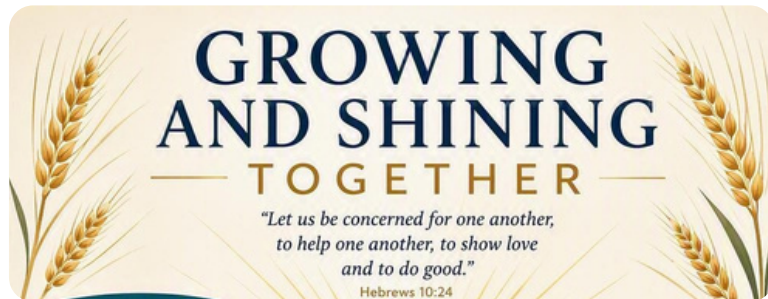




Parent Update September 2026



Updates over the summer holidays

There has been lots going on in the holidays. At Swaffham Bulbeck the interior has been redecorated and a new carpet going into Mandela class. The hall has a new screen to replace the old projector.

At Swaffham Prior there have been various projects: the playground has been resurfaced; there is new fencing around the perimeter of the field and the forest area extended with a new gate. The hedging has been removed around the perimeter too which substantially expands the playing field. The mobile wall has been plastered on one wall and painted and the hall windows repainted.

I want to say THANK YOU to Daniel Porter and the team who have kept the swimming pool open all through the holidays.

Changes to Morning Drop Off at Swaffham Prior

We have reviewed the drop off arrangements and considered how adults are deployed to ensure a smooth start.

From Monday, we would like all families to enter through the front gate instead of coming through the side gate as there is less potential for confusion this way. Please do continue to park at the village hall car park as we are still welcome to use this space.

In order to relieve some of the pressure, Reception and Nursery children will wait at the front gate until 8.45 when they will be collected by Mrs Wybrew or Mrs Weaver.

Attendance

Attendance across the school this year has been 94.8%. While this may sound like a strong figure, it places us 130th out of 210 primary schools in the county, which is disappointingly below the average. As a school, we are ambitious for all our children and know that we can do better. Every day in school really does count, and we would like to see this reflected in our attendance figures next year.

A school attendance rate of 94.8% means that, on average, children have missed just over 5% of their teaching time. Whilst two pupils have achieved excellent attendance and have been in school every single day, for others the amount of learning lost has been much higher. Even a small number of days missed can quickly add up over the course of a school year.

It is important to remember that every school day has value. While some days may appear less academically demanding than others, these are often the occasions when children develop equally important skills such as teamwork, communication, resilience and creativity. They also miss out on the social experiences that come from learning, playing and spending time with friends. School is about much more than lessons alone, and children benefit enormously from being present every day.

As you begin planning for the next academic year, we ask that holidays and routine medical or dental appointments are booked during school holiday periods wherever possible. We fully understand that children will sometimes be genuinely unwell and need to stay at home to recover. However, if a child is simply "feeling under the weather", they can often successfully soldier on and enjoy a normal day at school.

Together, let us make attendance a shared priority next year. With the support of parents, pupils and staff, we would love to see our attendance rise to 96% and beyond. Every day really does count, and every day in school is another opportunity for children to learn, grow and thrive.

Early Bird Club

We are delighted to announce that we are starting an early morning club. Although there will be breakfast items and drinks available, the club is designed to be a smooth transition between home and school and there will be fun activities organised for the children to participate in. The club will run from 8am to the start of school and can be booked on Bromcom. We have tried to keep the costs to a minimum to allow for broad access, however, if you feel your child would benefit from this and would like to have it subsidised, please contact the office and we will be in touch.

New Vision and Values Launch

Last academic year, we consulted on our new values and vision for our schools. We have put it together on the poster below and over the next term, we will learn more about the christian underpinning as well as how the vision and the values support our British values and have meaning in our own lives whether we have a faith or none.

In order to exemplify our vision and values we chose some inspirational people for the children to learn about. It was a difficult selection as there are so many people across history who have made an amazing difference. These are the basis for this year's class names. I'm sorry this may be quite a challenge to remember after we are all so used to our animal and bird names - I am sure your children will delight in correcting you! Ask your children what difference their inspirational person made to the world.

	Swaffham Bulbeck	Swaffham Prior
N/R	Darwin	Potter
Year 1/2	Seacole	Attenborough
Year 3/4	Mandela	Khalo
Year 5/6	Earhart	Pankhurst

Community Councils

On the subject of inspirational people, I am currently recruiting for some members of our community who would be willing to join a Community Council.

Following the change in governance that DEMAT, now known as Grace Schools, sent out last year, schools have an opportunity to develop a council which is specific to our community. We have decided that we will have a joint council across the two schools as we will be discussing the same issues. I have already spoken to some people who have expressed an interest and am keen to involve a broad range of families as possible. We will be organising a date for the first meeting soon. If you are interested, please let the office know and I will get in contact.

GROWING AND SHINING TOGETHER

*"Let us be concerned for one another,
to help one another, to show love
and to do good."*

Hebrews 10:24

OUR VISION

**Two Schools.
One Community.**



Together we help every child
grow, learn and shine.

Learning and working
together, we are:



Compassion



Community



Curiosity



COMMUNITY

*Working together
as one community*



UNITY

- Supporting one another
- Celebrating success
- Shared purpose

INCLUSION

- Everyone belongs
- Valuing difference
- Every voice matters



COMPASSION

*Showing care
in all we do*



KINDNESS

- Helping others
- Looking out for one another

RESPECT

- Listening carefully
- Valuing everyone

INTEGRITY

- Doing the right thing
- Being honest
and trustworthy



CURIOSITY

*Learning
without limits*



WISDOM

- Asking thoughtful questions
- Seeking understanding

PERSEVERANCE

- Staying committed
when learning is challenging
- Encouraging one another

CONFIDENCE

- Embracing new learning
without fear
- Exploring new ideas

TOGETHER WE GROW • TOGETHER WE LEARN • TOGETHER WE SHINE

