

NEWSLETTER

Swansfield Park Primary School, The Avenue, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1UL

www.facebook.com/swansfieldpark



SEPTEMBER 2018

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year at Swansfield Park Primary School. It is lovely to see so many new children and wonderful to hear everyone's summer news. The children have settled beautifully into their new classes and are enthusiastic and ready to learn.

As we begin another school year we start by reviewing the previous year. Last year was challenging, the school was much bigger than it has been and for the very first time we had to complete Key Stage 2 SATs with our Year 6 children. We were **absolutely delighted with the unvalidated results which exceeded our targets** and were **significantly above the national average** for the key measure of children reaching expected standards in reading, writing and maths.

This achievement is due to the **hard work and dedication of a fabulous staff team** who always go the extra mile to help the children and the support that you as parents give your children. However

last year there were several occasions when staff were not shown the respect that they deserve. These incidences significantly impact on our well-being and ability to do our best for your children. **If you have any concerns they are best dealt with by making an appointment to see either the teacher or myself. Please remember that using Facebook or any other social media is not an appropriate way to comment or complain.**

Our school continues to be an exciting environment which enthuses the children to learn; by working together we can help our children to achieve outstanding results. All parents can listen to their child read, help them to learn

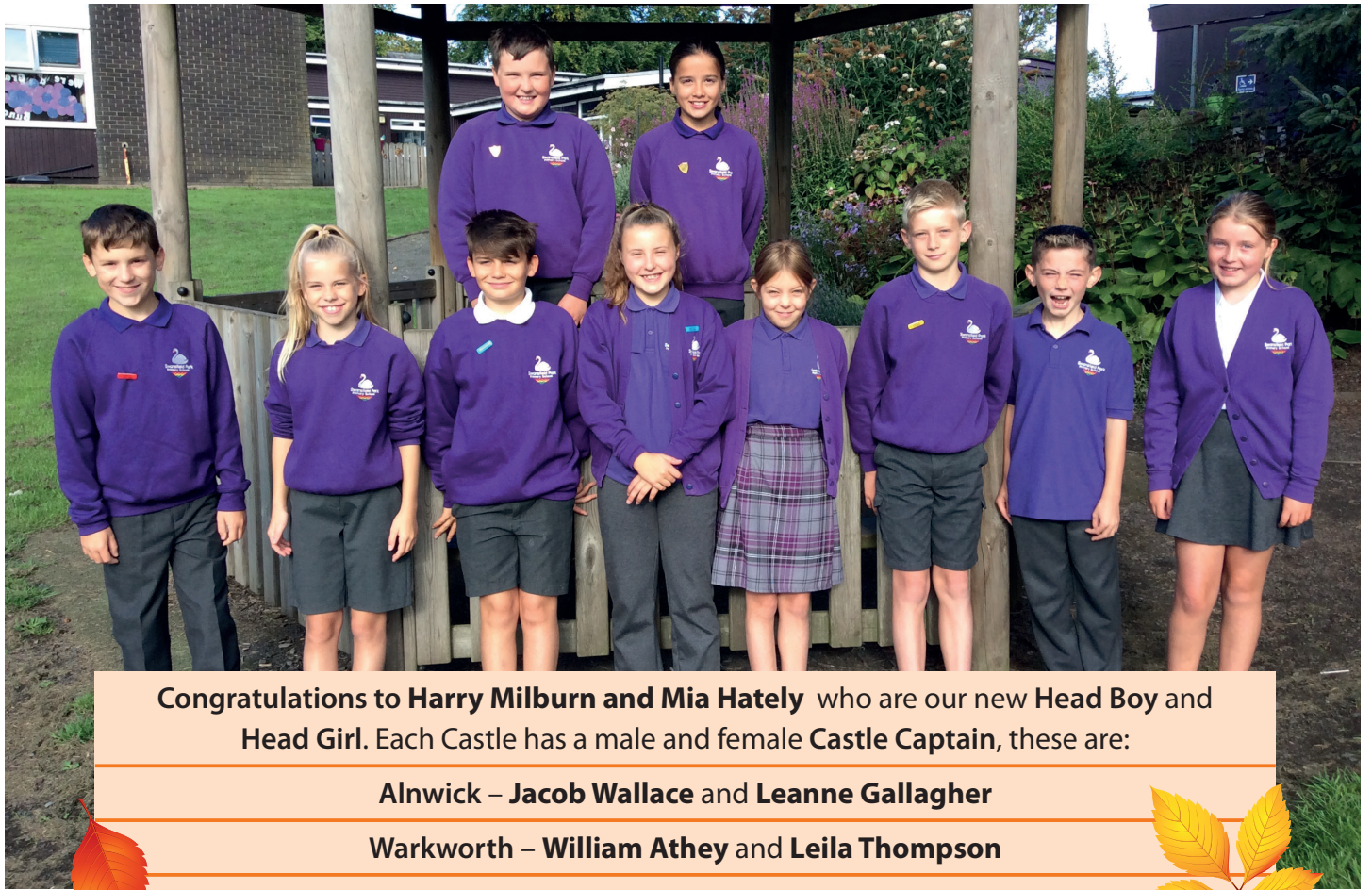
their spelling or times tables, support them with their homework or family learning task. We will be liaising with all families as we revise our home school agreement.

