

# NEWSLETTER



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

**JUNE 2017**

**It's a staggering thought that we only have 7 weeks left of this school year and yet so much to pack in! For teaching staff this is a particularly busy time of year with assessments to finalise and we will be writing the annual report which will be sent home at the beginning of July. Then we have the preparations for next year...**



**We are looking forward to the sunny weather especially on our sports afternoons. Please remember to protect your child during hot weather by sending them to school with a water bottle and a sun hat as well as using sun cream if necessary.**

Further on in the newsletter I have outlined the school organisation for next year. We will let all parents know which class your child will be placed in before the transition day on Thursday 6th July.

Following two terms seconded as Acting Head Teacher at Embleton Vincent Edwards Primary School we wish to congratulate Mrs Threlfall on her appointment as Head Teacher.

## SUMMER SHOWCASE

We are celebrating Northumberland tradition with a summer show, just like the many village shows that take place throughout our county each summer. We will send a show programme home with the children soon so that you can see the different categories here are a few to give you a flavour ... photography, handwriting, miniature gardens, art, cooking and crafts. We will exhibit all the entries on Thursday 13th July and announce the winners on Friday 14th July.



On the evening of Thursday 13th July we are holding the very first Swansfield's Got Talent. Children will qualify through heats and perform along with our choir and instrumentalists. More information to follow.

So far this year our attendance rates are on the increase. Please continue to support us by making sure that your child attends school every day on time. Likewise it is important for parents to collect children on time. Please inform school if you are delayed. Children who are not collected promptly will be put into Tic Toc and a charge will be levied.

Over the past year we have spent a lot of time teaching British Values in school. One aspect of this is the understanding of the importance of law. We have established school rules which help to keep the children safe and ensure that the community is orderly. It is important that parents support the school in upholding these rules and ensure that children comply with the school uniform policy. Please note that earrings are not allowed in school in line with the safety guidance from the Association for Physical Education. Remember that hair styles should not include shaved hair or elaborate accessories.

*I am hoping to see many of you at our end of term events.*

Best Wishes  
Jenny Smith



**Swansfield Park**  
Primary School



# Mastering Mastery

**Last year, Swansfield Park Primary School was selected by the Great North Maths Hub to take part in an exciting new initiative and become one of the first schools in the country to develop a 'mastery' teaching and learning approach for maths. In May, Katherine Williams and Dawn Morton visited the school on behalf of the governing body to discuss the changes that have already occurred and see the mastery approach in action in the classroom.**

## School Organisation 2017-2018

CLASS	TEACHER	YEAR GROUP
Rowan	Mr Shotton	5 / 6
Larch	Miss Moffett	5 / 6
Sycamore	Miss Back	5
Maple	Mr Warburton	4
Chestnut	Mrs Murdy	3 / 4
Willow	Mrs Makepeace	3
Oak	Mr Johnson	2
Beech	Miss Langman	2
Ash	Mrs Young	1
Plum	Mrs Grimes	Rec / 1
Pear	Miss Whitlow	Rec
Apple	Miss Freeman	Nursery

*Class teachers liaise with parents when considering which is the most appropriate class for each child.*

We were very pleased to see that the central aim of mastery at Swansfield Park is about having high aspirations for all children and disregarding the belief that some children just 'can't do' maths. Children of all ages and abilities are being encouraged to learn and use precise mathematical and scientific vocabulary when reasoning and explaining their thinking. Although this may seem challenging at first, the children have risen to the challenge and are now confidently using their new words to describe their thinking and to demonstrate the depth of their understanding.

The mastery approach at Swansfield Park places great emphasis on helping children to apply their learning to the real world, for example relating maths to real life situations such as using money, timetables or measurements. This is an area where parents can help too by encouraging children to use numbers and calculations on holidays, days out, in the home, shopping etc.

The new mastery approach has led to several, significant changes in the classroom too: children of all abilities are working alongside each other and supporting one another in a language-rich environment. During our visit, we observed children of different abilities working together to solve problems and support each other's learning through

focused discussion-based activities. It was clear that by working with a partner, children were able to help each other, ask questions, discuss their thinking, use mathematical vocabulary and, most importantly, learn together. At the same time, the mastery approach enabled the children to challenge themselves and each other at a level which is appropriate to their ability whilst all working on the same basic concepts or activities.

