



May 2014 – Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter.

Year 6 SATS

Congratulations go to our Year 6 children for their really mature approach to tackling the SATS tests last week- I don't know how they have done in terms of marks in English and Maths, but one thing has already been very clear- in terms of maturity, they have made unbelievable progress- every single one of the children kept calm, did the very best that they possibly could and refused to give up, even when they found the questions difficult. I have worked in schools for more than twenty years now, but I have never seen such maturity in a class as these children have developed.

My sincere thanks to Miss Martin, Miss Chainey and all the team who have worked with the children this year and got them to this point, both academically and emotionally.

Miss Martin

My heartfelt congratulations go to Miss Martin, who has recently been appointed to the post of Deputy- Head at Merdon Junior School in Hampshire.

Miss Martin has been a wonderful class teacher and phase leader here at Swaythling for the last 13 years, and has played a huge part in the great improvements in teaching and learning that we have seen here. She will be much-missed, but I am sure that you will join me in thanking her for all her hard work, and wishing her every success as she takes the next step in what I am sure will be a long and highly successful career.

Les the Lollipop Man

With great reluctance, Les our lollipop man has been forced to retire. Les has become a real character in our community, and will be hugely missed by everybody who attends the school. Personally, I will greatly miss his unflappable cheeriness, particularly when faced with the extreme weather he has worked in over the last few years. We wish him a long and happy retirement following his beloved Saints. If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift for Les, please talk to the Office staff.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in taking up the post and becoming the new lollipop person, please ask them to come to the Office for more details.

Children's Squabbles

If your child has an argument in school, or is upset by something, please come in and speak to the class teacher in the first instance in order that we can sort it out swiftly and fairly. We had an incident last week of a version of something that had happened on the playground being posted on Facebook, which was extremely distressing for the children and families involved, so please come and talk to us about any problems and we will sort it out, don't attempt to tackle other parents yourself or use social media as a means of expressing your distress. Remember, you have only heard one side of what is likely to be a very complicated story...

Dates for the Diary

We have staff training days on Thursday and Friday of this week, so the children will be closed to the children on these days. This means that the children break up on Wednesday 20th May at the usual time, and return on Monday 2nd June.

Tuesday 20 th May	Bike doctor in school
Wednesday 21 May	Year 6 Science trip to the Common
Wednesday 21 st May	break up for half-term
Thursday 22 nd May	School Closed due to Polling
Friday 23 rd May	School Closed due to Inset day
Monday 2 nd June	Return to school
Monday 2 nd June	Y1 & Y2 visit to Bluereef Aquarium, Southsea
Wednesday 4 th June	Commonwealth games menu for school dinners
Friday 6 th June	Neil Cowley (famous pianist) in school for Musical event
Friday 6 th June	Life Education mobile classroom arrives in school
Friday 13 th June	World Cup menu for school dinners
Monday 23 rd June	Mobile Library in school
Tuesday 1 st July	Bikers' Breakfast
Friday 4 th July	French Day
Tuesday 22 nd July	Break-up for Summer Holiday at 1.30
Wednesday 3 rd Sept.	New school year begins

Attendance

Attendance has become a real success story this year- last week, all 7 classes beat our target of 95%, and we have had two classes (Years 2&6) who have managed 100%. We have around 8 weeks left of the school year; let's see if we can keep this up and shatter our target of 95% for the whole year.

J Draper
Headteacher