If you have a bit more time you can volunteer as a friend or a classroom helper - read on or see me for further information.

We look forward to seeing you at our events this term.

Best Wishes
Jenny Smith





Congratulations to Harry Milburn and Mia Hately who are our new **Head Boy** and **Head Girl**. Each Castle has a male and female **Castle Captain**, these are:

Alnwick – Jacob Wallace and Leanne Gallagher

Warkworth – William Athey and Leila Thompson

Bamburgh – Harrison Skene and Isla Samuels

Dunstanburgh – Conor Carolan and Lola Smith.

We are sure that these young people will be superb ambassadors for our school and act as excellent role models for others to aspire to.

Harvest Festival

**We will be celebrating our Harvest Festival on
Thursday 18th October.**

We will distribute your gifts to the elderly in Alnwick and share a harvest lunch with them.

If you have an elderly relative or neighbour living in Alnwick who would appreciate a harvest parcel or an invitation to lunch on Friday 19th October please let the school office know by October 8th.



As we come to the end of our first year as a committee we are extremely proud of our achievements over the past 11 months.



We have **raised over £4500** through our hugely successful events, including raffles, seasonal discos, a bingo and a summer fair. The money has been spent on funding buses for school trips, welly storage boxes, a creepy crawly experience for early years, a membership to The Alnwick Garden and a personalised scientific calculator for each of our Year 6 leavers.

*In addition to our regular annual events, we have a few ideas for new fundraisers which we are looking forward to discussing at our **AGM on Wednesday 19th September at 7pm in the Studio.***

It must be stressed that without the help of other parents, we would not be able to put on any of our fundraising events. This year saw some new faces joining our army of loyal helpers which was absolutely fabulous to see. We rely on the kindness of volunteers to help us run our events, everyone is welcome to come along and join in at our informal meetings or help at our events. We are looking for help with planning, preparing and behind the scenes help as well as helpers at the events. There is no pressure for you to help at every event or attend our meetings but if you would like to get involved, share your ideas and meet other parents then please drop us a line or pop along to our next meeting.



We have a '**Friends of Swansfield Park Primary**' Facebook page or an email account friendsofswansfield@gmail.com if you want to get in touch with us.

Stars of the Week

Well done to our stars of the week for last half term. These children were chosen for working towards the 5 R's: being

responsible
reflective
ready
resourceful
and
resilient.

They were: Evie Cross, Aimee McDonogh, Evie Mitchell, Amy Topley, Anya Campbell, Lucy McGowan and Heath Hunter.

Gold Certificates

Nicola Welsh, Jonathan Waite, Finlay Phelan, Mamie Belshaw, Luke Broster, Joseph Lee, Harry King, Conor Grey, Ellie Reed, Ethan Hunt, Evie Cross, Jessica Blower and Matthew Black



Progress Cup

Archie McKewan



Autumn Term Family Learning

I'm sure that you'll be aware of the amazing Blue Planet 2 series and in particular the episode which highlighted the issue of plastic pollution and the impact that plastics are having on our oceans and wildlife. Last term we discussed this problem in assembly and considered how to avoid single use plastics.



There has been a lot of publicity about changing food packaging and Morrison's have started to use



paper bags for fruit and vegetables. Last week a boat was launched on the River Thames which was made from recycled bottles. An aerial survey of Scotland has recently shown that remote parts of the coastline are covered in plastic waste.

For our family learning this term we want you to think about how you can help to reduce plastic pollution. What can you do to avoid using and disposing of plastics?

Please share your ideas creatively as a poster, newspaper article, poem or in any other form which helps to raise awareness. Most importantly let us try as a school community to reduce the amount of single use plastic in school.



Please have your contributions into school by Friday 19th October.



Now that we have such an age range it is no longer possible to have a whole school assembly which is meaningful to all the children. Last year we split assemblies into infant and junior but still it was difficult to find interesting subjects to share until I came across **Picture News**.

We have subscribed to Picture News and each week we will receive a newsletter about current affairs, a poster relating to an event in the news and suggested themes for both infant and junior assemblies and/or class enquiries. This approach will fit well with our new work on philosophy for children as it will provide topics for discussion. The outcome will be that we broaden the children's vocabulary and their ability to share their views, which will improve their reading comprehension skills and their written work..

