

NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2025



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ASPIRE

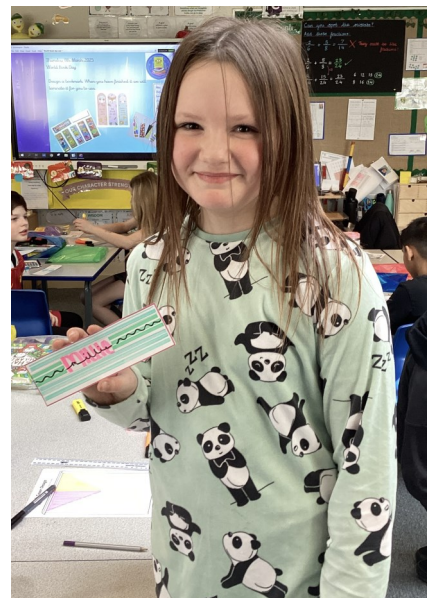
BELIEVE

PERSEVERE

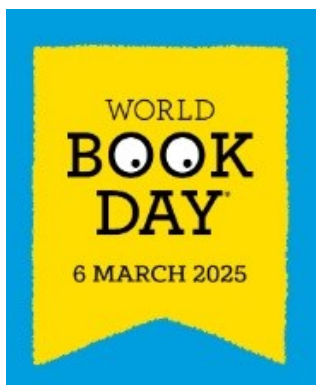
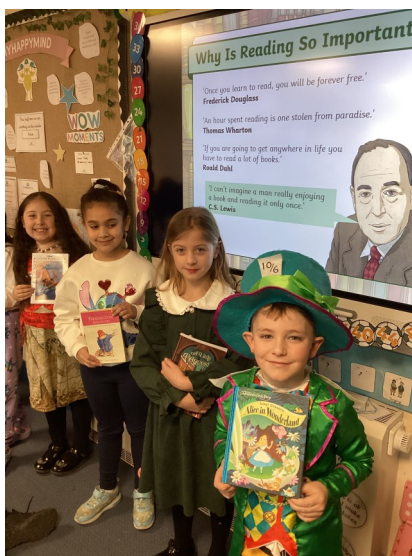
ACHIEVE

WORLD BOOK DAY AT SWAIN HOUSE!

On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day! We enjoyed coming to school in either our pyjamas or dressed as our favourite storybook character. Take a look at some of the amazing costumes below.

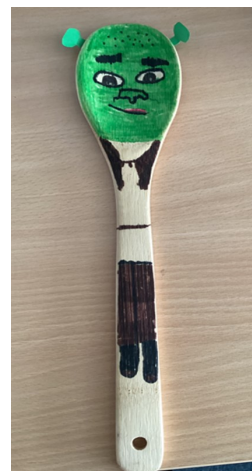
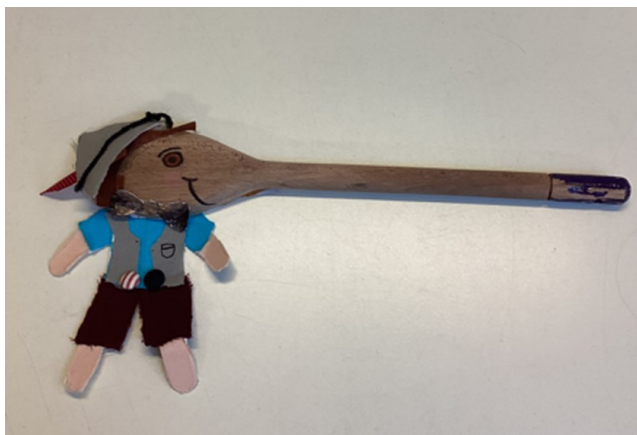
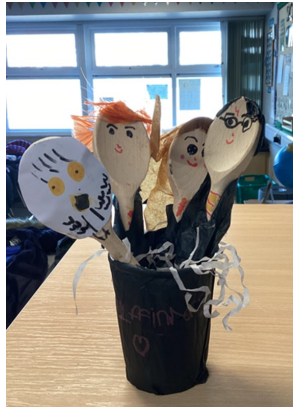


WORLD BOOK DAY AT SWAIN HOUSE!

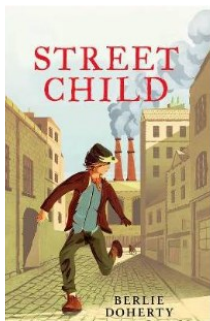


WOODEN SPOON WINNERS!

