

APRIL 2023

Swansfield Park
Primary School

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NEWSLETTER



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It was lovely to welcome the children back to school on Monday and hear all their holiday news.

I do hope that you find this newsletter interesting and useful as we look back on the many great experiences our children had last half term.

We look forward to exciting things to come between now and July with the **King's Coronation, Year 4 and Year 6 residentials, trips and competitions** all on the horizon. Learning beyond the classroom is such a central part of our curriculum and we hope to get each year group 'out and about' at least once before the summer holiday arrives. We know that our children love these experiences and gain so much from them and for that reason, we continue to be very grateful for the work of our Friends of Swansfield for continuing to fund these opportunities. FOSP will be holding their AGM in the coming weeks and with several committee members standing down, their work will not continue without fresh support. Please consider coming along and ensuring that this valuable group within our school community can continue.

Please do remember that it's so important for children to have great

attendance in the summer term as we complete the year's curriculum and carry out assessments. Whilst we continue to be so grateful for your support in keeping children at home when poorly, can we please ask that in particular, you 'Stay in May' when thinking about family holidays as this is a crucial time for national assessments that must be completed.

Well, let's get the summer term underway! Here's hoping for plenty of fair weather so that we can enjoy events to the full. Always remember that classroom doors are open every morning and afternoon if you need to speak with staff, we're happy to have a quick word or answer immediate questions. I am on the yard most mornings and available to answer questions or queries.

In addition to this, email is a great point of contact with class teachers and myself if you need to speak with us. **We're here to help and support.**

With my best wishes to you all,

Anne-Marie Grimes





Swansfield 3Cs in Action

Our Swansfield 3Cs are now part and parcel of daily life at school. Not only do they provide the framework within which we can reward children and celebrate their success, they also give us an opportunity to make our expectations clear and challenge children to be brave and ambitious. The links we have made with book characters really support this work. It's a real pleasure to share a round up of achievements from the last half term which span all three of our Cs!

Writing Success

There were some 'stand out' writers across school last half term whose writing really impressed class teachers and postcards were sent home to share our pride in this success. **Kamil, Seb** and **Nicola** in **Chestnut Class** showed themselves to be courageous writers in the newspaper reports they produced about The Lampton Worm which included application of causal conjunctions and time adverbials. Mr Warburton was rightly very proud of you all! Mrs Smith was so impressed with the care that **Matthew** in **Willow Class** has begun taking with his presentation, not only in English but across all subjects. *Keep it up, Matthew!* Mrs Smith in **Oak Class** was delighted with **Emily's** progress and her ability to write with courage and independence! Miss Freeman

in **Plum Class** was so impressed with **Brooke's** independent writing and descriptive language that she brought it straight to show Mrs Grimes.

Willing Volunteers

We actively encourage our older children to take on additional roles which support school life.

These responsibilities require commitment and care and we're proud that so many children volunteer to work for the good of others.

Currently, **Lola-Belle Roulston, Alice Bridges, Emily Davison, Lexie Scott, Amy Evans** are our lunchtime crew who support staff in the dinner hall and help to ensure that all children have a happy dining experience!

Mrs Crowe has welcomed some

new junior librarians to support her at lunchtimes and we know that **Mamie, Freya, Tiana, Alyssa, Emmie, Isla, Charlotte, Hallie** and **Olivia**, all from **Sycamore Class**, are all going to do a brilliant job.

Gold Certificate Winners

Our spring assemblies just before the holidays provided an opportunity to award Gold Certificates and we congratulate the following children for their achievements:

Jonny Evans, Connor-Roy Wright, Jacob Makepeace, Ella Williams, Hugo Hughes, Jasper Potts, Erin Campbell, Alex Jepson, Noah Eggar-Hogg, Ella Weidner, Lola-Belle Roulston and **Henry Rose**

Progress Cup

Giving out our progress cup is always one of the highlights of each term. At the end of the spring term, it's KS1's opportunity to shine! Mr Johnson, Mr Rose and Mrs Smith were spoilt for choice as they looked for a recipient but came to the unanimous decision that **Bradley Saxton's** achievements deserved to be recognised. Bradley has been such a courageous learner throughout his Year 1 journey and the progress he has made in reading and writing especially is prize winning! We all shared in Bradley's joy as he lifted the progress cup aloft - awesome achievement!





Spring Term Round Up

What a wonderfully busy time we have had over the last half term.
Here are some highlights for you all to enjoy...

Busy, busy bees in Apple Class!

Apple Class welcomed many visitors from the community into school as part of their topic '**people who help us**'. There was a fire engine with firefighters from our local fire and rescue service, Police officers, Postman Pat and Jess the cat, Alan with his tractor and Gary the paramedic to name just a few! This provided a great opportunity for our children to ask questions and find out about these jobs.



Our Apples also enjoyed getting out and about with small groups visiting Alnwick library.

