

### Coming Up

Parent consultations—see below

Our value for this half term is: **Hope**

#### Message from Mrs Bartley

Firstly I want to thank you all for your ongoing co-operation and communication. Although Covid rates continue to provide additional challenge in our school and we are having to make adaptations on a daily basis, the children are, as always, brilliant—so willing and trying their best. It is so rewarding to see their learning and progress already this term. Please do keep the office informed of any positive tests as we have to provide the DfE of our numbers on a daily basis.



#### Calendar dates for next year

Please see the attached calendar for the dates for the next academic year.

#### Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will take place in the week before half term. They will take place via School Cloud <https://swaffham.schoolcloud.co.uk/> as before so will be online meetings, not in person. These will be a chance for you to meet with your child's teacher to review your child's progress so far this year, discuss how we are supporting your child at school and how you can help support them at home, as well as to ask any questions you may have. Please log in and sign up for a suitable time slot as soon as possible.

#### Lunchtime Clubs

We are really proud of our older children who have been running a variety of lunchtime clubs for the younger children. These have included Makaton signing, board games and colouring.

This half term, Mrs Alvarez will also be running a friendship club on Thursdays at 12:30 and crafting on Tuesdays at 12:30.

#### Late Arrivals

The school gates are open between **8:40** and **8:50** am each day. Registers close at **8.55** and any children arriving after registers close are marked as late.

Please make sure your child arrives in plenty of time so that the start of their day is as calm as possible and they are ready to begin the day's learning at the same time as the other children. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

#### Lunches

The new menus are proving very popular and the food is delicious. During the cold weather, it is a nice alternative for them to have a hot meal.

If your child hasn't already booked a meal, please encourage them to give them a try. I think they might surprise themselves!

#### Key Dates

w/b 07.02.22—  
Parent consultations week  
12.02.22—Half term holiday starts  
21.02.22—Back to school  
01.04.22—Inset day  
02.04.22—Easter Holiday starts  
19.02.22—Back to school

### A Spotlight on History and Geography

We are really impressed with the children's increasing knowledge in History and Geography. I had a fascinating conversation with a couple of children, one in Year 2 and the other in Year 5. One was sharing their knowledge of Christopher Columbus and how he set off for India but arrived on the shores of the Caribbean and so named the area the West Indies. The child in Year 5 then exclaimed we're studying the Slave Trade and had wondered why the area was called the West Indies!

Each term there is a knowledge information sheet which explains all about what the children are learning. They can be found on the school website so please take a look and ask your children what they are learning. It's great to see their growing passion for the subjects as they develop their vocabulary and knowledge of the concepts.

Where possible, our teaching of art skills and knowledge and our learning about famous artists link to the overarching topics. Check out the amazing paintings Year 1 and 2 painted in the style of Hockney.



### Online Safety

You can help keep your child safe online in many ways, including blocking inappropriate content, using filters to restrict what they can access, monitoring their usage and setting time limits.

If they are chatting or messaging in online games, be aware of who they are talking to and what is being said. Keep communication open with them so they feel confident to report misconduct if they need to.

### Mental Health Week—Growing Together!

**Growing Together** is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'.

\*[Place2Be](#) is a children's mental health charity that provides counselling and mental health support and training in UK schools, using tried and tested methods backed by research. They believe that children should not have to face mental health problems alone. They offer a variety of different mental health and counselling services for schools, including in-school support, expert training and resources.

**Place 2 Be\*** offer free resources to help children and young people to explore what it means to **grow together**. All of the ideas **can be used at home as well as in school**.

If children would like to bring in a small tin, yoghurt pot or small plant pot if you have one, we will be planting some seeds and watching how they all grow. We will be planting them in an assembly in the last week of term so please bring your pots in time for then!