Swineshead St. Mary's CE Primary School

Autumn term 2, 2026-27

www.enquiries@swineshead.laat.co.uk

Dear Parents & Carers,

Wow! What an amazing start to the year we had last term. The children came back raring to go and I can't quite believe how quickly and brilliantly our new reception children settled in. They are already so independent in their learning. The children have really enjoyed their new music curriculum, so a huge thank you to everyone who helped us raise money for the new instruments – it has been a delight hearing these throughout school. Also, our school sports are well underway and the children taking part in fixtures this term have been very excited telling me about these.

This second autumn term is always a busy but exciting one, with the build up to Christmas and all the festive joy that brings. Please do keep an eye out for all the dates you need and join us if you can for various things that are happening, including the Nativity, church service and musical production.

The weather has definitely turned and playtimes and lunchtimes are much colder and wetter, so please can we ask that parents send children with a named, warm and waterproof coat, sensible waterproof shoes and additional hats and gloves when needed as we move into the term. We like to get children outside as much as possible, weather permitting.

We look forward to welcoming you to our parents evenings this term, where you will have the opportunity to speak with your child's new class teacher, see how they have settled in and ask any questions. However, as always, if you have any questions or concerns at all, please do get in touch with us, either through your MCAS app or via the school office.

Kind regards,
Mrs Horton
(Head of School)



School improvements:

Over the half term, school improvements have continued. Decorating has taken place in Shackleton and Jemison classrooms and the atrium in KS1. This is making such a difference to the school. This will continue into the spring term with KS2 areas being next on the list.

We have also continued our improvements in the EYFS outdoor space over half term. One of the projects has been to extend the mud kitchen area and the children have loved having access to this over the last week. The house area has also had a re-vamp, the double walled-flower bed had become unsafe, so this has been removed and made way for a muti-purpose stage area and bike space. This will further develop over the term and the children will have the opportunity to join in with some planting of new plants to brighten up the space and we are awaiting some new outdoor furniture to make the most of this.

Our school council, under the brilliant leadership of Mrs Mountain, have also been busy making improvements and have re-decorated the bench area out on the KS2 playground as a quiet space for playtimes. Many children have been benefitting from this over the last week.

Keep a look out for other work going on around school, we continue to plan improvements over the academic year.

Diary dates for this term:

- Tues 3rd Nov – 9.00am open morning for new reception
- Thurs 5th Nov – 1.30pm open afternoon for new reception
- Mon 9th Nov – 5pm open evening for new reception
- Tues 10th Nov – Nightingale class trip
- Tues 10th and Wed 11th Nov – parents evenings (some alternative arrangements for Jemison class)
- Fri 13th Nov – Children in Need Day
- Mon 16th Nov – Odd Sock day (anti-bullying week)
- Fri 27th Nov – School discos: KS1 5.00-6.00pm, KS2 6.30-7.30pm
- Mon 30th Nov – Bikeability week year 5&6
- Mon 30th – Nativity dress rehearsal
- Tues 1st Dec – Nativity performance 9.30am
- Thurs 3rd Dec – Nativity performance 1.30pm
- Fir 4th Dec – Year 5&6 Athletics
- Mon 7th Dec – Nativity performance 5.00pm
- Wed 9th Dec – panto day
- Thurs 10th Dec – Rock Steady concert (details to follow)
- Fri 11th Dec– Christmas jumper day (fundraiser organised by school council)
- Fri 11th Dec – Year 4, 5 and 6 Tinsel, Tunes and Cheer (Carol concert) 2.30pm
  There will be no celebration worship this day
- Tues 15th Dec – Christmas lunch (please book if you wish your child to have this through the normal system)
- Thurs 17th Dec – Christmas service in Church 1.30pm
- Fri 18th Dec – Last day of term 2







Vision and Values - Your voice counts

Every year the governing body review our school's vision and values. This year, they made the decision with the Leadership Team that a refresh of the current school vision and values is needed. This is to ensure that it represents who we are as a school and community and drives current improvements for every child.

This is a joint venture, we have already consulted with staff. Now we wish to gain the voice of our wider school community. We would love for our parents and children to be involved in this and really own the direction the school is travelling in over the next few years to come.

