

NEWSLETTER



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www.facebook.com/swansfieldpark



Welcome back!

I hope everyone has enjoyed a good term break. Although we've seen yet more rain, it's also been lovely to have a bit of spring sunshine, to feel the nights getting a bit lighter and signs of new life appearing.

Last half term certainty threw us a bit of a curve ball, but as we all know, these things rarely happen at convenient times and I'm glad to say that school feels 'back to normal'. We're looking forward to rescheduling the missed events and getting our full school programme up and running once again.

Teachers are looking forward to speaking with you at consultation meetings during the first two weeks of the half term. These meetings are always a great opportunity to share news of progress, offer advice and to answer questions that you may have. If you haven't already signed up for an appointment, please do so and if you require any help with this, pop into the school office and they will advise.

Our Friends of Swansfield are pleased to bring you details of events this half term and of course, we'll finish the half term with our spring assembly which is a chance to reward our children with gold certificates and our school progress cup.

With lots going on, please make a note of the important dates in the diary section at the end of this newsletter and I'll look forward to seeing you over the course of the half term.

**Best wishes,
Anne-Marie Grimes**



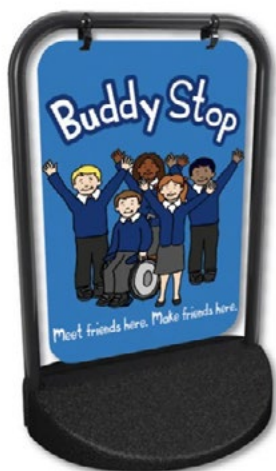


The Swansfield 3Cs Spring Update

We see our 3Cs of care, curiosity and courage on display each and every day at Swansfield. Here's a round up of the Cs in action!

Being caring

Back in January, I received a letter from Ella-Rose in Maple Class. Ella-Rose knew that we were thinking about how we could improve playtimes to ensure they are happy times for all children and so decided to write to me with some of her ideas. Ella-Rose came up with the great suggestion of having a buddy bench and thought this would be a great idea to support anyone who found themselves without a friend at playtime. I agreed with Ella-Rose and so together



we have been looking at some options and we're delighted to let you know that we've ordered a buddy board and also a playtime notices board. The buddy board, which we will place next to one of the benches in the Jubilee Garden, will be out every playtime. I know that anyone who sits down next to the sign will be immediately supported by our caring Swansfield children.

Important meeting to discuss where to have the buddy bench and board



Being curious

Net Zero Competition with Alfie Murton from AtkinsRéalis

AN UPDATE FROM SYCAMORE ROVING REPORTERS GEORGE AND OLLIE:

Alfie came and he told us about himself. He said that he is a mechanical engineer. He designs and tests stuff to make the world a better place and helps us to produce less carbon dioxide. The company Alfie works for has a competition for schools to design something to reduce carbon dioxide. The prize is a whole class trip to a museum that you can pick yourself.



First, Alfie told us about wind turbines because they are a great way of producing energy and reducing carbon dioxide. After that, we planned our own wind turbines and made them. We tested them with a hair dryer to see if they worked. Ours did work!



Next, we thought about the competition. We had to design something, like a wind turbine, to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide in our school or our town. We have started our designs and Alfie is coming back to see us in March to help us some more. We hope he likes the design posters we are making and we really hope that Sycamore class wins a class prize in the competition!

British Science Week

It's only a few weeks now until we celebrate British Science Week with a host of exciting events and something to ignite everyone's curiosity. Thanks to Miss Thompson, our science lead, for co-ordinating this event.

Let's take a look at what's coming up...

Reception Learners:

The children will take a walk down to The Alnwick Garden and visit Roots and Shoots. As well as having a good look around, they will have a short talk about plants, caring for them and how they grow - perfect for this time of year as the children begin to plan what they will plant and grow in their own classroom garden.



