

Swansfield Park
Primary School

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

A very warm welcome to the new school year at Swansfield!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday and feels ready to jump straight back into school life.

On behalf of the whole staff team I'd like to extend a special welcome to our new families, we are very much looking forward to getting to know you and working with you in the coming year.

As always, we have a great year planned for our children from early years right through to upper key stage two. Staff will be sending out their newsletters in the coming week which will give you details of all the exciting curriculum enhancements for this term. I'm delighted to let you know that family lunches will be making a comeback and you can find details of dates for your children's classes further into this newsletter. As always, we'll be inviting you in to celebrate harvest with us just before the half term holiday and I'm thrilled to say that on the 22nd September, our friends from the Pearl of Africa Choir will be returning to Swansfield for the first time in 4 years.

Looking forward to seeing you all throughout the term. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can help with any queries.

With my best wishes

Anne Marie Grimes

The Avenue, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1UL
Tel: 01665 602267





At our leavers and achievers assembly, I was proud to announce the results of our senior student election for the forthcoming year. Congratulations to:

Isabelle Allen - Head Girl

Fraser Allan - Head Boy

Isaac Buddles and Isla Lockett - Alnwick Castle

Finley Phelan and Robyn Saxton - Bamburgh Castle

Jack Tincombe and Freya McNee - Dunstanburgh Castle

Thomas Goodfellow and Daisy McCardle - Warkworth Castle

I know that these young people will be superb ambassadors for our school and act as excellent role models to others.

Excellent attendance continues to be really important as we start a new school year. Please remember that holidays in term time will not be authorised. If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please let the office know on the morning of the absence.

Please remember, as we continue to face difficult economic times, that we are ready and able to support in many ways. Breakfast club is available every morning for all children who need it, just have a word with any member of staff or drop your child's class teacher an email.

We have a large stock of nearly-new uniform that all parents and carers can select items from - not only does this make good economic sense, it's environmentally friendly too.

If you feel that your child might be entitled to free school meals, pop into the office and have a word with Gillian or Victoria or check your eligibility at:



<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>



You may have seen the super video that Jane Coltman made with us at the end of term as part of the town's Britain in Bloom entry. If not, you can watch it here:



<https://youtu.be/-wF-UsWV2r8>

Bloomin' Marvellous!

Staff and children put so much effort into making our school grounds look so fantastic all through the summer. In addition to a host of colour and beautiful blooms, many classes grew and harvested their own produce.

It was when the Alnwick in Bloom judges saw our wonderful school grounds in the early summer that they asked us to be a part of Alnwick's Britain in Bloom bid. As a school that places such importance on being an active part of our community, we were only too happy to say 'yes!'. We'll keep you posted for the results.



We hope you enjoy these lovely pictures of our green fingered efforts from last year's Plum Class children.





Your school needs YOU!

Talking with our children about their learning and giving them regular opportunities to re-visit and explain what they know is really good practice and something that our children do often! Doing this helps our children to commit their learning to long term memory.

We also talk with children about aspects of the curriculum that they have particularly enjoyed and very often, the stand-out experiences are the enhancements that staff plan alongside their own teaching. These experiences include trips, residential, sporting competitions, live theatre and music experiences and author visits just to name a few. In addition to this, last year we were joined by a handful of family members who came into school to talk about their jobs, careers and interests, linking these with aspects of our school curriculum:

A parent came in to talk about his work with satellites as part of UKS2's topic on earth in space

A parent joined us to inspire our KS2 children with her work as an engineer as part of our National Science Week celebrations

A grandparent came to talk about bee-keeping as part of the work in Reception on minibeasts and insects

A parent visited school with a fire engine and crew as part of the work on people who help us in nursery.

These are just a few examples and we were so grateful to everyone who gave their time so generously!

We really want to develop this work in the coming year and we know that we have so much experience and talent in our school community. If you, or someone you know, is able to support our curriculum with their work or interest in any of the following areas then we'd love to hear from you this half term!

- Jobs relating to travel and transport
- Jobs/interests relating to gardening and growing
- Electricians
- Sound

We'll keep this as a regular feature each half term and we're really grateful for your support!

We established a brilliant 'reading army' last year and our regular volunteers supported so many children to make progress. If you are able to offer any time to come in and read with children, please do get in touch - reading with children is such a rewarding experience!

Harvest Festival

Wednesday 18th October

We are looking forward to celebrating harvest festival and you are warmly invited to join us! Please make a note of the time for your child's celebration.

Pear, Plum and Oak - 09.15

Ash, Beech, Willow and Chestnut - 10.15

Maple, Sycamore, Rowan and Larch - 14.15

Once again, we ask that children bring in donations for our local food bank. The food bank would be grateful for donations of non-perishable food items such as packets, cans, cartons and jars. In addition to this, we will be inviting older members of our community into school at the end of our harvest festival week for drinks and homemade soup. We'd be grateful for donations of carrots, onions, celery, potatoes and leeks for our soup.



Please bring all donations to school on Tuesday 17th October, either at the beginning or at the end of the day.

Swansfield Family News

We know you'll want to join us in sending congratulations to staff members who have been celebrating during the summer holiday!



← Miss Freeman was married on a sunny August day in North Yorkshire. We send best wishes to the new Mr and Mrs Edwards for a long and happy married life!

→ Mr and Mrs Warburton welcomed a second son, Oscar Charles, into their family on Friday 28th July. We send them, and big brother Henry, our very best wishes!



