



Swaffham Prior Newsletter

January/February 2021



A message from Mrs Bartley: I just want to say that whether you're at home or at school, you are all doing an amazing job! Parents, we fully understand that juggling family commitments, home learning and, for many of you, working from home is a daunting task and we really appreciate all the effort you are taking in supporting your children. We are missing them all and can't wait to have a full school of happy children laughing and learning again soon! Stay strong and stay safe.



Farewell

We're sad to say goodbye to Mrs O'Dowd, our School Business Manager, who is retiring at the end of this half term. She has worked tirelessly at Swaffham Prior School for many years and seen a lot of changes over that time. As well as making sure that we dot all the i's and cross all the t's, she has been instrumental in the organisation of the school as a whole. We wish Mrs O'Dowd a very happy and well-deserved retirement.

Statutory Assessments

You may have seen in the news recently that the national curriculum assessments due to be held in summer 2021, including SATs tests, teacher assessments and the phonics screening check, have been cancelled.

Mindful Monitor-Free Monday

Lots of bird related activities took place! Mason built a wonderful bird box. I am sure the birds in his garden will be very happy!



Village Walks

Our daily village walks with the children who are currently in school have been a big hit with local people—we even sang happy birthday to one very grateful lady, who has been shielding since last March, from outside her house. If you're passing school on your daily walk, give us a socially distanced wave. We love to see you all.

Critical Worker & Vulnerable Children Provision

Government guidelines on who can access the school provision can be found [here](#). Please contact the school if you have any questions regarding this provision. However, we would encourage children to stay at home where and when possible.

Welcome

We are pleased to be welcoming Melanie Deistler-Howe to the position of Office Co-ordinator. She has already started learning the ropes and will soon be a familiar face around school.

Laptop donations

Following the BBC Give a Laptop appeal, we have been very fortunate to have been donated over 12 laptops and tablets from local residents. These have been very gratefully received and put to good use by some of our families, whose children are now able to access their home learning resources, attend zoom lessons and more.

Key Dates

- 12th February** Last day before half term
- 22nd February** First day back after half term
- 4th March** World Book Day
- 25th March** Last pupil day before Easter holiday
- 12th April** First day back after Easter holiday