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2nd September 2008

### LOWER SCHOOL – AUTUMN TERM 2008

Dear Parents,

Welcome back from the summer holidays. I hope that everyone has had a relaxing time and is looking forward to the autumn term, with a special welcome to those of you who are new to Sawtry Junior School. This letter outlines the work your child will be covering this term.

Our **Literacy** work is planned around the *Primary National Strategy*, and involves at least one hour each day focusing on Literacy. The children will be given spellings to learn at home each Monday, which will be tested the following Monday. They will also be encouraged to take their reading books home to practice reading aloud. Our **Mathematics** is based on the *Primary National Strategy*. The children will receive a piece of maths homework each Monday to be returned on Friday of the same week. We would strongly encourage you to find out about your child's homework – and by all means help them with it if they ask you to!

Our main topic this term is a history-based study of “**Ancient Egypt**”. **Technology** lessons will pick up this theme, and the children will be designing and making a shaduf (an Egyptian irrigation device!) as well as doing some food technology. In our **art** lessons we will be investigating patterns and making good use of our sketchbooks. This will also link nicely to our **ICT** lessons where we will be learning to develop images using repeating patterns.

The children will be learning about animals in **Science**, and will be investigating this topic through experiments and investigations. **Religious Education** lessons will focus on Islam, its customs and beliefs. In **Personal, Social and Health Education** lessons children will be thinking about friendships and relationships with others, through a series of stories, poems and role-play situations. Those children new to the school will begin to learn **Spanish** as a modern foreign language. Spanish lessons for all will continue throughout the school.

An exciting new venture for us this term is that in our **Music** lessons the children will all begin to learn to play the recorder. Each child will be provided with a named instrument and free tuition by Fenland Music for two terms. They will also be encouraged to practice at home!

In **PE** we will be keeping active with swimming lessons and Dance for the first half of the term and Gymnastics for the second. We would ask for your help in ensuring that the children have the appropriate named clothing at school for these lessons. Swimming lessons for all children will be on **Fridays, commencing on 12th September**.

All the children have personal organisers, which they should bring to and from school each day. These are a useful form of communication between school and home, as well as serving as a helpful reminder of what your child needs to do or bring, so we would ask for your help in checking for any information on a regular basis. Letters and homework sheets can usually be found somewhere in the organisers!

We are all looking forward to a happy and successful term working with you and your children. If you have any questions about any of the work we are doing, or would like to offer to help in the classroom, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Yours sincerely

Helen Ellis  
Lower School Team Leader