We had lots of amazing, creative entries for our wooden spoon competition. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that took part. Here are some of the winners...



ENGLISH IN ACTION



At Swain House Primary School, we love reading! In English lessons we choose books to focus on for 1 week to 3 weeks. We look at different text types (fiction, non-fiction or video hooks) throughout the year. We use these books or videos as a hook for our writing, such as writing a setting description of Whitby Abbey or writing a diary entry of a Victorian street child.

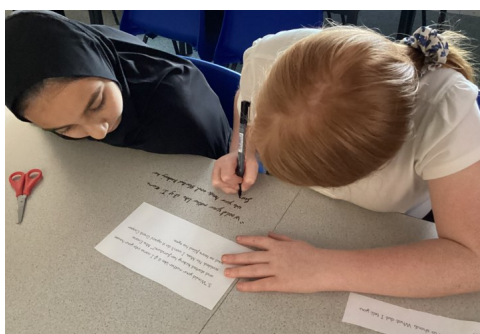


We try to use real audiences for our writing in order to engage our children – we often write for another younger class and sometimes we even post our writing! We have posted letters to Floella Benjamin and to Father Christmas!

In Reception, you may have heard children talk about—Laulau, Dough Disco, Drawing Club and Squiggle While you Wiggle! All these programmes help develop gross and fine motor skills, which supports early writing.



During English lessons, we also focus on handwriting, grammar and spellings



or phonics. In handwriting sessions, children might be learning to join, improve their printed letter formation or even strengthening hand muscles through threading activities and using tweezers. We follow the LetterJoin programme. Children achieve their Golden Pencil when they can join and work up to achieving their Pen Licence. These awards are given out in our Friday Well Done assemblies.

At the start of our unit of work, teachers create an exciting hook for the class. Classes have arrived in school to find lily pads all over the classroom (Tuesday by David Weisner),



have gone on a dragon hunt in the wildlife area (Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo), invited a witch into the classroom (What's in the Witch's Kitchen? by Nick Sharratt) and even visited a marshland (Storm by Kevin Crossley-Holland) in the wildlife area.

To celebrate writing, all classes in KS2 have a Frame of Fame where children's writing is displayed. In KS1, all classes have a Star Writer board where their writing is displayed.



Writing is a main priority in school and we are always trying to find exciting ways to motivate and inspire our children as writers.

CAREERS WEEK 2025

This week we have held our first Careers Week event here at Swain House, to coincide with National Careers Week.

Children in Years 1 to 6 heard from several volunteer speakers who came in to speak about their jobs, inspiring children to think about their futures and their aspirations. They also shared other important messages about overcoming personal barriers, resilience and the possibility of making a living doing something you enjoy.

The children asked some really insightful questions and each visitor commented on how wonderful our pupils were during the talks.



“I learnt that you shouldn’t let a learning difficulty stop you from doing a job you really want to do. Don’t give up!” Roman

“I learnt that jobs in health care can save lives, like transferring blood to those who need it.” Evie

“I enjoyed listening to the mental health nurse because he taught us how important it is to communicate with people.” Zakariya

To end the week, the children have enjoyed some ‘work experience’. They each chose a career they would like to learn more about and took part in tasks to immerse themselves in that job. We look forward to sharing photographs from this event in next week’s newsletter.

Thank you to all children who entered our Careers Week competition. The winners will be announced in next Friday’s Well Done assemblies and featured in the newsletter next week.



YEAR 3 RE VISITOR

We had a special visitor in Year 3 this week. Fatima an interfaith tutor came to talk to us about Islam and spirituality. The children learnt about greetings, the holy Qur'an, beginnings of the Islamic faith and the ninety nine attributes of God and how Muslims try to manifest the names of God in their own lives.

We learnt about the holy month of Ramadan, the children enjoyed sharing what they know about this special time.

We found this session so interesting and informative!



READING PLANET REVIEWS!

As part of our Key Stage 2 reading scheme, we would like to use our weekly newsletter to help promote and share some of your children's favourite stories that they have read. Each week, we will be sharing book reviews that have been written by your children. Hopefully these reviews will inspire our children to read one of the books when they choose their next one.



Brave Leaders—Earth level

This book tells us how people became leaders, like presidents, and changed the world. I liked learning about the difference Nelson Mandela made to people's lives. I recommend this - it's a very good book!