PEARL OF AFRICA CHILD CARE

Pearl of Africa Choir

Many of our older children will remember previous visits from the Pearl of Africa choir from Uganda. After a Covid enforced break, the choir is embarking on its 1st tour for 3 years and we're delighted to be on the tour schedule! The choir will spend the day with us on Friday 22nd September. They will perform for the children, spend time in our classrooms and offer us a chance to buy some of their handcrafted products. Our choir will then perform alongside the Pearl of Africa at a concert in St Paul's church at 6.30pm on the 22nd. Further details of how you can buy tickets for this event will be shared very soon.



If you want to find out more information about the choir, you can watch them in action by clicking on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-3xZ7Si39E&t=22s>

A focus on Well-being



I'm delighted to let you know that at the end of last term, **Mr Nick Fordham-Scott** was appointed as our Children and Families worker here at Swansfield. Nick is a familiar face to many of you, having worked in school as a teaching assistant for a number of years. Nick is looking forward to building positive relationships with children across school to ensure that they are able to thrive. We know that family

life can be busy, fast paced and often complicated and Nick will be available to support parents and carers too with a listening ear and a good knowledge of where and how additional services can be accessed when necessary. We'll be in touch soon with details of drop ins where you will be able to engage with other parents and carers and meet with Nick. In the meantime, Nick will be on the yard or the Avenue each morning so please do say hello!

As you know, we have used the Thrive approach for a number of years now. The aim of Thrive is to support wellbeing to improve attendance, behaviour and attainment. Many of our children across school have benefitted from Thrive support from one of our trained Thrive practitioners.

I'm delighted to let you

know that **Liz Tears** has been appointed as our Lead Thrive Practitioner and she will have dedicated time across the week to plan and deliver support for children who need it. Liz will be assisted by Claire Hornsby who will focus her work with our younger children and Nick Fordham-Scott who will practice the Thrive approach across school once he has completed his training.





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, on Prudhoe Street or Roxburgh Place car park.**
Please do not park on The Avenue.
- **Respecting our neighbours.** Please don't access the school site via the Police Station Houses.
- **Remembering that children will be learning in the outdoor environment** - so please ensure that they have warm and waterproof clothing and wellies.
- **Encouraging your child to eat school dinners or providing a healthy packed lunch in line with current nutritional guidelines.**
- **Please do not use mobile phones on the school site.**
- **Remember that children must not use the climbing equipment before or after school as they will not be directly supervised.**



Nut Free School

We have children in school with severe nut and sesame allergies. These allergies are serious and cause a rapid and life threatening reaction known as anaphylaxis.

Please be mindful of this if you are preparing packed lunches for your child and please avoid including any nut products.

Our school kitchen doesn't use nuts or sesame in the preparation of meals.



Please note

Due to whole staff safeguarding training, Tic Toc will be closed on **Wednesday 4th October**.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused but this is a legal obligation.

Family Lunches

We're really looking forward to welcoming you all to family lunch on the following dates:



Ash Class
20th
September



Sycamore
Class
29th
November



Maple
Class
17th April



Plum Class
11th
October



Pear Class
17th
January



Chestnut
Class
8th May



Larch Class
25th
October



Rowan Class
7th
February



Oak Class
12th June



Willow Class
22nd
November



Beech Class
20th
March

In the week before
your child's class lunch,
you'll be sent details of
times and how to book.

Keeping in Touch

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.

Follow us on **Twitter** to get the latest news on what's going on in classrooms, in clubs and when we get out and about.

DIARYDATES

We are looking forward to welcoming parents into school to share in family lunches, class assemblies, Harvest and Christmas celebrations. To liven up the term we are hoping to take part in as many relevant special events or themed weeks, we have included these in the calendar below.

18th and 20th September School Photographs	Wednesday 25th October Larch Class Family Lunch	Friday 8th December Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 20th September Ash Class Family Lunch	Thursday 26th October UKS2 Cragside Trip	Tuesday 12th December Infant Nativity Performance [1.45pm]
Friday 22nd September Pearl of Africa	Friday 27th October School Closes for Half Term	Wednesday 13th December Infant Nativity Performance [9.45am]
Sunday 24th September One Day to Sing - Alnwick Market Place (choir)	8th, 9th, 15th, 16th November Parent Consultations (further details to follow)	Wednesday 13th December LKS2 Christmas Performance [1.45pm]
Tuesday 26th September European Day of Languages	Friday 10th November School Remembrance Service	Thursday 14th December LKS2 Christmas Performance [6.00pm]
Monday 2nd October KS1 Trip to Aln Valley Railway	Week beginning 13th November Anti-bullying Week	Monday 18th December Cherry and Apple Class Songs Around the Christmas Tree
Wednesday 11th October Plum Class Family Lunch	Monday 13th November Odd Socks Day	Tuesday 19th December Cherry and Apple Class Songs Around the Christmas Tree
Thursday 12th October Chestnut Class Assembly	Friday 17th November Children In Need and FOSP Christmas Fair	Wednesday 20th December Christmas Lunch and Class Parties
Friday 13th October Flu Immunisations	Wednesday 22nd November Willow Family Lunch	Thursday 21st December Christingle at St Paul's Church [Years 1-6]
Wednesday 18th October Harvest Festival (see times within newsletter)	Thursday 23rd November Rowan Class Assembly	
Friday 20th October FOSP Halloween Disco	Wednesday 29th November Sycamore Family Lunch	

