



Sageston CP School

Newsletter – January 2025



This Term's Values: Honesty and Confidence; Teamwork and Responsibility

As you will have seen on the list of term dates, which I sent out during the first week back after the Christmas holidays, the spring term will get very busy as we move into February and March. However, the term has started relatively quietly and the pupils have come back to school with their usual enthusiasm and energy for their learning. Therefore, I am pleased to say that we have had a very calm and positive start to the new calendar year.

Each class has started on their new topic, with Robin Class learning about, 'Traditional Tales', Barn Owl Class are studying the topic, 'What a Wonderful World'; 'Cymru am Byth' is the topic Swan Class is engaging with this term and Kingfisher Class are learning about 'Borders, Barricades and Blitz'.

Can I make a plea for parents to check their children's belongings and **label everything with their name**, please? We have so much uniform that hasn't been labelled and it is so difficult to return it to the rightful owners in those circumstances.

Key Events and Visits

As we have had a relatively quiet start to the term, there aren't many events and visits to share with you this month. However, this will increase as we move through the term with lots of events, visits and visitors planned to enhance the learning experiences in each class.

8th January: Robin Class visit to Carew Castle

14th January: Swan Class started swimming sessions at Tenby Leisure Centre

15th January: Swan Class started First Experience music sessions with Pembrokeshire Music Service

15th January: Kingfisher Class had two workshops with staff from New Directions Trainers: 'Introduction to Sign Language' and 'Life Skills'

27th January: Mr Thomas from The Lovespoon Workshop worked with Swan Class

Upcoming Dates

January:

Wednesday 29th January: Read, Write, Inc workshop for parents (3.40pm)

February:

Thursday 13th February: Urdd Football Tournament for Pupils in Kingfisher Class

Monday 17th February: Respiratory Health Presentation from Dave Edwards

Wednesday 19th to
Friday 21st February: Kingfisher Class Residential Visit to the Urdd Centre, Llangrannog

Friday 21st February: Final Day of the Half Term

Important Messages

Start and End of the School Day

A polite reminder that school starts at 8.50am. Pupils need to be in school promptly at the start of the day so that they are in class for the registers, meaning their lunch order can be taken straight away. It is also vital that they arrive on time to start to school day in a positive and calm manner and can make an immediate start to their learning. At the end of the day, we expect pupils to be picked up at the correct time – that is 3.20pm for Robin and Barn Owl Classes and 3.30pm for Swan and Kingfisher Classes. It is really important that children are collected at these times as staff often have tasks they need to complete or clubs that need to be run. Any delay in picking children up can cause challenges with ensuring other children are appropriately supervised. If you are collecting your child/ren from an after school club, please can I ask that you are on time to collect them at 4.15pm. Again, staff have commitments both professionally and personally after this time and delays in collecting pupils has an impact on staff as well.

Could I also request that parents who have pupils in both Robin and Barn Owl Classes or both Swan and Kingfisher Classes, position themselves in a central location on the yard at the end of the day. When dismissing lots of children at the same time, it is important that teachers remain at the doors, which means seeing parents is difficult if they are gathered in certain areas, particularly on the veranda between the doors.

INSET Days

A quick reminder that we have already had four of our six allotted INSET days for the year. The first day of next term will be an INSET Day: Monday 28th April. The final INSET Day for the year will be on Monday 21st July and staff will be expected to attend twilight sessions over the next couple of terms to make this time up so that they do not have to come into school on that date.

Kingfisher Class Residential Visit – Urdd Centre, Llangrannog Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st February 2025

A reminder that the balance for this residential visit is due by Friday 7th February. Many thanks to those who have sent this in already. Mr Davies, Ms Cole and Mrs Davies are looking forward to accompanying the pupils this year. We will be sending out further information about the visit when we have received it from the centre, this will include a kit list and a medical form that will need to be returned to school prior to the visit.

School Improvement

Following on from last month's focus on our second school improvement priority (*Provide greater opportunities for developing independence across the curriculum, ensuring appropriate levels of challenge for all learners*) this month I want to share a document we have created with input from the staff and pupils that seeks to explain what everyone at Sageston CP School views as independence. The following is the wording from that document, which is now displayed in each of the classes.

What does independence mean at Sageston CP School?

Pupils have the confidence to choose how they apply the skills and strategies they have developed to some of their learning tasks.

Pupils use their creativity to develop unique responses to the learning tasks.

There is a culture throughout the school that mistakes support learning and this means pupils are willing to take risks to make progress in their learning.

When faced with challenges, pupils are determined and resilient and can accept occasional disappointments as part of their learning.

Pupils are always willing to 'give it a go' when they are learning and try things on their own before asking for support.

School Councils – Health and Wellbeing

Councils had their first meeting of the spring term last week and were keen to get back to the business of working on their priorities. As I have stated previously, the Health and Wellbeing Council have been asked to come up with a policy to encourage pupils to bring healthy foods and drink to school. They have completed this work and will be presenting their work to governors this week as well as sharing their recommendations with the whole school in the next couple of weeks. We will, in due course, share the whole document with you. However, when looking at it, I was particularly impressed with this section and wanted to give you a preview of what to expect from the full policy:

Why Should We Eat and Drink Healthily at School?

- 1. Helps Us Learn Better**
Healthy food gives our brains the energy to think, focus, and remember things. This helps us do well in our learning!
- 2. Makes Us Stronger**
Eating the right food helps our bodies grow strong and keeps our bones and muscles healthy.
- 3. Gives Us More Energy**
Healthy snacks and drinks keep us energised, so we can play, learn, and have fun all day.
- 4. Keeps Us Happy**
Good food helps us feel better and stay in a good mood.
- 5. Prevents Getting Sick**
Eating fruits, veggies, and other healthy foods helps our bodies fight off colds and illnesses.
- 6. Teaches Good Habits**
Learning to eat healthily now will help us stay healthy as we grow up.
- 7. Helps Everyone Around Us**
When we make good choices, we encourage our friends to do the same, and together we create a healthy school!

The Latest from FOSS

I am sure that the FOSS are grateful to a quiet start to the year after a very busy December for the team. They have arranged an Easter Bingo for Friday 28th March at the Carew Memorial Hall. More details about this event will follow in due course. However, if it is as successful as it has been in the past then we are sure to have a great time and raise lots of money for the school.

As always, we welcome new members to the FOSS team to help with the many things they do for the school. Please contact Lisa Puzey or Kim Leach if you are interested in becoming a member.

Celebration Videos

As you know, each week, we have a celebration assembly where we award various certificates earned in school. It is also an opportunity for children to celebrate their achievements outside of school.

Here are the links to the celebration assembly videos for January

[10th January](#)

[17th January](#)

[24th January](#)

If you don't already know the password to access these videos, please contact me via the methods shared earlier in this newsletter and I'll be happy to share it with you.