

NEWSLETTER



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

FEBRUARY 2020

Communications

We use many different ways to communicate with parents.



Keep up to date through the school website at:
www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk



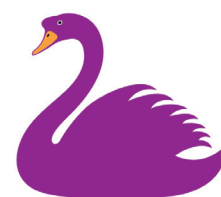
Email the office at:
admin@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk



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.



**Swansfield Park
Primary School**



Welcome back to the second half of the school year – it's frightening how quickly time flies when we're having fun!

We've had a really settled year so far and we are now looking forward to more daylight, better weather (hopefully) and lots of exciting events starting with **World Book Day** on **Thursday 5th March**. A week later we will be enthusiastically raising money for **sports relief** so watch out for the wild and wacky activities dreamt up by the school council.

We have recently amended the **Supporting Children With Medical Needs Policy** which is now available on the school website. There is a significant change in policy if your child has prescribed inhalers or auto adrenalin injectors (AAI). We now have spare devices in school which can be administered if the child's device is out of date or misfires. We will be writing to parents of children with these devices in school to obtain consent to use the spare devices in an emergency.

We are still looking for a **parent governor** and we would also like to

encourage parents to help on school trips or in the classroom. **Please contact me if you are interested in either of these opportunities.**

Next week we are holding our **termly mentoring meetings**. In light of comments received we have amended the way attendance is reported. We will give the current attendance as a percentage, please refer to the scale alongside to see whether the attendance is green, amber or red. Unauthorised absence will also be indicated.

Finally, news of two exciting events: **Mrs Rutherford** is expecting a baby in May and will be going on maternity leave at Easter and **Mr Warburton** is looking forward to becoming a dad for the first time in June.

Best Wishes

Jenny Smith



Looking forward to seeing you at our events this term.



Pupil Parliament has been very successful so far. The schools included are Swansfield Park, Seahouses, Embleton, Ellingham, Belford and Whittingham. To start with each school worked in groups to write a manifesto to state what is important.

Our first debate, was **'Should children's screen time be limited?'** Our second was **'Should children be allowed to drive?'** For each debate an expert speaker came to visit Pupil Parliament. **Kevin Thompson** (from Thompson Opticians) and **PC Lamb** (from Northumbria Police) shared their knowledge, opinions and answered our questions – of which there were thousands. PC Lamb enjoyed our questions and also said, 'The children behaved brilliantly and were absolutely superb representatives for the school.'

After collecting our facts, we worked in groups to create a statement before opening a debate, in the same style as the House of Commons, with a **Speaker**, who was **Miss Back** the first time and **Amy from Whittingham** for the second debate. After discussing topics and listening to each other's views we were able to form our own opinions and at times change our minds from our initial thoughts.

Here are our thoughts about Pupil Parliament:

"I really like taking part in Pupil Parliament and we also gain skills for our future" **Poppy**

"I recommend all kids to take part because it is a good experience to understand how debating works." **Jake**

"I love Pupil Parliament because it gives me a chance to listen to other people's opinions, which helps me to form mine before sharing it. " **Imogen**

"I love pupil Parliament because it is a very good experience to meet children from other schools and the last debate helped me to understand, I wanted to drive but after listening to experts and other debaters I changed my opinion." **Cameron**

"I really like it because I like taking part in debates and listening to other peoples' opinions." **Jack**

"I like that we get to find out more about different things going on in the world. Also, debating is fun too " **Eairan.**

We can't wait for our next debate!

Reading @ Swansfield

At Swansfield Park Primary School, reading is one of our main priorities and we aim to make sure that our students are confident readers who have a real enthusiasm for reading.

To try to ensure this is the case, we have made reading one of our focuses for this year and have put in place several new initiatives to ensure that children have more opportunities to read within the school day. All staff have reviewed their planning to try to ensure that books of different genres are studied throughout the year, with the aim that all students will find an author or a book that they truly enjoy reading and studying. Each class also has a 'class-read', a book that they study together, during a timetabled session in the school week. This gives us the opportunity to read for pleasure and to spend time talking as a class about the book we are studying. Alongside this, every class will have an allocated time to visit the school library and we are investigating the possibility of taking small groups to Alnwick Library, based at the newly refurbished Playhouse. For any students who find reading more of a challenge, we have a comprehensive programme of interventions that are tailored to each student to help them gain in confidence and ability.