It was evident that the self-belief that comes with mastery is important and hugely beneficial too. As children begin to 'master' their subject and believe in their own ability, they grow in confidence and independence, ready to put their learning into action. We hope that parents will support us in promoting a mastery approach and a 'can do' attitude to learning: we know we are aiming high but we believe that all our children can achieve and become 'masters' of maths.

***Any parents who would like to find out more about the maths mastery approach are invited to contact Mrs Murdy, our Maths Mastery Specialist Teacher for the Great North Maths Hub. Alternatively, you can speak to your class teacher or email governors via the school office:  
[admin@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk).***



# SWANSFIELD SPORTS ROUNDUP

**We have had a very busy and active year at Swansfield Park Primary School. All pupils have engaged in a variety of different sports and activities as part of their Physical Education.**

Early Years pupils have been developing their skills through teacher led lessons, as well as being provided with a football coaching taster session with Callum from Active Northumberland, something that they thoroughly enjoyed and look forward to doing again as they move into Key Stage 1.

Our pupils receive a broad range of Physical Education and we continue to make strong links with different

clubs and coaches, in order to offer pupils as many opportunities as possible. This year we have had football, tag rugby, cricket, tennis, swimming, trampolining, bouldering, basketball and dance coaching, alongside athletics, games



and gymnastics skills. Year 5 were also taught very important road safety skills as part of their Bikeability training.

We continue to work closely with local coaches and providers,



as well as staff from Active Northumberland, Cramlington Rockets Rugby League Club and GL Dance in order to provide our pupils with the best Physical Education possible. Next year we are looking forward to working with Chris Appleby from Morpeth Basketball Club, as we continue to develop these local links.

Our after school sporting clubs have once again proved very popular and have been well attended. Children have enjoyed many traditional sports such as football and tennis, alongside new clubs. This year we have introduced Kidzfit lead by Joanna Packard, this is a high energy and active club aimed to help children improve their fitness whilst having fun. Also, our very own Miss Back has formed a Swansfield Park Street Dance Crew as part of our after school programme. This group will learn different street dance steps and choreograph a routine to popular music.



Pupils have had the opportunity to take part in a range of competitive sports this year. We have had teams out at multi-skills events, rugby competitions held in Alnwick, as well as taking part in a School Games football competition in Berwick. Our teams have been very successful, either reaching the finals or semi-finals in all of their competitions this year. Our rugby team was joint winner of a rugby competition organised by Cramlington Rockets and we are looking forward to upcoming competitions in tennis, cross-country and bouldering. During competitions our pupils display a high level of sporting talent which is often commented on by event organisers. They always show a high standard of behaviour, teamwork and sportsmanship. We are very proud of the young sportsmen and women we have at Swansfield Park Primary School – they show excellent commitment and dedication to every event we enter!





SUMMER TERM 2017

[www.facebook.com/swansfieldpark](http://www.facebook.com/swansfieldpark)



# DIARY DATES

## Communications

We use many different ways to communicate with parents.



Keep up to date through the school website at:

**[www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk)**



Email the office at:

**[admin@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto: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.

Monday 5th June	School reopens
Wednesday 7th June	Rowan Class Family Lunch
Thursday 8th June	Countryside Day – Year 3
Wednesday 14th June	Beech Class Family Lunch
Thursday 15th June	Maple Class Assembly
Wednesday 21st June	Ford Castle - Year 4
Wednesday 21st June	Larch Class Family Lunch
Wednesday 28th June	Infant Sports Afternoon
Friday 30th June	Junior Sports Afternoon
Wednesday 5th July	Ash Class Family Lunch
Thursday 6th July	Roll Up Day
Wednesday 12th July	Oak Class Family Lunch
Thursday 13th July	Swansfield's Got Talent
Friday 14th July	Swansfield's Summer Showcase
Wednesday 19th July	Maple Class Family Lunch
Friday 21st July	Celebration Assembly - 2pm School Closes SUMMER HOLIDAY
Wednesday 6th Sept	School reopens for the AUTUMN term



## Pearl of Africa Choir

***We are delighted to be welcoming the Pearl of Africa choir back to Swansfield on the 28th September.***

The choir will spend the day with us again and there will be an evening performance so keep the date free! This was such a memorable day last year and we look forward to strengthening our friendship with this choir and raising money for their school foundation in Uganda.



## 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: Jake Baxter, Grace Bell, Luca Curtis and Dylan Howd**