



# Swan Lane First School Newsletter

Issue 4 December 2019



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## Dates for your Diary 2020

Monday 6th January - Teacher Education Day

Tuesday 7th January - Term starts for children

Tuesday 7th January - Welly Week for Year 1

Monday 13th January - Welly Week for Year 4 & 5

Tuesday 14th January - Swimming Starts for Year 3

Monday 20th January - Welly Week for Year 2 & 3

Monday 27th January - Welly Week for Year 1

Tuesday 28th January - Chinese New Year Meal

Wednesday 29th January - 4ST Class Assembly

## Disco

At the start of December we had the KS1 & KS2 Discos! It was brilliant to see the children singing, dancing and enjoying themselves with their friends.



## Reception Nativity

Well done to all the children in Reception who performed in their brilliant Nativity play! They performed to the school, to parents, to nursery children and also to those at Yates Court & Homesmith House. We were all really impressed that you remembered all your lines and sang so beautifully. Thank you Mr Davies, Mrs Grelak & the other staff who helped out.



## Swan Lane in Bloom

Last week, Swan Lane was awarded a 'Platinum Award' for the work that has been done in school to promote all things horticultural! In school, we have many clubs which have contributed to the effort. In addition to this, all the children planted some flowers on the whole-school planting day. We have had a number of additional developments this year, including more labelling of our trees and flowers, so the children can learn their names and leaving some areas of grass unmown to help wildflowers and wildlife. Also, we have already begun planning for our Swan Lane Nature Trail. I hope you will agree that the grounds are beautiful and that the children and staff have worked hard to ensure they are attractive to both humans and wildlife. Many thanks to 'The Valley' Garden Centre, who have supported us in our work by donating plants, tools and seeds.



## Year 5 Trip to a Mosque

The children in year five were welcomed to the mosque in Redditch, which enriched our learning of Islamic faith. We found out what a mosque looks like, both inside and outside, and we found similarities and differences between the places of worship in other faiths. We listened to the sounds of prayers, and many of the children chose to follow some of the movements. We learnt about the activities that take place, including the work that children can choose to participate in. As none of the children had visited a mosque before, this was an important way to learn outside the classroom.

### Christmas Jumper Day

We raised £228.41 for Save the Children!



### Fun Run

Earlier this month the Friends of Swan Lane First School hosted a fun run to raise money for, amongst other things, new wet play toys. It was a great success with lots of children challenging themselves to run as many laps around the school as possible. So far £1502.75 has been raised, with more to come, which is an incredible effort by all involved. Many thanks to the "Friends" for organising the event and to those who helped out on the day.



### Trip to the Pantomime

On Monday 16th December the children from KS2 visited the Swan Theatre in Worcester to see the pantomime. This year we were treated to Snow White & the Seven Dwarves. The performance was brilliant and it was lovely to see the children enjoying themselves and getting fully into the pantomime spirit by joining in with the singing and dancing. Every year the teachers panic about being picked on by Dame Ginny, this year, Mr Warren was the (un)fortunate one...



### Goodbye & Good Luck

This term we are saying goodbye to Mr Bowkett & Mrs Miller. Mr Bowkett has been a great member of the Swan Lane team for many years, originally teaching in Year 4 before moving upstairs to Year 5. He has been at the heart of some brilliant end of year productions, and we wish him well for his new adventure at a school in Dudley. Mrs Miller has been a Teaching Assistant at Swan Lane for many years, most recently helping in Year 3. She is moving on to a school in Moreton-in-Marsh and we wish her the very best of luck.

### E-Safety Visit from Our PCSO

Recently, we had a visit from Andrea Beech, our local PCSO. She gave an assembly about keeping safe on-line and then did some workshops in year five to provide more detail to the older children. The children learnt that the age limit for social media is thirteen and that some platforms have far higher age restrictions. They were given an insight into the possible dangers and how they could be minimised. This is an extremely important message, for children and adults alike, and supports the safeguarding work that we do in school.



### Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

From all at Swan Lane First School, we wish you a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year! This term has seen Reception children settle in quickly to school life, exciting events such as the Disco and the Fun Run, and, of course, lots of progress during lesson time. We hope you all take time to relax, enjoy time with loved ones and come back raring to go in January!