Craig Ellis (Climate Action Programme Manager, The Alnwick Garden) will visit our Y1, 2, 3 and 4 children in school to talk about the important role that bees play in the natural world. Although he won't bring any bees with him on the day, there will be an opportunity to look at a beehive, bee frames and the protective clothing that beekeepers wear when working.



Dasha Deen will visit our Y5 and 6 learners to lead sessions on genetics and this will be done through an exploration of 'apple science'

Lucie Oxley will visit our Y1 and 2 and 5 and 6 learners to lead sessions on Microbits.

We look forward to giving you updates on these interesting events.

Being courageous

Courage shows itself in many ways but back in January, our Y5 and 6 children had the opportunity to listen to the story of **Sam Gemar, a retired NASA astronaut**.

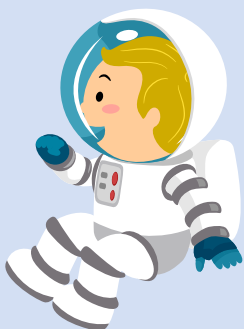
Sophie and **Bea**, members of our Reporters' Club would like to tell you about his visit:

Our Space Assembly with a NASA Astronaut

Do you want to go to space??? Well read on and it will feel like you are in space already.

Sam, (the astronaut who came into our school) told us that he had been to space 3 times!!! He also told us that when you are in space and you look out the window you can see the earth, the stars and even some other planets! He said that it felt wonderful to look out the window and see everything from a bird's eye view.

Sam had to study in school for 21 years and had to get good grades to become a spaceman.



Sam said that NASA is planning another trip to space in 2025!! He said that they are hoping to touch down on the moon.

Unfortunately, Sam never went to the moon because when NASA first went he was too young and when they last went he was too old! Now he is retired. He still works in NASA but he doesn't go in space anymore. He said that he always felt nervous the night before he went to space but once he was there, he was just excited.



Fun Facts about being in a spaceship.

Did you know that when you are in space you sleep in space you have to sleep in a sleeping bag attached to the wall and you are upright when you sleep?

Did you know that all the food in space is in tins or packets?

Also, when you brush your teeth you have to catch the water when you put it on.



Facts about the people on the moon.

Did you know that the first man on the moon was **Neil Armstrong**? He stayed on the moon for 21 hours and 36 minutes .

Did you know that the first woman on the moon was **Christina Koch**? She stayed in space for 328 days! That is the longest any woman has done.

With these facts, you can wow your family.

Family Support

Our Fun with Numbers sessions continue this half term.
Dates for your diary are as follows:

Year 2: Thursday 14th March

Year 1: Thursday 21st March

Reception: Monday 25th March

Year 4 rescheduled: 18th April

Year 3 rescheduled: 25th April

A Google link will be sent for you to sign up with a maximum of two adults per child.



We work closely alongside colleagues from the Family Hub and they have a weekly programme of events that many families may find useful. You can find the full programme by clicking the link below:

<https://www.familyhubsnorthumberland.co.uk/north-locality>



As a focus on **dads** in this half term's newsletter, you may be interested in these upcoming events:



What's The Craic?

For Dads and Male Carers

Stress, loneliness, depression, money worries and illness are far too common in society and talking to people about what's going on in your life helps a lot.

Sessions are free for any dad or male carer of 0-19 year old's (25 if SEND) who live in Northumberland.

 **Tuesday 19th March
5:30pm-7pm**

 **Alnwick Family Hub
St Michaels School Site
Howling Lane
Alnwick
NE66 1DJ**



Our sessions are free for adults who live or work in Northumberland. If you'd like to come along, email or call us:



nrc@everyturn.org



07866053717

Find out about our wellbeing support here:



northumberlandrecoverycollege.co.uk



@ Lindisfarne Centre
Alnwick

**THE BACON BUDDY
CLUB FOR MEN**

10AM - 11AM

BACON ROLL

STARTING
WEDNESDAY
24TH JANUARY

CONTACT US: 01665603040

£2.95 per person







Reading Round-Up



Thank you for all of the entries we had for the 'reading in interesting places' competition. Everyone's picture will make it into our gallery in the library but we're delighted to announce that the winners are:

1st prize: Lucy Edridge

2nd Prize Dan Bridgens

3rd Prize: Libby Murdy

Prizes will be winging their way to you!





