



# Swimbridge CE Primary School

Inspire, Enable and Educate for 'Life in all its Fullness'.



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## Swimbridge News

### The Week Ahead

(Mon 14th Oct to Fri 18th Oct)

**Mon:**  
 9.30am Harvest Service in  
 St James' Church,  
 PTFA AGM from 6pm

**Tue:**  
 Skern Lodge Residential,  
 Yr 1 & 2 to Croyde Beach,  
 Yr R Forest School,  
 No Guitars/Flutes,

**Wed:**  
 Skern Lodge Residential,

**Thurs:**  
 Skern Lodge Residential,

**Fri:**  
 Explorers swimming,  
 Yr 5 & 6 parents to collect  
 from Skern at 1pm



It was wonderful to see so many parents and grandparents on site during our open classroom afternoon this Tuesday. The children thoroughly enjoyed demonstrating their creative skills whilst problem solving during their DT day and took huge pride in showing off their projects and sharing their learning with you all.

Please don't forget that on Monday (14th) from 9.30am, we will be celebrating Harvest at St James Church with songs, poems, prayers and art work. We will also be collecting donations to help raise much needed funds for our Action Aid sponsored child Mamadou. Every child has been given a small envelope this week to put a donation into, which they will then need to bring to the service on Monday. A collection plate will also be passed around the congregation during the service so please bring any further donations you would like to make to support the Action Aid charity collection.

On Tuesday (15th) we will be waving our Year 5 and 6 children off as they depart for an adventurous few days at Skern Lodge. If any year 5 or 6 parents have any last minute questions, please pop into the office where Mrs Bull will be happy to help.

A reminder for Year 1 and 2 parents to ensure your children have the correct clothing and wellies for their Croyde visit on Tuesday, and for Year R children to come into school in old clothes and shoes or wellies suitable for outdoor learning, with a clean change of clothes for the end of the day.

After half term the Inventors class start their 6 week swimming course (1st Nov). We would be most grateful if Inventors parents could log into their ParentPay accounts to make their voluntary contribution of just £17 to ensure that this provision is possible. We calculate this voluntary payment based on all parents contributing to the cost of the swimming and so would be grateful for payments to be made as soon as possible. Many thanks. Each Inventor will need to bring a named towel and swimming costume/shorts in a bag with them to school every Friday from 1st Nov.

Please note that following the half term break, there is no school on Monday 28th October, school starts back on Tuesday 29th October.

### Upcoming School Dates for your Diary

- Mon 14th Oct, 9.30am, Harvest Service at St James' Church, Swimbridge. All parents and family members invited to attend
- Mon 14th Oct, PTFA AGM 6-7pm
- Tues 15th Oct, Yr1 & 2 visit to Croyde Beach, Yr R Forest School day
- Tues 15th—Fri 18th Oct, Inventors Skern Lodge Residential
- Fri 18th Oct, Year 5 & 6 children to be collected from Skern at 1pm (then home)
- Fri 18th Oct, break up for half term. Please note there is no school on Mon 28th Oct, school starts back on Tues 29th Oct.
- Fri 1st Nov, Fire Safety talks (all classes)
- Fri 1st Nov, Inv start swimming

Merit Stamp Cards &  
 Learning Behaviour  
 Awards

**\*Congratulations\***  
**Molly S, Niroshini**

### Some of our learning this week:

**Adventurers and Discoverers:**  
 have been designing, making and evaluating their very own desert cupcakes with decorative boxes.

**Explorers:**  
 made 3D buildings to withstand an earthquake on a jelly base, and have looked at how solids turn into liquid and liquids into gas.

**Inventors:**  
 have been working on assessments—improving their exam technique and trying a talking exam for science.

Our school vision is to embrace the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional and social development of all.  
 We strive for educational excellence by supporting and developing the following values:

Wisdom

Hope

Community

Dignity

Love

Our Devon Norse Autumn 2019 lunch menu has been handed out today so please take the time to look though this new menu with your children. With our school lunches remaining at £2.30 for a main, side salad and dessert, these hot, freshly prepared meals represent great value for money and are especially convenient with the winter weather approaching. The government have continued to invest in free school meals for infants (years R–2) because of research which clearly shows that children are able to concentrate and focus on their learning better after a hot school meal.