We would greatly value your support in helping to encourage your child to read regularly at home. Not only is there a correlation between the amount a child reads and their achievement in English, reading also has many other benefits. Reading for a short time each day can have such an impact on a child's confidence, ability and imagination. If you have the opportunity to read with your child, discussing what you have read can also help with their understanding.

If you would like any further information about reading, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Inter-faith Day

On the last day of the February half term thirteen of our Year 6 Students took part in the Festival of Lights Inter-faith Day.

This was hosted by St Michaels C of E Primary School in Alnwick with children from eight schools in the Alnwick Partnership attending.



The event, which was an opportunity to find out more about world faiths, was extremely rewarding with the children impressing the faith leaders with their questions and enthusiasm. They were particularly keen to find out more about beliefs in karma and reincarnation.

After a wet walk, the children went straight into filling in a booklet on different faiths, searching for answers on information displayed around the assembly hall.

Head teacher Gavin Johnston then introduced the different faith leaders, representing Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism, who each gave their own introduction.

Then the children were off on a Carousel listening activity visiting all the different faith leaders where they also asked their own very insightful questions. Our children were supported by some GCSE and A Level Students from the Duchess's Community High School and they took the opportunity to quiz them on Secondary school life.

After all that brain power it was time for lunch and the catering staff at St Michaels provided an excellent curry buffet. With full tummies it was time for a 10-minute meditation seated in the hall. Imagine 80+ children absolutely still and silent- it was very relaxing for all! Then pupils from DCHS talked informatively about RE as an academic subject and its uses and how it has given them a better understanding of peoples' beliefs and different cultures.



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:

Harvey Robinson, Florence Smith, Maisie Ostle, Emily Crow and Jake Allan

This was followed by a range of Diwali activities; board games, Rangoli art, Lotus flowers and a dance workshop. Swansfield pupils went first to play the Hindu board game Carrom – or 'finger pool'. It is a game much-loved by all Hindu families with all ages able to play and we could see why as it was great fun and the children were very animated. Players flick a large weighted disc (the striker) at smaller wooden discs (the Carrom-men) with the goal to sink the Carrom-men and the Queen in the four corner pockets. Next there was some serious concentration employed to make and glue Rangoli trees with golden thread and jewels.

Unfortunately, all too soon it was time to head back to school-thankfully the rain had lifted. The children gained a wealth of information and understanding of different religions which they will share with other pupils in an assembly.



DIARY DATES

Update from the Friends

Last term we held another two successful events. The very on trend **Swap Event** a few weeks ago raised a profit of **£185** and it was a lovely evening with lots of positive comments during the night.

The new event - the **"Valentine's Disco"** was well attended with some very cute photos as evidence of a great evening. The event raised **£660!**

Looking ahead to this term there is a **coffee morning** on **Saturday 21st March** at 10am at Northumberland Hall. There will be refreshments, raffles, stalls and cakes so please come along.

We also have a date for the **Summer Fair**, the **4th July** - lock it down in your diaries!!

We have a Friends Meeting this week so hopefully we will be able to update you via Facebook of further fabulous events planned for the rest of the year.

Thanks again for everyone's support of these events - we couldn't do it without you!

SWANSFIELD PARK
NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020

Thursday 27th February
Larch Class Friends & Family
Lunch

Tuesday 3rd March
Junior Mentoring Meetings
8.30 - 12 noon

Wednesday 4th March
Reception Parent Consultations
1.00 - 6.30pm

Wednesday 4th March
Infant and Junior Mentoring
Meetings 1- 6.30pm

Thursday 5th March
Infant Mentoring Meetings
8.30 - 12 noon

Thursday 5th March
World Book Day

Wednesday 11th March
Maple Class Friends & Family
Lunch

Thursday 12th March
Sycamore Class Assembly -
2.30pm

Friday 13th March
Sports Relief

Thursday 19th March
Rowan Class Friends & Family
Lunch

Thursday 26th March
Ash Class Assembly 2:30pm

Monday 30th March
Spring Assembly
(by invitation only)

Wednesday 1st April
Sycamore Class Friends & Family
Lunch

Friday 3rd April
School Closes
EASTER HOLIDAY

World Book Day

As usual, we are looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day in school**. We invite everyone to dress up as their favourite book character and ask for £1 donation. All money raised will go directly to literary resources within school. We are also receiving a generous donation of £200 from Taylor Wimpy who will be coming into school to read 'How we build your home with Milly Mortar and Handy Andy'

As reading is a key priority we will be sending home a bookmark with top tips for reading with your child along with the book voucher.

