



Swimbridge CE Primary School

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



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Swimbridge News

The Week After Half Term

(Mon 28th Oct to Fri 1st Nov)

Mon:

No school

Tue:

Guitars/Flutes,

Wed:

Thurs:

Fri:

8.45am PTFA AGM,
 Whole school fire safety talks,
 Inventors swimming,

I hope you enjoyed the Harvest Service on Monday. I hear that Jessica W & Joseph were superb at running the service on my behalf and that all the children enjoyed singing and celebrating with friends and family. Thank you for your kind donations, which have raised £215 towards our £350 target for Mamadou, our Action Aid sponsored child.



On Tuesday, we waved our Inventors off as they departed for their Skern Lodge residential. Please look out for a photo-packed newsletter after half term, containing information about all they got up to whilst away. Also on Tuesday, our year 1 & 2 children explored the North Devon coast, spending the day at Croyde beach enjoying the sand dunes.



Our Reception children also enjoyed a day beyond the classroom, spending time in the forest garden getting muddy and drinking hot chocolate.

A reminder that after half term, Inventors class will start their 6 week swimming course (1st Nov). Thank you to all those who have paid the voluntary contribution of just £17. We calculate this voluntary payment based on all parents contributing to the cost of the swimming and so would be most grateful for any remaining payments to be made as soon as possible.

Your child should have given you a proof and order form from their recent school photo. Please note that the last date for these to be returned to the school office is Tuesday 29th October.

Some of our learning this week:

Reception:

got close to nature this week, as they made conker crowns and leafy hedgehogs in the forest garden.

Year 1 & 2:

spent the day at Croyde beach this week, where they learnt about how sand dunes are formed, They identified plants that grow on the dunes and learnt about the problem of nurdles, taking part in our own litter pick.

Explorers:

became extreme earth journalists and created an information text about tornadoes.

Inventors:

enjoyed a fabulous 4 days at their Skern Lodge residential.



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

Last week, four of our Discoverers took part in a School Games tennis event at Tarka where they represented our school with energy and determination! Well done to Evie, Jack B, Alex S and Eva.

Merit Stamp Cards & Learning Behaviour Awards

Congratulations
 Honor, Lochlann,
 Albi, Luke

Upcoming School Dates for your Diary

- Tues 29th Oct, children return to school
- Fri 1st Nov, PTFA AGM from 8.45am
- Fri 1st Nov, Inventors start swimming (6 wks)
- Week commencing Mon 11th Nov, Whole school parent consultation week (time and dates to follow)
- Mon 11th Nov, Remembrance
- Tue 12th Nov, Charity shoebox filling
- Fri 15th Nov, Children In Need
- Fri 22nd Nov, Whole school photo
- Mon 2nd Dec, Flu vaccinations
- Thurs 5th Dec, Theatre Alibi performance
- Fri 6th Dec, Joint Inv and Exp swimming session
- Fri 6th Dec, Progress reports to parents
- Wed 11th Dec, EYFS/KS1 Nativity from 9.30am
- Fri 13th Dec, Christmas Service from 2.00pm
- Wed 18th Dec, Christmas dinner and jumper day
- Thurs 19th Dec, End of Autumn term

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

Thank you so much to the vast majority of parents who are now helping us by keeping their ParentPay accounts in credit—it makes such a difference to workload! Individual letters will be sent home after the half term break to any parents owing money to the school, and school lunches and Cool Kids Club attendance privileges may be withdrawn at this point. Please do check your child's balance to avoid any embarrassment.

After half term our lunch time and after school club timetable will change, please see details below:

- Monday lunch time Year 1 & 2 multi-skills with Mrs Watts
- Monday after school KS2 netball with Mrs Watts
- Tuesday lunch time All years skipping club with Mrs Gilbert and school band with Tim Parker
- Wednesday lunch time Year 5 & 6 netball with Mrs Watts and all years choir with Miss Long
- Thursday lunch time Year 3 & 4 netball with Mrs O'Connor
- Friday lunch time Years 4,5 & 6 football with Mrs Watts and all years yoga and mindfulness with Miss Long

Mrs Beer will also be running a sewing club some Thursday lunchtimes—dates TBC. Please pop into the office to sign up if you are interested (numbers limited to 6 children).

If your child is interested in joining Mrs Watts after school on Mondays for netball, please pop into the office and let Mrs Bull know so that your child can be added to the list.

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.



This Week's Home Learning

- Adventurers:** *Year R - phonics, plus daily reading please.
Year 1 - Spelling task, SPaG task and daily reading please.*
- Discoverers:** *SPaG task, spellings and daily reading please, recording in your child's Reading Record. After half term Discoverers home learning will be due on a Thursday and will be sent out on a Friday.*
- Explorers:** *Create a shoebox scene of an extreme earth event, plus daily reading please.*
- Inventors:** *Daily reading please.*

PTFA News Page

PTFA AGM

1st November after 'drop off' at 8.45am

All are welcome!

The PTFA AGM offers you a chance to meet with other parents and friends of our school, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and listen to and contribute ideas to hold fun events that will help raise money for our school.

At the AGM, our old committee will 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 will then be formed.

The AGM is the only formal meeting of the year, the rest are just about getting together to share ideas and plan together, but the AGM has to take place for the PTFA to keep running as an organisation.

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.

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.