

# The Swaminarayan

**EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES**

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

## Theme for next week

The theme for next week is: **Anti-Bullying.**

The Swaminarayan School takes any form of bullying very seriously and while pupils generally feel safe in the school, we need to send out a strong message, remain vigilant and take the firmest possible stance on any cases of bullying. The school strongly supports the aims of the Anti-Bullying Alliance which are addressed at the back of the newsletter

## Prize Day: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017

Just so that parents, pupils and guardians can start planning, the Seniors Prize Day will take place on **Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 in the front part of the Mandir Haveli at 6.30 pm.** All the GCSE and A Levels certificates have arrived, shields are being prepared to be awarded on the day. The dress code is formal Indian. The evening will be followed by a delicious meal at the end. Everyone is requested to be seated in the Haveli by 6.45 pm. Parents and guardians should also note that as it is usual for any school prize day, we will have a half day. Pupils should be picked up at 12.55 pm.

## Internal/Mock Examination Timetable Autumn Term 2017

Pupils and parents are reminded about the End of Term Internal/Mock Examinations which will take place for all Seniors 1-5 between Wednesday, 15 to Tuesday, 21 November 2017. The timetable for the examinations has already been issued to the pupils but is attached again for your information.

## Writer's Corner: Be Like a Pencil

by anonymous at TSS

Once upon a time a grandmother was writing something when her granddaughter Isha walked into her room and quietly sat down in front of her on the rug. Having been told not to disturb her gran when she was writing, Isha waited patiently until her gran looked up and put the pencil down.

Isha looked at the pad filled with words she could not yet clearly read. 'What are you writing about, gran?' she asked.

Her gran picked up the pencil on the pad. 'I am writing about you actually, but more importantly than the words is this pencil I am using. I hope you will be like this pencil one day when you grow up.'



Intrigued, Isha looked at the pencil. It didn't seem very special to her at all. 'It's just like any other pencil I've ever seen!' she cried.

'That depends on how you look at things, darling,' her gran glanced at her. 'This pencil has five very special qualities which can make you a person who is always at peace with the world.'

Isha sat up with a glint in her eyes.

Her gran grinned brightly. 'You are capable of great things and you must never forget that there is an invisible hand guiding your steps just like my hand guides this pencil when I write. Only in life, the guiding hand is the hand of God. Unfortunately, we don't always do as he guides.' Isha's gran held up the pencil and examined the tip. 'You see now and then the tip becomes dull. I have to stop writing and use a sharpener which is painful for the pencil but –'

'But afterwards the pencil writes better!' Isha said.

'Yes, darling. Exactly. What the pencil teaches us is that pain and sadness are part of life but they can also make you a better person... The pencil is also very forgiving because it always allows us to use an eraser to rub out our mistakes. People always make mistakes and correcting our mistakes is not necessarily a bad thing as long as we learn from the experience.'

Isha stared at the pencil that her gran held in her hand and reached for it with her little hands.

Her gran shook her head. 'Not yet my child.' She gently touched her cheek. 'You see what really matters in a pencil is not its wooden exterior but the graphite inside which does all the writing. So always pay attention to what is happening inside you. And lastly, learn that the pencil always leaves a mark. In just the same way everything you do in life will leave a mark, so try to be conscious of that in your every action.'

Isha's gran kissed her pencil and placed it on the pad. Isha tried to grab it but her gran held her hand. 'This is my magical pencil, darling. I have got a very special pencil for you.' She dug into her case and took out one perfectly sharp pencil. 'Now run along and see what else you can learn from it,' she said and sent her away.

## **Anti-Bullying Week: 13<sup>th</sup> to 17 November 2017**

Anti-Bullying Week shines a spotlight on bullying and encourages all children, teachers and parents to take action against bullying throughout the year. The theme this year is 'All Different, All Equal' with the aims:

### **Aims:**

This Anti-Bullying Week we want to:

- empower children and young people to celebrate what makes them, and others, unique
- help children and young people understand how important it is that every child feels valued and included in school, able to be themselves, without fear of bullying
- encourage parents and carers to work with their school and talk to their children about bullying, difference and equality
- enable teachers and other children's workforce professionals to celebrate what makes us 'all different, all equal' and celebrate difference and equality. Encouraging them to take individual and collective action to prevent bullying, creating safe environments where children can be themselves.

## Tackle bullying

### Think

Bullying is a problem in most schools. Bullying can be verbal if you are told by others that you are no good and lowest of the low in society. It also can be physical, emotional, or sexual. Bullies will use any means at their disposal to abuse their victims, be it through texts, e-mails or social networking sites. Bullies isolate their victims and start all sorts of false rumours that will cause a lot of emotional grief.

### Feel

Cyber-bullying has caused a lot of misery to a lot of children all over the world, and in some serious cases has led to the victims committing suicide. You will find many of these stories on YouTube. Cyber-bullying is illegal and a criminal offence and there are means by which the bullies can be caught. Every time somebody makes a call from a mobile phone, the number is recorded by the network provider even if the caller withholds their number. The police can gain access to these records and track the person making the call.

### Do

<http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk> is a very useful website for all victims of bullying. It gives advice on all forms of bullying, with how best to approach the problem. The most important point to learn is you must not suffer the problem on your own. Schools have bullying policies and will have many different types of strategies to help you. You must report any form of persistent bullying to a responsible member of staff such as your Form or Class teacher. If you find approaching them difficult, you must tell your parents or a close friend. If you are a victim of bullying, tell someone you trust and speak to them about what is happening. Help is at hand and you will receive support, though sometimes it can take time. Get your parents involved early. Allowing the bullying to continue will only make your life a misery; you could suffer depression, become aloof, and lose faith in life and living. You are a child of this world and you have every right to live a happy life. Seek help early on if you become a victim of any form of bullying.

More information about the week can be obtained from:

<https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>



Yours sincerely,

**Nilesh Manani**