

### Positive comments received about the school

"I am really happy with everything my son can do at this school and I thank you for all of your help."

"My daughter is currently in year 5 and has always enjoyed going to school. There has never been a day when I have had to drag my daughter to school."

"My daughter is making excellent academic progress at Swan Lane. The teachers work hard to make lessons exciting, interesting and accessible."

"I feel my children have been warmly welcomed into Swan Lane. The communication between all staff is excellent. I am happy with Swan Lane and grateful for all the efforts of the staff"

"This school is a fantastic place to be!"

"My child is well supported in school. He is stretched in those subjects he is good at and supported in those that require development."

"Thank you to all at Swan Lane First School, I would have no hesitation in recommending the school to another parent."

"Since moving my son to this school I have been overwhelmed by his level of progress and how he has improved not only academically but in his behaviour and overall happiness also."

"We have seen some fantastic changes to the school playground. It feels a lot safer."

"I feel the children couldn't ask for a better school. You really put the child's needs first and support them wherever it is needed."

"Both my children adore going to school and have made fantastic progress. They are always pushed to achieve their full potential."

"It is great to see how our daughter is progressing and how positive she is. This is most certainly down to the teaching staff."

"Swan Lane offers a very safe and secure environment where my daughter is developing well. She has grown in confidence and her learning is extraordinary."

"Swan Lane First School is a wonderful school that I am strongly recommending it."

"Our children are all so happy at the school, thanks to the excellent teachers and all the support staff who are so caring and make the children want to be in school."

"Breakfast Club is a great service and the Reception staff are particularly helpful if I ever need to call during the day."

"Breakfast Club is a great service and the staff do a fantastic job starting the school day with lots of fun."

Have a wonderful half term break. Thank you for all of your support.

Mrs Roberts



# Swan Lane First School

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February 2017

## Dates for your diary

Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day

Monday 20th - Friday 24th February - Half Term

Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th March - Life Education Van in school

Monday 27th February - Back to school

Thursday 9th March - SATs Evening for Y2 Parents

Tuesday 28th February - Scholastic Book Fair arrives

Wednesday 15th March - 3J Class Assembly

The results of our parent questionnaire are in!		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child is happy at this school.	72%	27%	0%	1%	0%
2	My child feels safe at this school.	64%	32%	0%	1%	3%
3	My child makes good progress at this school.	57%	41%	1%	%	1%
4	My child is well looked after at this school.	60%	38%	1%	1%	0%
5	My child is taught well at this school.	57%	41%	0%	0%	2%
6	My child received appropriate homework for their age.	48%	49%	1%	0%	2%
7	This school ensures the pupils are well behaved.	41%	51%	2%	0%	6%
8	This school deals effectively with bullying.	32%	38%	1%	3%	26%
9	This school is well led and managed.	61%	36%	0%	1%	2%
10	This school responds well to any concerns I have.	57%	37%	2%	4%	0%
11	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	46%	49%	3%	0%	2%
12	I would recommend this school to another parent.	68%	30%	2%	0%	0%

## Parental Questionnaire

As you can see from these results, the responses of the recent survey were overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to parents/carers who have written such lovely comments about the school and the dedication and commitment of everyone who works at Swan Lane. We have included some of the very positive comments on the back page.

With regards to question 8, many parents/carers stated that they had no experience of any bullying at our school and therefore did not know how it would be dealt with. A copy of our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy can be found on the school's website.

In response to additional comments that were made on the return forms:

### Parental Consultations

We hold Parental Consultations in October and February. During the Summer Term every child receives a comprehensive report. If parents/carers wish to discuss the report in further depth then they can make an appointment to see the class teacher.

If parents/carers have any concerns about the progress of their child, at any point during the academic year, we would encourage them to make an appointment to see the class teacher.

### Information on the Website

Mr Bowkett and Mrs Whitehouse maintain the school's website and it is updated on a weekly basis. Forthcoming events appear on the home page and it is possible to access the calendar pages for events that are happening during the rest of the academic year. It is impossible for us to upload all of the letters that are sent home, simply due to time constraints. However, if we run any competitions which require a template or there are application forms for the children to complete we will

put these on the website as requested.

There are details on the website of the curriculum your child will be following in each of the year groups. Details of the Numeracy and Literacy topics can be found under "Learning." You then need to click on the year group on the right hand side and here you will find information for Maths and Big Writing. An overview of the whole curriculum and topics that will be taught throughout the year in all other areas can be found on the left hand side of this page under "Curriculum." You can find examples of the Big Maths "Learn It" Sheets and there will soon be examples of the "CLIC Sheets".

### Homework

The response to this statement was very mixed. Some parents want more homework, some parents believe it is the right amount of homework and others want less homework. We expect every child to read at home every night. Children from Year 1 upwards have a spelling test each week. There are the Big Maths "Learn Its" which the children should be learning every week and there are the Big Writing homework slips which go home with suggestions and ideas of things that could be completed at home to help the child with their writing on Friday. As a school, we believe we have the balance right with homework as we also want the children to have time to enjoy activities and clubs outside the school day.

We are looking to improve our spelling homework. Each class teacher will make sure the children have a week to learn their spellings. No new spellings will be given out as homework until the previous ones have been tested.

### School Security

We have worked hard to make our site as secure as possible. There is now a wooden fence surrounding the playground by the entrance to the school. The

fencing down the side of the field, which forms a boundary with St Mary's Road, was replaced last summer. There are extra security measures planned during the working day for the entrance to the school and once the building work at the back of the school is completed, additional fencing will be placed by the Year 1 classroom to prevent easy access to the rear of the school. We feel we have the balance right between keeping the children safe but also maintaining the school as one that is welcoming and accessible to all.

### Lunch Times

There are fourteen Lunchtime Supervisors employed at the school. They spend their time looking after the children in the dining hall, where they encourage the children to eat as much of their lunch as possible, and they supervise the children when they are outside at play. Two members of the Leadership Team are also on duty every lunchtime.

### Post Box

There has been a request for a secure box in the foyer area of school where envelopes and forms can be posted so parents/carers don't have to wait in a queue for the School Office when all they want to do is hand something in. This is a good idea and something we will consider.

## Playground Plan

On the first day back in September, parents would find it useful to have a plan which shows where the children need to line up on the first morning back and where to collect them at the end of the day. We will send this information out on a newsletter at the end of this academic year and also put details on the website.

### Year 1 Area

Once the building work is finished at the school we will look at improving the area outside the Year 1 classrooms so that parents/carers are not having to stand on a muddy surface when waiting for their children.

### Trips and Visits

We will endeavour to provide more notice of trips and visits that require payments.

The teaching staff and teaching assistants at Swan Lane are very experienced and they all work together very well. Their main concern at the school is that the children are happy, safe and achieving to their full potential. In order for this to be achieved communication between all the professionals takes place regularly and when anyone has a concern about a child it is dealt with in an appropriate way.

## World Book Day

This year we will not be dressing up for World Book Day, however we do have plenty of exciting activities planned. A poet, James Carter, will be running workshops for the children and it would be great if you could log on to his website with your child in order to gain some tips beforehand!

[www.jamescarterpoet.co.uk](http://www.jamescarterpoet.co.uk)



## Reminder about jewellery

For health and safety reasons the **only** jewellery that is permitted in school are simple ear studs. Thank you.

If you would like an enlarged copy of this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the office. It is also available as a pdf file on our website.