



EMMAUS NEWS

March 2018

Twitter: @EmmausFed

Website: www.suttertonswinesheadfederation.co.uk

Dear Families,

As usual, it has been a busy time for The Emmaus Federation. The 'snow-days' were an unusual challenge to our normal proceedings. Trying to ascertain the road conditions, follow the weather predictions and then make a difficult decision in a timely manner, which was far-reaching, proved an interesting start to spring. I'm pleased that our communication channels worked effectively and I hope the children enjoyed the chance to play in the snow and have some 'cosy' days indoors.

The weather meant that some of our planned events had to be re-scheduled. Our parents' evenings took place last week (except Regent's Class, which is on 26th March) and I hope everyone had a good chance to look at their child's learning and discuss the progress that they are making. We want to give you as much information as possible about the age-related expectations for your child and an information leaflet has been designed that will help you understand what your child is learning in school and will support any homework.

World Book Day was also re-scheduled and this was a fantastic day. The children and staff came into school in the most inventive and creative costumes. A great day was spent listening to, and working on, your child's 'Book of the Month' or the book that is displayed on their classroom door. We also held a reading café at both schools and these were really well attended – thank you.

It is also fair to mention that we had a few visitors at Swineshead last week. The school had a Section 5 Ofsted Inspection and we hope that the report will be available before the end of term. The children behaved impeccably throughout and are a credit to you and the school. Staff also worked tirelessly and were very helpful and accommodating throughout. The praise for staff is compounded by the fact that they also had parents' evening at the same time, so had very little time to rewrite lesson plans or create things that are not already there. This is not such a bad thing as the Inspectors were able to see the school as we are – on a journey with lots of it being absolutely amazing!

Mrs Claire Collett

Executive

Headteacher

Sutterton Fourfields and Swineshead St. Mary's

An 11+ Club will be running at both schools after the Easter half-term in preparation for September.

This year SATs WEEK is Monday 14th – Friday 18th May 2018.

It is most important that all Year 6 pupils attend school during this week. The date for the KS1 SATs will be with you shortly, but will probably be the last fortnight in May. We are offering an Easter KS2 SATs School on Tuesday 10th – Thursday 12th April from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. It's only a short period of time for your child if they are in Year 6 and it will be invaluable.

National Down's Syndrome Day will take place on 21st March and the children are encouraged to come to school wearing odd socks (all different/all the same/all equal). The children will listen to books about Downs Syndrome. We also have National Autism Day on 27th March and the children are encouraged to wear something pink or purple and our assemblies that day will be based around promoting understanding.

Attendance Matters

Most children have really good attendance. The importance of it shouldn't be underestimated. Children need to be in school regularly if they are to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them by law. There is a clear link between good attendance in school and achievement in class and it is really difficult for a child to try to 'catch-up' when they have not been in school. Any child whose attendance falls below 95% will receive a letter and this will be followed up until the attendance is back to at least 95%.

If a child's attendance falls below 85%, this is classed as persistent absence and leaders have a duty, again, by law, to ensure every step and measure is followed to try and improve attendance and get it back to 95% or above. Please note that if the persistent absence continues, the Educational Welfare Officer will be informed and legal proceedings, such as fines, may be applied for. If you have any concerns or need help with this matter, the school will do everything in its power to try to help and support you.

Sporting News

We have a very active sports scene and we have competed in every event offered within the Boston and District Partnership.

The Boccia Festival and Goalball was one of my personal favourites. It was extremely inclusive and supportive, but with a super-competitive edge.

Sutterton entered a dance team and came a very respectable second place at the Dance Festival. The dance is available on Twitter and I'm sure you will be impressed by the children's composure, creativity and teamwork.

We have also had a couple of development days where the children had the opportunity to go off-site and learn or develop a new sporting skill. We also hope to field new athletes in an up-coming tennis tournament.

Our swimmers took part in a competition organised by Boston Swimming Club and we clocked up some great individual performances and all of the children enjoyed using their skills to compete in different leagues.

