

Swansfield Park
Primary School

SEPTEMBER 2021

NEWS LETTER



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



www.facebook.com/swansfieldpark



Welcome back to the start of a new academic year at Swansfield Park Primary School.



Congratulations to **Kai Elliott** and **Ellie Lang** our new Head Boy and Head Girl and to our new Castle Captains who are:

Alnwick Castle - **Isla Megan Wallace** and **Frankie Pentleton**

Bamburgh Castle - **Joseph Lee** and **Lilly Ha**

Dunstanburgh Castle - **Callum Anderson** and **Freya Flannigan**

Warkworth Castle - **William Holland** and **Allessia Alexander**

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.



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Primary School**



The Avenue, Alnwick,
Northumberland
NE66 1UL

Tel: **01665 602267**

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NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year at Swansfield Park Primary School.

It is an exciting time for us both and we are looking forward to working as co-headteachers to continue to provide outstanding educational opportunities for all our children. For your information Mrs Smith will be working on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with Mrs Grimes taking the reins on Monday and Friday.

Hopefully this year will be a little more settled than the last two - wouldn't it be lovely to have a full academic year with no lockdown! We will be getting straight back to business and by continuing to work together, we can help our children to get their learning back on track and achieve outstanding results. We will be continuing to develop our blended learning approach, using the class pages on the school website to communicate with you and share homework.

Most importantly please get your child to school every day on time (unless they are unwell), rested and raring to go. If you need any support, please ask either your child's class teacher or make an appointment at the office to see one of us.

Best Wishes

Jenny Smith and Anne Marie Grimes



Virtual Harvest Festival and Family Learning

Wednesday 13th October

Due to social distancing we won't be able to celebrate our harvest festival in the usual way this year.

However, as this is a time of significant hardship for many families, the Alnwick Food Bank will be grateful for donations. We would like to give non-perishable food items such as packets, cans, cartons and jars.

Please bring your donations to school on Wednesday 13th October for our harvest collection.

We are mindful that this is now the second year that we have not been able to celebrate Harvest Festival in the traditional manner. As a small compensation each class will share a harvest contribution on their class page during this week.



The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
UK International Champion on Adaptation
and Resilience for the COP26 Presidency
and Minister of State (Minister for Energy,
Clean Growth and Climate Change)



An opportunity to be active citizens from Anne Marie Trevelyan

Ahead of the **COP26 conference** this November, Anne Maire Trevelyan is encouraging Northumberland's schools to do their bit to tackle climate change. She has invited us to take part in the government communications partnership campaign, **'Together for our Planet'** in order to build momentum towards COP26 by building awareness and encouraging and stimulating dialogue on climate action and participation.

In school we'll be celebrating **Climate Leaders** - everyday people who are helping to cut carbon and make the UK a greener place.

Through art we can all get involved by creating our own environmentally-themed drawings, paintings or collages, please send these into school by half term for our display.

If you'd like to get involved further, COP26 is working with Blue Peter to invite children across the UK to write a poem or story about something that is affecting our planet today. The winning entry will be transformed into a short animated film by Aardman Studios, which will be premiered at COP26 to set the scene for world leaders to take urgent climate action. The winner will travel to COP26 to see the premiere of the film and appear on Blue Peter to receive both Green and Orange Blue Peter Badges.

Our Parliamentary Ambassador will be arranging a debate to model COP26. This will give students a fun insight into what negotiating is really like!



Ready for Reading in the new school year

We are determined to 'hit the ground running' where reading is concerned this September and we want to ensure that all of our children are making great progress after the interruptions of the last eighteen months.

With this in mind, all of our children will be reading with their class teacher or teaching assistant each week as part of a guided reading group or on an individual basis and **this will begin in the week beginning Monday 13th September**. There will be additional reading opportunities each week for any child who needs a little bit of extra support to ensure that they are progressing. We are sorry that we are still unable to send these reading books home at present. However, we have been looking into ways that we can get back to having an open dialogue with parents/carers about reading progress, as used to be the case with the reading record book, and we'll give some more detail on this very soon.

It has been great to hear so much positive feedback about our online reading platform **Bug Club** which was introduced last academic year.

This continues to be the best way for you to support your child in their reading journey. Discussions with our children and their parents/carers suggest that the books capture the children's interests, the children enjoy the quizzes and interactive features and love gaining coins to spend in the reward area! New logins and passwords will be circulated early in the school year so that you can get up and running once again.

If your children are new to our school in Years 1-6, class teachers will be in touch to help you get started with this online reading platform. For our children joining Reception in Pear and Plum classes this year, we'll let the children get settled into their new classrooms and routines and get logins and passwords out to you before the half term break in October.



Ready for Reading in the new school year

We're beginning our school year with a mini project on multicultural stories. Each class teacher has picked a story which will take the children out of Alnwick and into the wide world! We will be creating a new hall display with fabulous artwork inspired by these stories and we live in hope that we'll be able to welcome you all in to see this at some point in the near future! More generally, each class will be getting

started with a 'class reader' in the next week. This will be a chapter book that the whole class enjoys together. Class readers are a great way for children to develop their comprehension skills, imaginative skills, build new vocabulary and most importantly just enjoy getting lost in a good book! Be sure to ask your child what their class reader is and allow them to tell you regularly about how the story is unfolding.

So, we encourage you all to support us as we 'get reading' as a school. Here are some top tips for reading at home with your child.

- 1. Make books a part of family life** - Always have books around at home. That way you and your children are ready to get reading, even if it's only for ten minutes.
- 2. Read about something they're interested in** - Help your child find the right book for them. It doesn't matter if it's fiction, poetry, comic books or non-fiction.
- 3. Get comfortable!** - Snuggle up together somewhere warm and cosy, whether it's in bed, on a beanbag or on the sofa. And make sure your child has somewhere comfy to read on their own too.
- 4. Ask questions** - To keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read. Start with 'Where did we get to last time?', 'Can you remember what's happened so far?' and 'What do you think will happen next?'.
- 5. Read favourites again and again** - Encourage your child to re-read the books and poems they love. Re-reading helps to build fluency and confidence.
- 6. Enjoy bedtime stories** - Read with your kids at bedtime as often as you can. It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with them.

*And remember, your child is never too old to share a book with!
Reading with your child is one of the best ways to support their academic and emotional development right through their school career!*





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.**

Please do not enter the school building. If you need help go to the school office through the main entrance.

Please do not use mobile phones on the school site.

Remember that children must not use the climbing equipment before and after school.

DIARY DATES

Due to COVID restrictions we are sadly unable to welcome parents into school to share in family lunches, class assemblies or Harvest, we will keep this under review every half term. 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.

Wednesday 13th October
Harvest Festival

Friday 22nd October
School closes HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 1st November
School reopens

Wednesday 15th December
Christmas Lunch and Parties

Friday 17th December
Christmas Jumper Day, School Closes CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Tuesday 4th January
Training Day

Wednesday 5th January
School reopens

Communications

We use many different ways to communicate with parents.



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



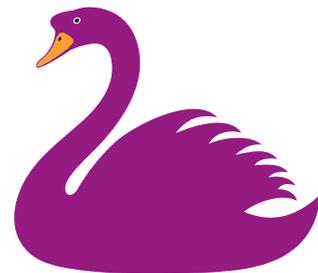
Email the office at:
admin@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk



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.



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WEBSITE:

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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.