Zakariya—Year 4



**CLICK THE ICON TO SEE REGULAR UPDATES
ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!**



MYHAPPYMIND

OUR CONVERSATION CARD OF THE WEEK



Enjoy a conversation!

Each week we will share a conversation card. These are designed to help you have meaningful and fun conversations with your child and aid discussions about mental health and happiness.



MYHAPPYMIND APP

The myHappyMind app has been updated and now includes some new features—kids zone, myHappyMind games and mini master classes for parents .



Download your FREE myHappyMind Parent App



...An online resource to support you and your family to learn more about how you can use myHappyMind to support your child.



myHappyMind for Parents

Exclusively for parents with children at a myHappyMind School or Nursery.



Learn all about what your children are learning in school



YOU WILL NEED THIS AUTHENTICATION CODE TO SIGN UP

107220

WEEKLY UPDATES

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Here are this week's attendance and punctuality figures. There is a proven link between attendance and achievement and it is therefore very important that your child attends school and is on time unless they are too unwell to do so. Our doors open at **8.30am** and close at **8.40am**.

Please see the information below for our whole school and class attendance for the week ending **07/03/25**.

Early Years and Key Stage 1:

CLASS	PERCENTAGE %	LATES
Elm	93.6%	0
Willow	95.0%	0
Kandinsky	95.3%	1
Matisse	99.7%	1
Lowry	96.0%	3
Van Gogh	92.9%	0

Key Stage 2:

CLASS	PERCENTAGE %	LATES
Anne Fine	98.0%	0
Roald Dahl	97.3%	0
JK Rowling	98.2%	2
Michael Morpurgo	96.7%	4
Elgar	98.1%	2
Mozart	92.9%	2
Beethoven	95.7%	1
Vivaldi	96.4%	0

Congratulations to **Matisse Class** and **JK Rowling Class** for having the **best attendance** this week.

Well done to **Elm Class**, **Willow Class**, **Van Gogh Class**, **Anne Fine Class**, **Roald Dahl Class** and **Vivaldi Class** for having no lates!

Our whole school attendance this week:

96.2%

COMMUNICATION SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

These are the letters, messages and website updates that have been sent out this week. If you have not received any of these letters, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact the office on **01274 639049**.

WEBSITE UPDATES:	National Online Safety - 'Wake Up Wednesday' guide from National Online Safety is about 'Using technology to boost reading skills'.
LETTERS:	05.03.25 – Red Nose Day 2025 06.03.25 – Kandinsky Class Holi Assembly
MESSAGES VIA PARENTAPPS:	03.03.25 – myHappyMind App Support 06.03.25 – Bikes and Scooters

COMMUNITY NEWS



MOVING UP YOUTH CLUB

CURRENT SCHOOL YR 6'S

Monthly Sessions - Tuesdays
28th Jan / 25th Feb / 25th March

Team Building 6:30pm - 8:30pm Positive Activities

Confidence Peer Support

Make Friendships Transitional Support

Here for YOUTH

Ravenscliffe Youth Centre, Roundwood Ave, BD10 0LL
For more details, call Nicky Lannen on 07582102432



EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB SHOW IN A WEEK

MON 14 - THUR 17 APRIL 2025



STANDARD HOURS
MON-WED 9AM-3PM
THUR 9AM-4PM
SHOWTIME @ 4PM
£80 FOR THE WEEK!

OR LONGER HOURS
DROP OFF FROM 8AM AND
COLLECT UP TO 4PM DAILY
£110 FOR THE WEEK!

**MAKE NEW FRIENDS
LEARN NEW SKILLS
GAIN CONFIDENCE**

- 9AM-3PM DAILY
- SHOWTIME AT 4PM ON THE THURSDAY
- BRING A PACKED LUNCH
- OUTDOOR PLAY AREA DURING BREAKS
- BASED AT IDLE PRIMARY SCHOOL
- SUITABLE FOR BOYS & GIRLS ALIKE
- OPEN TO THOSE AGED 5YRS-12YRS
- NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

10% SIBLING DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

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COMING UP THIS TERM

SPRING TERM ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Thursday	13.03.25	2.30pm	Kandinsky Class - Holi Assembly
Thursday	20.03.25	2.30pm	Anne Fine Class Assembly
Thursday	27.03.25	2.30pm	Lowry Class – Vaisakhi Assembly
Thursday	03.04.25	2.30pm	Mozart Class – Easter Assembly



SCIENCE WEEK!

