

16 December 2022



**Sawston  
Village College**

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

That was a cold one. The week started with staff shovelling 5 inches of snow and frantically making the site safe so that we could open. The presence of black ice, plummeting temperatures (reaching -11 degrees one morning) and winter bugs driving up staff absence have made for an interesting challenge but, with your patience and understanding, we have kept everything running. It has been nice to hear this week how some pupils have also been helping those in the community, pushing cars and clearing driveways, for instance. It will have been difficult for some to get pupils to school and we appreciate the efforts everyone has taken.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a wonderful festive break. Thank you for your support throughout 2022.

### **IMPORTANT Last Day of Term – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

To enable staff to prepare for the term ahead and to come together ahead of the Christmas holiday, College will close early on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December for pupils. We will have lessons as normal before break, followed by our bumper Christmas inter-House quiz and finish at 12.20pm. All buses run by Andrews will leave site at 12.35pm from the playground as normal. We are waiting on confirmation from Stagecoach regarding the 607 and will update next week. If the 607 does not pick up from the playground, then we will escort pupils to the bus stop opposite the police station and check they leave safely from there.

### **IMPORTANT Start of Spring Term- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

The College will be open to all pupils as normal on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (week B). We have a Staff Training Day on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January, focused on assessment and curriculum. Reception will close from Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> at 12.30pm until Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 8am.

### **NEW Vaccinations cancelled**

Unfortunately, the planned flu vaccinations today had to be cancelled due to staff illness within the School Immunisation team. We will update you when new date has been confirmed.

### **NEW Half-termly newsletter**

This half term's newsletter is now on the website can be found [here](#). Please do take a read.



### **NEW The Fountain magazine**

A bumper 32-page edition of our pupil led magazine, *The Fountain*, is now on the website and can be found [here](#). It is full of pupils' colour and creativity so please do take a look.

### **NEW FSM Christmas Holiday Vouchers**

The Local Authority will issue parents of each eligible child with a £30 voucher via email and text by the end of the day on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Vouchers may take all day to arrive so please contact the Local Authority from Monday if you have not received your voucher. Any children who become eligible up until the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023 will also receive a voucher. This will be sent as and when they are notified of this change in circumstance.

### **NEW Jolabokafloð: Christmas reading initiative**

This year we have been inspired by the Icelandic tradition of Jolabokafloð (pronounced yola-boka-floð) which means Christmas book flood. Originating during WWII, when import restrictions meant other giftware was in short supply but restrictions on paper were lenient, Icelanders would gift books on Christmas Eve and sit up together reading them late into the night and over the Christmas holiday. In the spirit of that tradition, we're encouraging our Sawston families to read an SVC library book together this Christmas. Further details can be found [here](#).

### **NEW New Sporting Opportunity**

We are collaborating to bring pupils a new extra curricular sports opportunity. Friday Cricket will be run in conjunction with Sawston and Babraham Cricket club, who will be providing their expertise and coaching to help run the sessions. Sessions will take place on a Friday afternoon from 3:15 pm until 4:30 pm in the Sportshall and Multipurpose hall, starting in January. It is open to all pupils from all year groups, whether they have cricketing experience or are new to the game.

If your child may be interested in this please could you complete the form [here](#) to allow us to gauge the possible interest and help plan the first sessions of the term.

### **REMINDER Year 7 Bushcraft residential trip June 2023**

A reminder that the deadline for registering your child for this residential trip is this Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December. The parent letter can be found [here](#) which gives more detail about what the trip involves, the cost of the trip and how to register.

### **REMINDER Christmas Jumper Day**

Christmas Jumper Day is on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Pupils should be in school uniform with a Christmas jumper or in full school uniform. In place of a monetary donation, pupils are invited to bring in an item to donate to JCH or Jimmy's.

### **COMMUNITY Greater Cambridgeshire Congestion Charge Consultation**

Consultation on the travel plans for Cambridge, including improving bus services, new routes and the proposed congestion charge, closes on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is no age limit for completing the survey and young people are encouraged to have their say. Information on the proposals and the survey can be found via the following website:

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/city-access-programme/making-connections>

### **COMMUNITY Cambs Youth Panel Christmas Fair 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> December**

The Cambs Youth Panel is hosting a free Christmas fair for children and families this coming weekend (17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December) at St John's College in Cambridge. The event is taking place in the Old Divinity School, Trinity Street, Cambridge and starts at 9:00 am on Saturday and Sunday (closing at 5:00 pm each day). The whole event is absolutely free and is intended to support families who are probably going to have a much more difficult time this year given the cost of living crisis.

The event includes: virtual reality sleigh rides; a crafting table; hot-chocolate and gingerbread being served throughout the day; Christmas story room; Christmas photographs for families; Star Wars at Christmas; and, a Father Christmas grotto, with gifts and photographs. Every child that visits Father Christmas will be gifted a boxed Lego toy. Father Christmas visitors must book a free ticket in advance using this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cyp-winter-wonderland-tickets-482017195407>

### **COMMUNITY Cost of living support**

Please find below some links that you may find useful.

Cambridgeshire County Council – Support with cost of living

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living>

Cambridge City Foodbank

<https://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk/locations/>

Asda stores with cafes are offering a meal for children under the age of 16 for £1 until March 2023

<https://www.asda.com/about/instore/cafe>

### **NICE TO KNOW Alumni Sporting Opportunity**

Former Sawston Village College pupil Georgina Schwiennig who earlier in the year represented England in the Marathon at the Commonwealth Games, has again improved her personal best with an amazing performance in the Valencia Marathon. Georgina finished in 2hours 26 minutes placing her 7th on the UK all time women's marathon records. We continue to look forward to watching her blossoming marathon running career in the future.

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Wishing you an enjoyable weekend, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year,  
Jonathan Russell