



**Swallowdale
Primary School**

Newsletter January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy start to the New Year and indeed a new decade. I have spoken to the children in assembly around the subject of protecting our planet and how we can start to make a difference with looking after our school first and making small changes. We will be working on this over the coming year.

On Monday 13th January, we welcomed Dean Pomeroy (who is our Director of Schools), Clare Bettles and Kirstie Randall (both Lead Practitioners) into school for our Quality Assurance Visit with the Bradgate Education partnership. The purpose of the day was for members of the central team to work alongside our myself, Mrs Marriott and Mrs Edwards to quality assure the developments and improvements we have been implementing this academic year. This was a very positive day and I am delighted to share with you the main messages from the visit feedback below.

Mrs Harries

QUALITY ASSURANCE VISIT

“Overall the school has made effective progress since the inspection against all of the identified areas and is well on track to rapidly improve towards good, potentially this year. Leaders, ably led by the new HT, know the school well and have clearly planned, prioritised and delivered effective actions to improve the school.

The priority during the Autumn term has been to review and refresh the pedagogy and delivery of learning across the school. This was evident from the learning walks – pupils were more engaged in their learning and the overall environment was much more purposeful. Lessons had a better structure, building upon previous learning, and much more effective assessment for learning was clearly evident. Teachers and support staff were providing much more appropriate levels of challenge and support (e.g. not too much scaffolding) and were adapting and remodelling the learning for pupils more frequently. Across school expectations appear to have risen and the atmosphere around the school was very positive. The quality of teaching and learning was good and more consistent than in previous visits – leaders have worked effectively to nurture and develop a growing culture where teaching and learning is at the heart of the conversation.

The levels of behaviour in lessons and around school were very good – pupils appeared to be enjoying their lessons and were suitably challenged therefore learning

Pupils’ work, seen mainly during a brief book scrutiny, also supported recent improvements and the increased levels of pride and presentation were clearly apparent within the books. Books were regularly marked and pupils’ errors and misconceptions corrected or challenged. Subject leaders for English and Maths know their areas well and can confidently present the strengths, weaknesses and planned developments for their subjects. Reading has been the priority for the Autumn term and this presented well during the deep dive – maths is now the priority subject for this term”.

[A huge thank you to all the staff and children who consistently work hard and give their very best. I am very proud of what we have achieved at Swallowdale already.](#)



On Monday 20th January, our Young Voices Choir headed off to Birmingham Arena to join 6500 other children in a massed performance. After 4 months of rehearsing the big day had finally arrived and we were looking forward to performing with the stars!

We arrived at the Arena to be shown to an area where we all ate lunch and then entered the arena where we quickly discovered our seats. We were really lucky to have seats directly ahead of our audience and our fabulous conductor, David Lawrence.

We spent the afternoon practicing our songs and making sure we had perfected our dance moves under the direction of the fabulous Urban Strides.

At 6pm our audience started to arrive and we began to feel the atmosphere build. An hour later the lights went out and we were ready to perform. This was the moment we had been waiting for and we were so excited. As we sang our first words, we knew that all our hard work and preparation had been worthwhile. We gave a performance that we will remember for the rest of our lives and all felt so proud!

We had the pleasure of performing with Tony Hadley, Urban Strides, The Shires and Ruti (2018 winner of The Voice). Ruti was excited to be performing at Young Voices as she had performed with her own primary school as a child and her original Young Voices experience had inspired her to become a star!

We all had an amazing day and would like to thank everyone who made our day possible!

Message from the School Office

- Please remember if you change any of your contact details or any other information, let the office know as soon as possible.
- Please contact school as early as possible to inform us if child is going to be absent. There is a voicemail so you are welcome to call at any time to leave a message. Please state child's name, class and reason for absence.
- Please let us know if your child is going to be late into school for any reason (due to medical appointment etc) and arriving after 9.30am. Lunch orders go through to the kitchen at this time and cannot be changed afterwards. If your child is going to arrive into school after this time, please either let the office know of their lunch choice or provide them with a packed lunch; this will help us greatly.
- Don't forget to download the SchoolComms App. If you would like any assistance with this, the office are happy to help.

Thank you from Mrs Kirk, Mrs Hendy and Mrs Giles

Google Legends

Key Stage 2 children enjoyed the Google Internet Legend assembly which was delivered in school on Tuesday 21st January. The children learnt lots of information about how to keep themselves safe whilst using the internet. There is an online activity you may like to use with your child/ren as well. The address for this is:

https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk/interland

If you would like any further help or support with ensuring your children are safe online, the following website has lots of information for parents as well.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>



NSPCC

The NSPCC came into school as well to deliver an assembly around the theme of 'Speak Out Stay Safe' which encourages children to talk to a trusted adult if they are worried about anything which can include ringing ChildLine.

If you would like to support ChildLine then please complete your child's sponsor form and return any money raised to school.

Physical Education and Sports Update

Following a great uptake to sports' clubs last term, we are continuing to provide a range of opportunities this spring for children to take part in extra-curricular activities. For example, a team of Year 5 and 6 pupils are currently preparing to take part in this year's SKY Dance Challenge at Melton Theatre in February. Their enthusiasm, passion and commitment to mastering their professionally choreographed routine is immense and we cannot wait to see them thrive on stage.

Towards the end of this half term, we are also looking forward to children from across the school having the opportunity to participate in judo sessions during Physical Education lessons. Again, this provides a different opportunity for children at Swallowdale to engage in varied sporting opportunities.