We also organise our own leagues and Mr Shaw and Mr Cook have been instrumental in setting up and facilitating after-school and weekend football competitions against schools all over South Lincolnshire. They have won some and lost a few but they are, undoubtedly, improving all of the time and working well as a team and enjoying the benefits that sports bring.

Looking ahead, we have the best time for sport – better weather, light nights and a diary jam-packed with events.

Thank you to all those who attended Sutterton's book-faire this week. Happy reading



The Emmaus Federation Talent Show

We will be hosting a Sutterton's/Swineshead's Got Talent' on Friday 23rd March.

This will replace our usual Celebration Assembly. Letters will come out next week, but this does not stop your child from practising their dance moves or refining their magician's act or polishing up on their 'keepy-uppy' skills. We know that the schools are full of talented performers and this is the opportunity to share all the hours of practice and hard work. A cream egg for all performers with an Easter egg for the different category winners.

Sutterton Anniversary

The work on the Year 1 classroom is complete (it looks great!) and the new Village Hall is due for completion over the Easter half term. The car park and access road will be tarmacked, which is much needed! The Village Hall wants to celebrate its 40th anniversary with a charity gala ball. It will be held on 9th June and will be a black-tie event with a band, meal and all of the trimmings. We will also be having a competition to find a gala queen, king, princesses and princes. Details to follow...

Staff Farewells and Good Byes

It is always sad to see someone go, but we often understand their reasons and wish them the very best for the future and celebrate all of their hard work.

Miss Middleton works as a 1:1 TA at Swineshead and she will be leaving the school at the end of term. She has been offered a TA position, with more hours, at her son's school.

Mrs Dinesh will also be leaving us on 27th April. She has worked across the federation for many years and was the class teacher for Lindisfarne. She is the RE Coordinator at Swineshead and has worked with me on many exciting projects - notably the Interfaith Project. Mrs Dinesh's husband is an oncologist and he has been re-located from the Pilgrim Hospital to Lincoln. Consequently, Mrs Dinesh has moved to a home closer to Lincoln and her commute is taking her over an hour each way.

Finally, we also say good bye to Mr Grove. He will also leave us on 27th April and has been offered a position closer to his home and his new family. He is looking forward to a different challenge and sometimes staff need to do something different. Mr Grove has worked at Swineshead for many years and in many year groups. He has been instrumental in providing a good quality of education for many of our children and he will be missed.

The replacements for Miss Middleton and Mr Grove are being advertised and I will keep you up-to-date on this process.

Swineshead Diary Dates

16th March - PTFA Film Night at 6:00 pm for 6:30 pm start
21st March - Ramsey and Priory Class Assembly at 9:00 am
21st March - Y3/4 Boccia & goalball skills PM
21st March - World Down's Syndrome Day - wear odd socks
22nd March - Y3/4 Change 4 Life Festival at 9:30 am until 12:noon
23rd March - Swineshead's Got Talent at 2:15pm
27th March - National Autism Day - wear something pink or purple
28th March - Easter Service at 1:30 pm

10th to 12th April at 10:00 am until 1:00 pm KS2 Easter SATs School

28th March - End of Term 4
16th April - Start of Term 5

Sutterton Diary Dates

20th March - Phoenix Class Assembly at 9:00 am
21st March - Y3/4 Boccia & goalball skills AM
21st March - World Down's Syndrome Day - wear odd socks
22nd March - Y3/4 Change 4 Life Festival at 9:30 am until 12:noon
23rd March - Sutterton's Got Talent at 9:00 am
26th March - Year 1 Parents' Evening at 3:10 pm - 8:00 pm
27th March - National Autism Day - wear something pink or purple
28th March - Easter Service at 9:30 am

10th to 12th April at 10:00 am until 1:00 pm KS2 Easter SATS School

28th March - End of Term 4
16th April - Start of Term 5

Science Week 12th to 16th March - more to follow in April's edition...