I will let you know the news story that we will be focusing on in my weekly blog so that you can talk to your child about this as well.



Didn't we do well!

We are working hard to get our 2017 – 18 performance data on to the website but here are the headlines. We have compared our results to last year's national averages as this year's national results are not yet available.

At the end of Early Years (reception) we assess pupils to see if they have achieved a good level of development. You can see that we continue to outperform the national average and 18% of our children achieved beyond the expected standard in all areas.

National	Swansfield Park
70%	82%

Our **Year 1** children did amazingly well and **96% achieved the phonics check** compared to a national pass rate of 81% in 2017.

In **Year 2**, our children completed their key stage 1 SATs and **exceeded the 2017 national averages in all areas.**

	Reading		Writing		Maths	
	EXPECTED	BEYOND	EXPECTED	BEYOND	EXPECTED	BEYOND
National 2017	76%	25%	68%	16%	75%	21%
Swansfield Park	81%	29%	75%	21%	79%	27%

Our first **Year 6** results were also **above the 2017 national results** across the board.

	Reading		Writing		Maths	
	EXPECTED	BEYOND	EXPECTED	BEYOND	EXPECTED	BEYOND
National 2017	71%	25%	76%	18%	75%	23%
Swansfield Park	85%	35%	87%	30%	87%	24%

*We are very pleased with these outcomes but in true Swansfield style 2018-19 is a new year so it's business as usual – **onwards and upwards!***



Healthy School

As we work to maintain our Healthy School status please help us to keep our children healthy and safe by...

- **Encouraging children to drink water.**
Please do not put juice or flavoured water into water bottles.
- **Remembering to keep your child at home for 48 hours following sickness.**
- **Removing jewellery (except watches) in school.** Children will be asked to remove earrings and nail varnish for health and safety reasons.
- **Keeping dogs off the school site.**
Many children are frightened and dog fouling is a health risk.
- **Walking to school or parking responsibly in the playground car park or on Prudhoe Street.** Please remember that the staff car park is strictly out of bounds at all times.
- **Respecting our neighbours.** Please don't access the school site via the Police Station Houses.
- **Keeping the gates closed to ensure that the site is safe at all times.**
- **Remembering that children will be learning in the outdoor environment** - so please ensure that they have warm and waterproof clothing.
- **Supervising your children in the yard before school and remember that football is not allowed at this time of day.**
- **Encouraging your child to eat school dinners or providing a healthy packed lunch in line with current nutritional guidelines.**

All adults who walk unaccompanied through the school building must have a DBS clearance and have signed in at the office.

**Please do not wander through the school building in the mornings.
If you need help, go to the school office through the main entrance.**

DIARY DATES

Communications

We use many different ways to communicate with parents.



Keep up to date through the school website at:

www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk



Email the office at:

admin@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk



Check the text messages received from

Teachers2Parents

- please ensure that the office have an up to date mobile number for you.



Read the

Head Teacher's weekly blog

posted on the website and on Facebook every Monday for the very latest news.

Thursday 13th September	Rowan Class Family Lunch 11.45am
Wednesday 19th September	Friends AGM 7pm
Thursday 20th September	Year 4 Residential Meeting 3.15pm
Wednesday 26th September	Sycamore Class Family Lunch 11.45am
Thursday 27th September	Individual Photographs
Thursday 11th October	Larch Class Family Lunch 11.45am
Thursday 18th October	Harvest Festival - Infants at 10 am / Juniors at 2pm
Wednesday 24th October	Maple Class Family Lunch 11.45am
Friday 26th October	School closes HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Tuesday 6th November	School reopens
Wednesday 7th November	Chestnut Class Family Lunch 11.45am
Tuesday 13th November	Junior Mentoring Meetings 8.30 - 12.noont
Wednesday 14th November	Infant and Junior Mentoring Meetings 1.00 - 6.30pm
Wednesday 14th November	Early Years Parent Consultations 1.00 - 6.30pm
Thursday 15th November	Infant Mentoring Meetings 8.30 - 12.noont
Wednesday 21st November	Willow Class Family Lunch 11.45am
Tuesday 4th December	NTC Performance "The Little Maid Who Danced To Every Mood"
Wednesday 5th December	Beech Class Family Lunch 11.45am
Tuesday 11th December	Infant Christmas Concert - 1.45pm
Wednesday 12th December	Infant Christmas Concert - 10am
Wednesday 12th December	Years 3 & 4 Christmas Concert - 1.45pm
Thursday 13th December	Years 3 & 4 Christmas Concert - 6pm
Wednesday 19th December	Christmas Lunch and Parties
Thursday 20st December	Christingle 1:45pm
Friday 21st December	School Closes CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 7th January	School reopens