headset, while the teacher guided them on a tour around

famous landmarks, outer space, and areas of natural beauty. Each child could explore 360° around them by moving around in their seat. It was absolutely wonderful to see the children so excited, and in genuine awe about the sights around them. All of the expeditions were guided by the class teacher, who chose a trip to support topics that are being taught in the classroom. Hopefully this has helped the children with their understanding, and inspired them to visit the places for real one day!



Mr Bowkett

Healthy Eating

For a new section on our website, Mr Jones would like you to try out healthy eating recipes, and send your reviews:

to: healthyeating@swanlanefirstschool.worcs.sch.uk

Visit from Police Community Support Officers

Last week, Year 5 had a visit from two Police Community Support Officers to talk about E-Safety. It was an invaluable chance to get advice on how to use the internet and digital media safely and securely. The pupils had the chance to ask questions and talk about issues that concerned them. There is a workshop being held at Bredon Hill Academy, led by Jane Finch from the LEA, where parents will be given advice on how to ensure their children remain safe online. (see dates overleaf).



School Council Trip to Westminster

On the 4th January, our School Council went to the heart of democracy for our country - the City of Westminster. They were driven down in a mini-bus to the



centre of London, and visited the Houses of Parliament! During their visit they got to enter the House of Lords and the House of Commons, as well as learning about elections and party democracy in a special workshop.



Also, they were lucky enough to go on a 'Duck Tour'. These amphibious vehicles drove them round some of the most famous sights in the country, before taking to water and sailing along the River Thames! It was great to see the School Council return from their trip so full of enthusiasm and eager to share what they learnt.

Comic Relief - Sponsored Run



The School Council have asked if we could do a sponsored event this year for Red Nose Day. (Friday 24th March). It was their decision to do a mile run in fancy dress! They would also like the proceeds to go towards www.doingitforlewis.co.uk. We will send out more details nearer the time.

