



Dear Parent/Carer,

9th December 2022

We are coming to the end of another busy and exciting half term at Swakeleys. I do hope that your child is happy and enjoying school. You can see from the attached newsletter some of the many things that have been going on across school this term. We couldn't do our job without your significant support in getting your child to school on time and ready to learn, having paid for lunch and trips, ensuring homework is completed on time, supporting us with our behaviour policy, coming in for meetings, remembering which day your child has PE etc etc – the list goes on! I will remind you of what I said at the parental engagement events in the Autumn – students spent the vast majority of time with you at home and you are the most significant influence on them. So thank you for all that you have done to support the school over the course of the term.

Term ends on Friday 16th December at 12.25pm and it will be a non-uniform day or students can wear a Christmas jumper should they wish. We will be collecting money for The Halo Children's Foundation. Please be reminded that high heels and clothing with offensive slogans should not be worn. Make up, face paint, nail varnish and false nails will be allowed. I do hope that you have a relaxing break with your family. Term starts again on Tuesday 3rd January at the normal time of 8.30am. We start straight into pre-public exams (PPEs) for the sixth form and a careers fortnight for all students in the school where your child will have the opportunity to be involved in a number of assemblies, workshops and activities across the school to support them to consider the right future for them. Can I remind you of the importance of students returning to school in January and following our uniform policy. I'm aware that students may wish to change their hair colour/nails over the holiday which is absolutely fine as long as any changes fit our uniform policy by the time we return in January.

Some of you may be planning for holidays/visits to relatives over the next year. We have carefully considered our term dates for the academic year 2023-24 and these are published here on the parents page of our website: <https://swakeleys.hillingdon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Term-Dates-2023-2024-3.pdf> Our term dates are largely in line with the published Hillingdon term dates. Please can I remind you of the importance of remembering these term dates when booking holidays – I'm sure I don't need to remind you of the importance of attendance in ensuring your child's success. In terms of whole school attendance there is a national picture of attendance being negatively affected post-covid. As a school we are currently higher than the current national average for attendance though not yet back to pre-covid levels. Can I ask you to continue to use your judgement about your child if they are reluctant to come to school in the morning. Please can I encourage you to send your child into school – 9 times out of 10 they will feel better and if they don't then they can go to welfare and we will contact you.

The next parent forum takes place on Wednesday 8th February at 6pm. I would like to discuss the school uniform, communication and other topical issues so I look forward to seeing you in the library then.

In the meantime can I wish you a very restful holiday with your family and friends.

Yours faithfully

Kelda Stevenson