The librarians made everyone feel so welcome. When they arrived at the library the children spent some time exploring the different sections and had fun finding out about what goes on during the day. The children then joined in with the library's Song, Story and Rhyme sessions.

The children really listened well, followed instructions and most importantly, engaged with all the activities.

One group listened to the story 'The Whales on the Bus,' a simple 'take' on the nursery rhyme 'The Wheels on the Bus.'

Ada said *"this is my new favourite story. I love the rhymes like 'the goat on the boat' and the 'bees on skis'."*

Scott said *"this one really made me laugh."*

Louisa said *"I've been here before with mummy."*

These were such beneficial trips to see how the library works on a day to day basis, to meet new people, to understand the librarian's job role within our community and lastly, to really enhance the children's love of stories and storytelling!



Mrs Farrar was very grateful when Hannah from Little Movers asked **Apples** to participate in integrated sessions at SummerHill Care home, on Thursday mornings.

These sessions involved being with the residents to dance, sing and create movements using props such as ribbons, silks and balloons.

There were so many benefits for the children and residents from these sessions and it was wonderful to see the joy that our children brought to the faces of their new friends!

We have more sessions planned for our nursery children this half term.

Henry said *"I loved going!"* and *"dancing with balloons was so good."*



Down on the farm with KS1

Last half term, Key Stage 1 went on a fabulous trip to Broxfield Farm. We met Mr Thompson, the farmer, who showed us around the farm. We learnt about the journey from field to fork, and had a turn at milling grain to make flour. Then, we fed the cows. We also saw some bulls and calves.

After dinner, we went on a very exciting trailer ride to the woods. We talked about habitats and the importance of looking after nature. Then we made creatures using pine cones and created habitats for them to live in. It was an amazing experience! Here are some of the things we said about our day...

"I liked running in the field."

Logan Dodd

"My favourite bit was feeding the cows."

Oliver Hames

"I really liked seeing the baby calves."

Karina Krzeminska

"It was amazing going on the trailer. The woods were the best."

Chelsea Fordham-Scott

"My favourite part was feeding the cows and going into the woods and making the creatures."

Benjamin Rowley

Theatre Fun

Experiencing live theatre is such a valuable experience for children and it is something that we prioritise at Swansfield. All of our children from Y1 to Y6 had the opportunity to see some live theatre during the last half term. On a snowy March afternoon, our Year 5 and 6 children travelled to the Theatre Royal in Newcastle to watch a production of Annie.

Poignantly, this was one of the last times that Paul O'Grady performed on a stage, with our children watching him as Miss Hannigan. Head boy, has written a review of the performance.



Amazing Annie

★★★★★

This fun silly play, produced in 1930, will boost your energy. It will make your day. What can go wrong: actors, fun, theatre.

In my opinion, the best part was when Miss Hannigan's brother and his girlfriend claim they are Annie's parents, but Annie finds out her parents are dead, so Miss Hannigan, her brother and his girlfriend get arrested and it is really funny, as it makes them look very stupid and silly.

I think the second best part was when Annie escaped the orphanage and came across a dog in the streets, and she put a leash on him, in case the dog pound captured him. Just then, a police man comes and Annie has to think of a name for the dog and calls him Sandy, but she also has to call his name as well and he goes to her. Sandy stole the audience's heart.

I think anyone could go and watch this because it is a lot of fun and it is funny. Also, the songs are well-sung and they were brilliant. Lots of people would love this, as the story is very well told, with an eleven-year-old girl as the star of the show. The atmosphere was just amazing and the songs were so catchy that everyone sang along. This is a brilliant example of a great show: engaging, enthralling, enjoyment, entertainment and great enthusiasm shown by all.

Luke Broster

Wind in the Willows

Later in the month children from Years 1-4 enjoyed a visit from the touring company Image Musical Theatre who performed **Wind in the Willows**. This was a thoroughly interactive show with the audience joining in with all of the songs and many of our children taking active roles in the story! Here's what some of our children had to say about the show:

"I liked the wild woods song and the bit that went, 'was that the snap of a twig or the hooting of an owl ...' (Emily Crowe)"

"I liked when the Toad got put in jail and tried to get out and then he finally did get out and I liked the bit where he was going crazy in the car" (Erin Campbell)"

"I was a weasel. I was a bad guy - we threw glasses and we broke into the house but then we got caught. I was really nervous, it was my first show. I was allowed to stand up and throw the glasses out of our hands. That was fun" (Jack Ellis)"





Celebrating the King's Coronation

As the nation looks forward to celebrating this special event, we want to ensure that our children have the opportunity to play their part.

A Coronation Committee will be formed this week which will be made up of staff and children who are keen to plan our celebrations. We hope that these will involve an afternoon tea and concert for elderly members of our community, a school procession and invitation to get involved in the 'Big Help Out'. We'll keep you up to date with these arrangements!