From Monday 10th March, we will be celebrating British Science Week. The theme for this year is 'Adapt and Change'. On Monday, children can come to school dressed as a scientist and will be completing lots of fun science related activities all week.

EASTER CRAFT WORKSHOPS

Parents will be invited to some Easter crafts workshops with their children. Keep an eye out for some more information—coming soon!



COMIC RELIEF 2025!

Red Nose Day

We are keen to support the Comic Relief fundraising event on Friday 21st March 2025. We have decided to try and raise as much money as we can in the following ways:

Wear Something Red – pay £1.00 and come to school in something red, comic relief themed or non- uniform on **Friday 21st March 2025**.

- **Bun Sale** – There will be a bun sale at morning playtime. We are asking for donations of biscuits and buns on the day so that we can sell these to pupils at playtime for 25p (max 50p per child). Please send your contributions for the bun sale with your child on **Friday 21st March 2025**.

Red Noses – These will be on sale (**£2.00 each**) from the main office from **Monday 10th March 2025** – get one before they all go!

We hope as many pupils as possible take part in the above events and that we will raise huge amounts of money for Comic Relief having lots of fun along the way.



REMINDERS

BREAKFAST CLUB

Our Breakfast Club opens at 7.30am at a cost of £3.00 each per day or at 7.45am at the cost of £2.50 each per day. Children from Nursery to Year 6 can attend.

If you would like to book your child into Breakfast Club, please use ParentPay.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Our After School Club is available until 4pm at a cost of £2.50 each per day.

If you would like to book your child into After School Club, please use ParentPay.

EXTRA CLUB

We also offer an Extra Club service that runs until 6pm at a cost of £4.50 per day.

If you would like to book your child into Extra Club, please use ParentPay.

Please can you ensure that Extra Club places are booked and paid for in advance - by Monday morning. This ensures registers are accurate and places are booked and guaranteed.

COMING UP THIS TERM

ANY NEWLY ADDED ITEMS WILL BE IN BLUE

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday	10.03.25		British Science Week
Friday	14.03.25		Year 2 Arctic Workshop
Thursday	20.03.25		Year 1 Trip – Skipton Castle
Friday	21.03.25		Red Nose Day

MENU 10/03/25

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
<p> Vegetarian Chilli & Nachos (Served with Garlic Bread or Rice & Salad)</p> <p> Halal Beef Bolognese (Served with Pasta, Garlic Bread & Salad)</p> <p> Spaghetti Marinara (Served with Garlic Bread & Salad)</p> <p>Assorted Jackets / Sandwiches</p>	<p>Minced Beef & Onion Pie (Served with New Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables)</p> <p> Cheese & Potato Flan (Served with New Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables or Salad)</p> <p>Assorted Jackets / Sandwiches</p>	<p>Roast Meat (Served with Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy)</p> <p> Vegetarian Cottage Pie (Served with Yorkshire Pudding, Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy)</p> <p> Halal Roast Chicken (Served with Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy)</p> <p>Assorted Baguettes</p>	<p> Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Chipped Potatoes (Served with Chipped Potatoes, Baked Beans or Salad)</p> <p> Quorn Sausage (Served with Chipped Potatoes & Salad)</p> <p>Assorted Jackets / Sandwiches</p>	<p>Chicken Goujons (Served with Jacket Wedges, Coleslaw or Salad)</p> <p>MSC Battered Fish (Served with Jacket Wedges and Seasonal Vegetables or Salad)</p> <p> Vegetable Pakoras (Served with Jacket Wedges, Riata & Salad)</p> <p>Assorted Sandwiches</p>
<p> Jam Sponge (Served with Custard)</p> <p> Freshly Prepared Fruit</p>	<p> Fruit Jelly</p> <p> Freshly Prepared Fruit</p>	<p>Sprinkle Cake (Vanilla Sponge topped with water icing and sprinkles)</p> <p> Freshly Prepared Fruit</p>	<p> Chocolate Sponge (With Chocolate Sauce)</p> <p> Freshly Prepared Fruit</p>	<p> Butterfly Buns</p> <p> Freshly Prepared Fruit</p>



WEEK 1

NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY

This week, our 'Wake Up Wednesday' guide from National Online Safety is about 'Using technology to boost reading skills'.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, [teachteachers](http://teachteachers.com), which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



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