

NEWS LETTER



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

JANUARY 2017



Happy
New Year
and welcome
back to the
spring term
at Swansfield
Park. We hope
you enjoyed the
festivities over
Christmas and
the New Year.

After completing the building of the new extension **we are well on our way with the furnishings.** It is a wonderful luxury to have two classrooms for intervention work though this will be short lived as they will be used as class bases in September.

We have ordered some stunning library furniture and are working with the Schools' Library Service to replenish the book stock with some exciting new titles. **The final stage in this project is the Grand Opening, scheduled for Tuesday 7th February.**

Following comments about homework on the parent questionnaire a group of governors will be asking you for your opinion on this topic. **Look out for a questionnaire in the book bags in the New Year.** Children and staff will also be consulted before we review our policy.

As a school team we are proud of work we do in the community. This was exemplified by the comments received after the school performances, the Christingle and the choir performances before Christmas. However occasionally we have to deal with complaints from the public. Last term it concerned safe access through the cut

at drop off and pick up times. Please can you leave dogs at home as some small children are very frightened of them.

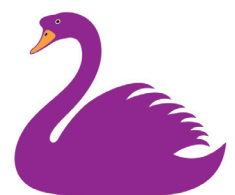
The other issue raised was that of parents smoking. This impacts on the health of others waiting at the school gates and also presents a negative role model for our children.

We have a vacancy for a parent governor. Governors play a very important role within our school community and we need someone with either a financial or a legal background to complement our skill set. If you are interested and would like further details please speak to me.

The children always enjoy inviting family and friends into school and there will be several opportunities to join us as we will be holding both class assemblies and class lunches. Please check the diary section for the appropriate dates.

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

Best Wishes
Jenny Smith



Swansfield Park
Primary School





Anti-Bullying Accreditation

At Swansfield Park we prioritise the safety of our children and take any bullying incidents very seriously so are thrilled to learn that **we have been successful in gaining the National Anti-Bullying Accreditation Award**. This has involved many months of work to collect evidence so we are delighted to have achieved the award. The assessors were impressed by the procedures we have in place to reward good behaviour, monitor bullying incidents and communicate our procedures via our website. *I'd like to say a big thank you to all the governors, parents, staff and children who have contributed to the process.*

Family Learning Challenge

Our Family Learning Challenge for this term is to highlight the importance of e-safety. Your project can take any form you like: you could design a poster, film a video, write a poem, make a game, produce a leaflet or maybe even record a song!

Your project can cover any area related to staying safe online. You may want to share some top tips on staying safe, give advice for when searching online or think of ideas to making the Internet a better place.



Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. In 2017, Safer Internet Day will take place on Tuesday 7th February.

If you are stuck for an idea, here are some projects that you could try:

- **create a leaflet** that tells people about Minecraft (or another multiplayer game) and how to stay safe while playing it (such as how to block or report people who aren't nice in the chat)
- **write and record a song** sharing some top tips on staying safe online
- **design a poster** that teaches other children how to be SMART online
- **create a video or animation** that tells a story about staying safe online
- **use Scratch to create an e-safety game** (you'll have to teach your grown-ups how to use it!)
- **create an interactive book or presentation** full of e-safety advice
- **design and make a board game** that teaches people how to stay safe online
- **draw or paint your favourite e-safety character** that you've met in school (PenguinPig, Smartie the Penguin, Sid, Kara, Winston or Cookie). You could add a speech bubble with them giving some good advice.

Remember, these are only suggestions - we're sure you can think of many more ideas!

Please bring in your creations by the end of January so we can display them in time for Safer Internet Day.

Attendance

Once again pupil attendance at our school is falling below satisfactory levels.

As an Outstanding School it is essential that we improve our attendance levels therefore we will be having a Focus on Attendance this term

Staff and Governors will be working with the Education Welfare Officer to improve attendance. We will be introducing some new initiatives in an effort to help families think about the effects of absence on their children, their peers and the whole school.

There are three main areas of attendance which we will be focussing on:

- Unauthorised holiday
- Frequent non attendance
- Lateness

Lateness

Pupils arriving late at school present school with a number of issues. Learning begins early in the school day and registration is a vital settling in period.

For security reasons, all doors will be locked at 8.45am and pupils arriving after this time need to come in through the main entrance and sign the late book. Pupils will have missed registration and will be marked as absent under the current guidelines.

Did You Know?

Children who attend school every day:

- Have the best chance of achieving
- Are more settled
- Develop good work habits for the future
- Are better prepared for learning
- Often enjoy school more

Children who often miss school or are late may:

- Miss important learning
- Feel left out
- Develop poor work habits
- Develop low self esteem
- Be unsettled
- Find it hard to catch up
- Find it hard to be prepared for learning
- Miss key concepts, special events or trips

Holidays in School Time

Please remember that the school policy is to unauthorise absence for holidays. It is particularly important during the spring and summer terms due to the assessment and transition work that takes place. *Remember that we have a "Stay in May" policy.*



Autumn Term Awards

The Sylvia Elliott Progress Cup:
Adam Davidson

Gold Certificates:

Archie Porteous
Isaac Buddles
Alfie Cook

Frankie Pentleton
Annabel Samuels
Poppy Hunter
Tom Cooper
Callum Davison

Isla Samuels
William Pickard
and Alfie Temple.

Stars of the Week:

Liam Wass
Harry Hogg
Daniel King
Dylan Howd
and Riley Gibson.

Big Garden Birdwatch



This January we will be taking part in the **big schools' birdwatch** – why don't you spend an hour to take part in the **Big Garden Birdwatch on the weekend of 28th - 30th January**

Experience has taught us to expect severe weather during this half term therefore just as a reminder here are the notification procedures again.

Listen to

BBC Radio Newcastle 95.4fm

Go to the Northumberland County Council website—
www.northumberland.gov.uk

Check your mobile phone
for text messages

Check Facebook
for notifications

Occasionally it is necessary to send children home due to worsening weather conditions.

Ensure that your contact details are up to date and inform the class teacher of any exceptional arrangements for the collection of your child

Make arrangements with a relative or close friend to take care of your child until you are able to get home

Make sure that **your child is aware** of these arrangements

Check your mobile phone for our text messaging service.

Monday 9th January	Little Red Riding Hood – NTC Performance
Thursday 12th January	Clothing Collection 9am
Wednesday 18th January	Rowan Class Friends & Family Lunch
Wednesday 25th January	Maple Class Friends & Family Lunch
Thursday 26th January	Larch Class Assembly - 2.30pm
Wednesday 1st February	Plum Class Friends & Family Lunch
Tuesday 7th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 8th February	Willow Class Friends & Family Lunch
Thursday 9th February	Chestnut Class Assembly - 2.30pm
Sunday 12th February	Roller Disco at Willowburn
Wednesday 15th February	Beech Class Friends & Family Lunch
Friday 17th February	School closes HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 27th February	School reopens
Tuesday 28th February	Parent Consultation Morning Years 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5
Wednesday 1st March	Parent Consultation Afternoon Years 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 Early Years Parent Consultations 1pm - 7pm
Thursday 2nd March	World Book Day
Wednesday 8th March	Larch Class Friends & Family Lunch
Wednesday 15th March	Ash Class Friends & Family Lunch
Wednesday 22nd March	Chestnut Class Friends & Family Lunch
Thursday 23rd March	Plum Class Assembly – 2.30pm
Friday 24th March	Comic Relief
Wednesday 29th March	Oak Class Friends & Family Lunch
Friday 31st March	Easter Bingo
Thursday 6th April	Spring Assembly (by invitation only)
Friday 7th April	School Closes EASTER HOLIDAY

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.