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July Newsletter 2023

Dear Parents

We are getting to the end of the academic year and there is lots of positive news still to share and celebrate. This is going to be very pictorial!

Oliver: Year 6 Production

If you were there you would know how special it was – they always are. Thank you EVERYONE for making it that way – especially our children! Many more photos can be accessed by the children using their school Google accounts.



Sports Day

Such a great (whole) day in school and wonderful to have parents back in school for the morning events, lunch and the competitions in the afternoon. Thank you to Mr Banham and all school staff; Swanmore Year 10s, Ella Huntley (ex pupil), the office team for being the constant 'glue' with communications. What a day! The children had a great time and tried so hard.



Camping: Year 3 and Front Lawn Primary School

Super proud of our Year 3s tenacity, collaboration and fun on their first residential with us. It was a tiring but enjoyable two days. Well done to the Year 6s who helped teach them the next day. The previous week, we once again hosted another school who had an amazing experience with us, helping to make positive learning experiences here in our rural school.



Cricket

Our best season ever! Our team qualified to play in 3 Hampshire Finals this year! They ended up being in the top 4 of the U11 tournament which they ended up playing at Hampshire's Ageas Bowl – narrowly missing out on a final place. They came 3rd in the Hampshire U11 Cup and were runners up in the Hampshire U10s finals. A season of 'nearly but not quite' however to get to that position you have to play well and win lots of matches – they were awesome this season. Well done: Jake, Sam Q, Josh, Django, Luca, Henry, Christian, Zach, Milo, Sam W and Freddie.



Staffing news

Great news that we have appointed a new site manager who starts in September which is good for many reasons. I will however continue the road crossing in the mornings as I enjoy meeting and greeting.

This good news is often offset at the end of the year, by staff moving on. We say goodbye to Miss Kinally who has worked in Year 3/4 for the last six months. Miss Sarah Cook – who has been an amazingly supportive and cheery, positive force in school for many years.



Rachel Swinburn – an integral part of our admin team – vital during the really challenging times of COVID lockdowns but an amazing member of the team. And as we already know, Miss Kirby who is moving to Swanmore Primary school. We hope we see them all again, I'm sure we will, but we thank them unreservedly, wish them every success and let them know they will all be missed dearly.

Classes for next year...

3 classes of Year 3 & 4

Droxford Base: Mrs Smith (DHT) & Mrs Boyden

Hambledon Base: Miss Barnett

Meonstoke Base: Miss Bond

3 classes of Year 5 & 6

Exton Base: Miss Barker

Soberton Base: Miss Jones

Newtown Base: Mr Lowndes

STEM club

Our team of children (and parents) have been working really hard since January; honing driving skills, writing to sponsors, designing the car for the 2023 race season and participating in STEM visits and competitions. They visited the Rolls Royce factory, were given a tour (which no other school has received), sat in the new Electric Rolls Royce Spectre, met a famous Jaguar racing driver and sat in his car at Goodwood then participated in a racing competition in The Drox at Goodwood Motorcircuit. Thank you so much parents (you know who you are).



In January 2024 we will open up the club for the next Year 5 racing team. With 2 cars next year!



The Summer Sizzle

Typically the weather 'broke' just when we didn't want it to. Undaunted we pressed ahead and the FODS Summer BBQ 'Sizzle' – which Amanda Conroy and her team worked so hard putting together – went ahead. It was still a great event – with amazing food, an impressive cash prize lottery, bar, bouncy assault course and a lovely atmosphere. Thank you all for supporting. The event raised approximately £1500 which will help pay for all sorts of exciting enrichment for your children.

Unfortunately we don't have a FODS committee next year which is obviously a concern in terms of fun and fundraising!

Roving Bookshop

The children had their final bookshop experience yesterday – with the visit of Roving Bookshop. Apparently we are one of the company's favourite schools and help to raise lots of money – including for our school library. The Bookshop will be back again – with two new author visits!



Year 6 Leavers service

It is that proud but teary moment of the year where we say goodbye to our amazing Year 6s (and other children starting new schools in September). The service starts at 10:30 in Droxford's village Church – which will be open from 10 a.m. The service will only be for Year 6 as per normal.

What incredible memories we have made this past month – in fact this past term and year. Thank you to everyone who works at our amazing school. It is a team effort that makes it this way. All the best for our children moving on to Year 7 and those who are moving to new schools and we look forward to welcoming our new Year 3s.

Until then – have a much deserved and restful Summer holiday.

Best wishes



Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

Vision: 'Equipping our children with the knowledge and skills to navigate life successfully'.