On Friday 8th November during assembly, the children will be shown a short video about Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child' Shoebox Appeal and how we, as a school, support this charity each year. A simple shoebox gift packed with love and fuelled by prayer can have a huge impact, bringing great joy to children around the world.

Every child will take part in filling the shoes boxes collected and so we are in need of lots of donated gifts to fill them! We have a large number of shoe boxes that have already been donated, however, we are in need of support from you all to fill them. If you have any goodies you would like to donate please drop these into the school office no later than Monday 11th November. Items needed are:

- ~ Hats, gloves and scarves - no camouflage or skeleton patterns please.
- ~ Pens, pencils, small note books, colouring books.
- ~ Small cuddly toys, small dolls
- ~ Face cloth, sponge, soap, comb, hair brush, hair bands/clips, tooth brush
- ~ Small toys e.g. tennis ball, skipping rope, cars (no war themed toys please).
- ~ Cash donations of £5 per shoe box would also be welcomed.



Please note that due to import/export regulations, we are no longer able to add sweets or toothpaste to the shoe boxes.

### Secondary School Applications

We have received a letter from the Senior Admissions Officer of DCC, who has reminded us to encourage parents to make their secondary online applications sooner rather than later. He has informed us of the following: *'The Local Authority is faced with some difficult challenges this year due to the number of children transferring into secondary school and the number of places available. The consequences of families not applying before the closing date of the 31st October could be disastrous for these families who potentially will be missing out on a place at their local school, or the only school they are able to get their child to.'*

Please note that you can apply online by visiting [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline)

## This Week's Home Learning

<b>Adventurers:</b>	<i>Year R - maths task and phonics, plus daily reading please. Year 1 - Spelling task, Maths mat and daily reading please.</i>
<b>Discoverers:</b>	<i>SPaG/Maths mats, spellings and daily reading please, recording in your child's Reading Record.</i>
<b>Explorers:</b>	<i>Daily reading, times tables and spellings. (see home learning folder)</i>
<b>Inventors:</b>	<i>Daily reading please.</i>

## PTFA News Page

# PTFA AGM postponed until 1st November

The PTFA AGM has been postponed and will now be held at 8.45am on Friday 1st November. At this meeting, our old committee briefly share what happened over the previous academic year and stand down from their posts (if they choose to) and a new committee of at least 3 volunteers is then formed.

The AGM is the only formal meeting of the year, but does have to happen in order for the PTFA to keep running over the following year.

Being on the committee does not mean that you are signing up to attend every single meeting or event and the roles can be joint and shared between members, so please do not feel you are volunteering for lots of work, you are in fact joining a group of parents, friends and school staff who want the best for the children and who work together to help make this happen.

Sadly it is looking like our PTFA may have to fold at this year's AGM, as we have had no new interest show in committee membership. We are particularly dependent on parents of children in years R–2 coming forward to help keep this valuable organisation going, as these children will be with us for a number of years moving forward and will benefit the most from the social events and fundraising activities.

In order to run, the PTFA needs just 3 committee members and these can be parents or friends or grandparents of children at our school.

We are really fortunate at Swimbridge that so many parents who help and support the events that are held as this reduces the workload of the committee but without an actual committee we cannot legally run our PTFA and all activities will therefore stop.

### **Why do we need a PTFA?**

Most schools have a **Parent Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA)**, which is an organisation of parents, staff and friends. Its role is to encourage closer links between home and school. PTFA's are best known for their fundraising work, however, they have a crucial social function too. Fundraising events don't just raise additional funds for the children of the school, they provide an opportunity for parents, staff and pupils to get together.

### **How is money spent?**

Funds raised by the PTFA are intended to provide 'extras' not already provided by the school's main income - often 'fun things' that make learning more interesting and exciting. The PTFA committee and the Headteacher decide how to allocate PTFA funds.