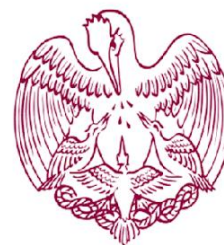


8 December 2023



Sawston
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

Rehearsals for the Christmas Carol service are ringing out as we reach the end of our penultimate full week this term. Yesterday, we were delighted to host an Arts Council England visit at which representatives of our Arts Ambassadors - George, Miriam, Alyssa, Eli and Alice - presented with passion and poise on what makes us proud to be an Artsmark Platinum school. Earlier in the week, the Disguise Photography exhibition showcased yet further the talent and creativity of our pupils. Thank you to all Y11 parents who joined us last night for the first full parents' evening of the year; it was a pleasure to be able to share with you the excellent progress our senior pupils are making and to consider their next steps.

IMPORTANT End of term arrangements

We will be closing early at 12.20 pm on Wednesday 20th December to enable staff to prepare for next term and to celebrate together the successes of the term. Pupils will have lessons as normal at mentor time, period 1 and period 2. During an extended period 3, pupils will be in mentor bases to enjoy and compete in the Inter-house Christmas Quiz 2023. Break will be as normal with all catering facilities open but we will not be providing lunch for pupils. School buses will leave at 12.35 pm. School uniform as normal.

If it is not possible for your child to leave site until the end of the normal school day at 3.05pm, please let us know (contact the office) by Thursday 14th December and we will look to make supervised provision for this. There is no After-School Study Support Club on the last day of term and all school transport will have left at 12.35 pm. All pupils are expected to leave the site, which remains closed at all times to pupils during the holidays.

NEW Pupil Christmas lunch

The [Christmas lunch](#) will take place on Tuesday 19th December (also Christmas Jumper Day). The festive feast will be served in the Dining Hall, priced at £2.60. This year, no tickets are required. Instead, pupils should pay at the tills on their catering account. The other catering outlets will also be open and serving a range of food, including options from the 12 Days of Christmas [menu](#).

NEW Attendance

As is usual for this time of year, coughs, colds and other minor illnesses are on the increase and we are seeing a rise in absence from school. We recognise that it can be difficult to know whether to keep your child off school when they are unwell. If you are unsure, the



NHS provide some useful guidance which can be found here: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#). Equally, please do call or email Mrs Chapman, our Attendance Officer, who will be only too happy to help if you are unsure whether to keep your child at home or send them into school. Further to this, there is also a Department for Education document in relation to attendance which includes factual information about school attendance and also support for parents and carers in ensuring their child attends school regularly. This can be found here: [DfE external document template \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](#). We hope that your child(ren) has a healthy end to the term and look forward to seeing them in school every day.

NEW Lunchtime treasure Hunt

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will be holding a treasure hunt on Friday 15th December at lunchtime in the Octagon. The treasure hunt will involve following clues around the school. Entry is £1 per person and pupils can work in teams of up to four. Each team that completes the treasure hunt will receive some sweet treats and the winning team will win a prize.

REMINDER Year 9 school photographs

The closing date for free delivery to school is Monday 11th December. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk. If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3). If you require the reference number for your child's photograph, please contact the school office.

NICE TO KNOW Y7 Netball Fixture

Our year 7 girls Netball team had their first fixture for Sawston on a freezing Wednesday afternoon at Bottisham. The girls, allowing advanced plays and movements to occur throughout both matches, showed true team spirit by encouraging each other and communicating well. Not only did they show so much potential as a newly formed team but they won both of their matches. They beat the first Bottisham team 10-1 and the second Bottisham team by 10-0. Congratulations.

NICE TO KNOW Y8 Netball Fixture

Our Y8's had their first Netball fixture on the season. After some incredible accuracy under the posts from Nicola and Harriet, Sawston took an early lead against Bottisham, ending the first quarter 4-0. Bottisham switched up their play and came back fighting hard, narrowing the score line to 4-3 after the second quarter.

Despite some incredible runs from our centre court players and excellent support around the D from Alyssa and Aryianna, we were not quite able to break through Bottisham's defence. The game finished 4-10 to Bottisham, although this score line does not reflect the quality of our play. For large parts of the game, Sawston were the better team; we just didn't quite convert this into goals on the day.

POM goes to Lizzy Able for her outstanding defensive work. Following several well timed intercepts, she was able to turn over the possession on multiple occasions and patiently found the best option to play the ball back into the centre court. Well done to everyone!

COMMUNITY U12 Girls' Rugby at Shelford

The Shelford U12 Girls' Rugby team is on the lookout for players of all abilities to join their rugby team. To motivate girls to give rugby a try they are hosting a free 'Girls Open session' at Shelford Rugby Club on Wednesday 13th December.

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Wishing you a restful weekend,

Jonathan Russell