With this in mind, during parents evening this week, you will have the opportunity to take part in a quick survey. There will be QR codes in the hall for you to scan and there will be devices available if you are unable to do this on your phone. (We will also send out via MCAS after the event). Please answer these as honestly and fully as you can to ensure that your voice is heard. These questions will include:

- What you currently like about our vision and values and think is important to keep – it still reflects who we are.
- What is missing and you think it a priority for us now.
- What you think is important for our school to focus on with regards to developing children as citizens of your community and the wider world.
- An opportunity for you to share your thoughts on important values for our school.

Please do take part, the more voices we gather, the more reflective of the community our vision and values will be.

We will be having similar conversations with the children over the next week or so, to ensure that they also have a say in what is important to them.

Thank you for your help with this!

Attendance:

Gates open at 8.35am and all lessons start promptly at 8:45 am, good attendance is essential for ensuring every child makes strong progress. We want every child in our school to be successful, happy and to thrive – giving them the very best life chances for their future. Education is one of the most important things we can offer our children, but they need to be in school for us to make this happen.

Attendance continues to be a government and local authority priority for schools and we want to work with you as transparently as possible, giving you the information you need. To support this we will continue to send half termly letters to keep you informed of your child's attendance – these are for all children in school. We will also continue to support our families in improving attendance where we can, through support meetings and in a variety of ways on an individual basis. Our goal is simple: to support every child and family so that school is a positive and consistent part of their lives. Thank you for working with us to make this happen!
If there are any barriers to your child being able to attend, please come and speak to us so that we can help.

This term we are incredibly excited to be welcoming the support of our new school Educational Welfare Officer who will compliment our work with families:

LAAT - Update:

Miss Harper - Educational Welfare Officer
Miss Harper is your Educational Welfare Officer, she is dedicated to supporting children, and their families to achieve positive school attendance and educational outcomes. She works closely with schools, parents, and external agencies to identify and remove barriers that may be affecting attendance.
With a supportive and family-centred approach, Miss Harper helps create tailored plans that promote engagement in education, improve attendance, and support pupil wellbeing. Her focus is on building positive relationships, providing guidance, and ensuring families have access to the support they need to help children thrive both in school and beyond.
"Working together to remove barriers, promote positive attendance, and create opportunities for every child to succeed."



You may hear from Miss Harper if you are currently being supported with attendance. However, if you feel that you would benefit from any support at all, please get in touch. We are always happy to help.



Children in Need – Friday 13th November 2026

You will have received information already about our Children in Need fundraiser this year, the children have been invited to take part in a sponsored run or walk for 30 minutes. You have been sent a joining link to this if you wish for your child to take part. Thank you to all our families who have already signed up, even a very small donation makes such a big difference!

The children have also been invited to wear non-uniform, yellow or spotty. Please see MCAS for more information. We are very much looking forward to a day of team spirit within school supporting this worthwhile cause.

Safeguarding information:

You can report any concerns to the school or directly to Children and Young People's Services (Social Services).
During Office hours contact Children Services on 01522 782111 or email: lscb@lincolnshire.gov.uk.
Out of Office Hours (24-hours) contact the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on 01522 782333.

Our Safeguarding Team is as follows:
The Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Collett. (Mrs Horton will be taking on this role during Mrs Collett's absence)
Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Horton, Miss Ratcliff and Miss Parr
If you are not sure who to contact, please ask at our reception – they will be happy to direct you, or check our safeguarding signs on external doors.

We are very passionate about supporting all of our families and do take safeguarding seriously. If you need to disclose an incident or are worried about anything, perhaps you need help yourselves as a family, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We are here to help, not judge and will do our best to support you.



Keeping your child safe online:

We have had a number of incidents over recent weeks of children being unkind to others online, through social media and through messaging services.

We have discussed this in school, however we would appreciate parent support in monitoring and addressing this issue.

Please refer to our E-safety section of the website for information to help you.

https://www.swineshead.lincs.sch.uk/information/esafety.html

Enrichment sessions:

These have been ongoing since September and the children are thoroughly enjoying them. Over each half term, every week a different class in school get to take part in an enrichment session with JB Sports. This half term this is glow in the dark dodge ball. The activities change each half term, offering experiences to the children that they wouldn't normally have the opportunity to access. These are in addition to PE which the children have with their class teacher.

Ask your children about these and what fun activities they have been doing.

Last week it was Nightingale Class's turn to take part, they had great fun!