E-Safety is an important part of the computing curriculum and an essential life skill for all of our children. On Safer Internet Day, the children took part in many discussions and activities about how to keep safe. Judith Davis, Safety Officer from Northumberland County Council, visited our LKS2 classrooms to talk with the children.

Una and Gracie from Maple class would like to share what they learnt with everyone...

When Mrs Davis came in she taught us all about being safe online. She taught us many things about being safe online. Here are 2 facts:

- 1) Cookies are really helpful when it comes to saving your personal information. But if you see something you don't like and scroll up or down, the cookies will work and think that you like it when you don't.
- 2) If you see something online that you don't think is right, then report it to a trusted adult.

Mrs Davis gave us a lot of suggestions about keeping ourselves safe. For example, she mentioned that on Snapchat there is a tracker and it's good to turn it off (press ghost mode on settings) so that strangers don't know where you are in the world. She also said that when you send a video on TikTok, make sure it is appropriate and check with an adult that you're allowed to send it. If you don't want everybody to see your video, get a private account on TikTok.

After listening to Mrs Davis, here are our top tips for everyone to know:

- 1) If you see something online that looks illegal, then report it to a trusted adult.
- 2) Make sure you check with a trusted adult to see if you are allowed to send any videos or pictures.
- 3) On Minecraft, put down your age and then if someone swears it'll use a star sign instead.

A reminder to parents and carers:

Please note that the use of mobile phones is not permitted on site. This includes when dropping off and picking up children.

Thank you!

Earlier in January, Years 5 and 6 were visited by Loti Nambombe who also talked about the importance of internet safety. **Isabelle** and **Hallie**, members of our **Reporters' Club** would like to tell you what they learnt:

As you know we are constantly having special people over to our school here at Swansfield, and we love it!

This time, our special visitor was named Loti. This young man spoke to us about the significant importance of online safety. We were guided through a slideshow and movie which everyone enjoyed thoroughly. We also feel a lot was learnt from this informative visit! The presentation included questions about the students' use of phones and apps that they possessed. It involved questions like:

What apps do you have on your mobile phone?

Do you use any over aged social media platforms?

Do you know these apps?

Do you feel like you know what you are doing online?

Do you feel safe?

All of these questions were very informative for the teachers and the students. The hall was then turned into a cinema as we watched a short movie (Snapcatch). The movie informed all students about the dangers of being online. It included fraud, bullying, online streaming and the different ages that can vary online. The movie included a young girl who was being stalked so that an old man could fool people online. The movie educated the pupils about how people can be harmed.

Many of us in UKS2 are now confident, well warned and educated about these things. We all think that the students thoroughly enjoyed the assembly and we hope for more visits like this in the near future of Swansfield Park Primary School!

DIARY DATES

7th March
World Book Day

11th - 15th March
British Science Week

13th March
Rowan class family lunch

14th March
Year 2 Fun with Numbers

14th March
Larch class assembly

15th March
Comic Relief

18th - 22nd March
Year 5 Bikeability

20th March
Beech class family lunch

21st March
Year 1 Fun with Numbers

21st March
Willow class assembly

25th March
Reception Fun with Numbers

25th March
Maple Class assembly

27th March
Infant spring assembly (Reception - Y2)

28th March
Junior spring assembly (Y3 - Y6)

28th March
Break up for Easter holiday

15th April
Summer term begins



Friends of Swansfield Park

The Friends are looking forward to inviting everyone to **Easter Bingo on Wednesday 27th March** with eyes down at 5.00pm. This will be a family event and all children should be accompanied by an adult. Tickets will be limited to the capacity of the hall but an earlier session will be planned if this is necessary to ensure that everyone can play!

As an advance notice for your diaries, we will be holding our **annual summer fair at school on Saturday 6th July**.

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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