In addition to these events, we'd love our school grounds to reflect the national celebration and so we invite families to create outdoor planters with a red, white and blue or regal theme (we think purple is a very regal colour!). Maybe you could create a crown of flowers, a recycled plastics wreath or a pot planted with red, white and blue blooms.

Please bring your creations to school by Wednesday 3rd May ready for the celebrations.

An update from the fabulous Friends of Swansfield Park

Thank you to everyone who helped with our fundraising efforts last term. We raised £480 at the Valentines Disco and £290 from the PJ Day and sweet sale. This money will be a great asset throughout the summer term as we continue to fund experiences and bus travel for our children.

We'd like to invite everyone to our AGM on Tuesday 9th May at 7.00pm in school. Many of us on the committee need to step down from our roles and if our work is going to continue, we need new faces to help! Being a part of the FOSP is a great way to meet new people and really get involved in our school community. We need your support!

We hope to have events for all children this half term with the possibility of bingo or film nights, we'll keep you informed! **In addition to this, we hope to hold our Summer Fair on Saturday 9th July.**

Better Together

Modern life can be very demanding as we juggle the needs of our families alongside working commitments and it can often feel tricky to keep all of the balls in the air! In addition to this, our children are growing up in a world that can seem increasingly complex with social media, instant messaging and platforms such as Youtube often playing such a significant part in their lives.

With this in mind, we are keen to know how we can support family well-being. We will be sending out a Google form to gather your thoughts and opinions in the coming weeks and we will use the information to shape our future work. We are keen to restart our Working Together family group which met regularly prior to the pandemic and we want to be sure that its focus meets the needs of our school community.



Summer Term Assessment Dates

During the summer term, many year groups in our school undertake national assessments. These provide important information about children's progress. These assessments are always completed with children's well-being at heart and for our KS1 children, they are completed in a very informal manner. Here are the important dates that you will need to know:

Y2 SATs - these will be completed throughout May and children will work alongside their class teacher individually or in small groups to complete the assessments.

Y1 Phonic check - this assessment will take place in the week of 12th - 16th June and children will complete the assessment booklet individually with their class teacher.

Y4 Multiplication check - children will complete this assessment electronically in a two week window between 5th - 16th June

Y6 SATs - Children will complete these assessments in their classroom during morning sessions between 9th - 12th May

Travel Survey: What you told us

A huge thank you to those who completed the travel survey.

We had a great response with 157 families taking the time to fill this in. We now have some important information which we will use in the coming months to try to improve everyone's travel experience to and from school.

Here is a summary of the key information
Of the 157 responses:

38%

access school
via The Avenue

42%

travel to school by
walking

57%

travel to school
by car

62%

access school via
Swansfield Park

1% travel to school by bike or
'other' means

35% have concerns about **safety**
due to **speeding traffic**
and **turning vehicles**

A lack of time and poor cycle routes were clear barriers to more families walking or cycling to school.

It was encouraging that 42% of respondents would be willing to give a 'park and stride' option a go. This could have a significant, and very necessary, impact on reducing traffic in the immediate school surroundings. With **National Walk to School Week coming up between the 15th - 19th May**, we are keen to give this a go and we'll be in touch with arrangements for how this will work and the incentives for children to take part. This year's Walk to School week has a theme of Walk with Wildlife and there will be a number of fun activities for children to join in with throughout the week.



DIARY DATES

27th April

Willow Class Assembly
(2.30pm)

30th April

Choir singing at
Weekend Festival of
Music at Alnwick
Playhouse

5th May

Reception and Year 6
Height and Weight Checks

5th May

School King's Coronation
Day Celebrations

9th - 12th May

Y6 SATs

11th May

Plum Class Assembly
(2.30pm)

13th May

Choir singing at St Mary's
Church, Lesbury

15th - 19th May

Walk to School Week

24th May

Y6 Residential meeting
(5.00pm)

26th May

School closes - Half term
holiday

5th June

School reopens

5th - 16th June

Year 4 Multiplication
Tables Check

6th June

Y4 Residential meeting
(3.15pm)

8th June

Countryside Day Year 3

12th - 16th June

Year 1 Phonics Check

15th June

Pear Class Assembly
(2.30pm)

22nd June

Beech Class Assembly
(2.30pm)

28th - 30th June

Year 6 Residential

1st July

Wonderful World
Performance for Y3
Alnwick Playhouse

3rd - 7th July

Year 5 Bikeability

5th July

Roll Up Day

7th July

Junior Sports Days
(Y3-6)

12th - 14th July

Year 4 Ford Castle

12th and 13th July

Clarty Commandos

13th July

Infants' Sports Day
(Rec - Y2)

14th July

Year 5 Adventurous
Activities at Sweethope

21st July

Leavers and Achievers
Assembly

21st July

School closes - Summer
Holiday

6th September

School re-opens for the
Autumn Term

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.

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.

