

Swansfield Park  
Primary School

# NEWSLETTER



**Happy New Year and welcome to the spring term at Swansfield Park, hopefully you made the most of the Christmas holiday despite the rain.**

We do hope that you all enjoyed our Christmas celebrations. The children were all so proud of their performances and we were delighted to have 'live' audiences back with us. It felt very special to be back at St Paul's Church for our Christingle service on our last day of term - it gave us all a wonderful Christmas glow as we began our holiday!

After the excitement of December, January can often feel a little uninspiring, however, we have lots planned to ensure that we get the new year off to a flying start.

At the start of term we will be asking for your views if you have a child with special educational needs or if your child has just started in reception class. These questionnaires will be sent as google forms, they are quick and easy to complete on your phone or tablet and will provide us with useful feedback so that we can address any issues as well as improve our provision.

Our parent governors are elected for a 4 year term at the end of which they can stand for re-election. This month is the end of Maria Jiminez's term of office and she is keen to stand again for re-election. If you are interested in the role of parent governor and would like to stand as a candidate please contact us so that we can explain what the post involves and provide the necessary nomination forms - the closing date for expressions of interest is Friday 20th January.

Looking forward to seeing you all during the course of the half term.

Best wishes

*Jenny Smith Anne-Marie Grimes*

Jenny Smith and Anne Marie Grimes



The Avenue, Alnwick,  
Northumberland  
NE66 1UL

Tel: 01665 602267



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



# Autumn Term Awards

## Gold Certificates:

Quinn Miller, Darcy Hindhaugh,  
Amber Lamb, Jack Ellis, Eliza Wilson,  
Jessica De La Mothe, Katy Rogerson,  
Phoebe-Plum Beere, William Tate,  
Lucas Graham, Felicity Keenan and  
Sam Castle.

The Sylvia  
Elliott  
Progress  
Cup:

Emily Crow

Well-deserved congratulations to all our award winners.



## Musical Success:

We are delighted to share the fabulous news that **Addy Pynn from Rowan Class** has recently **passed her Grade 3 piano with distinction**. This is a huge achievement and we send our congratulations to her!

## Celebration Postcards

Well done to **Elliot Chapman from Larch Class** and **Brooke Wilcox in Plum Class** for their inspiring designs which have been selected for our new celebration postcards - a Barter Books voucher will be on its way to both of you for your help.

We are looking forward to sending these postcards home to celebrate some of our wonderful achievements.







# Big Garden Birdwatch

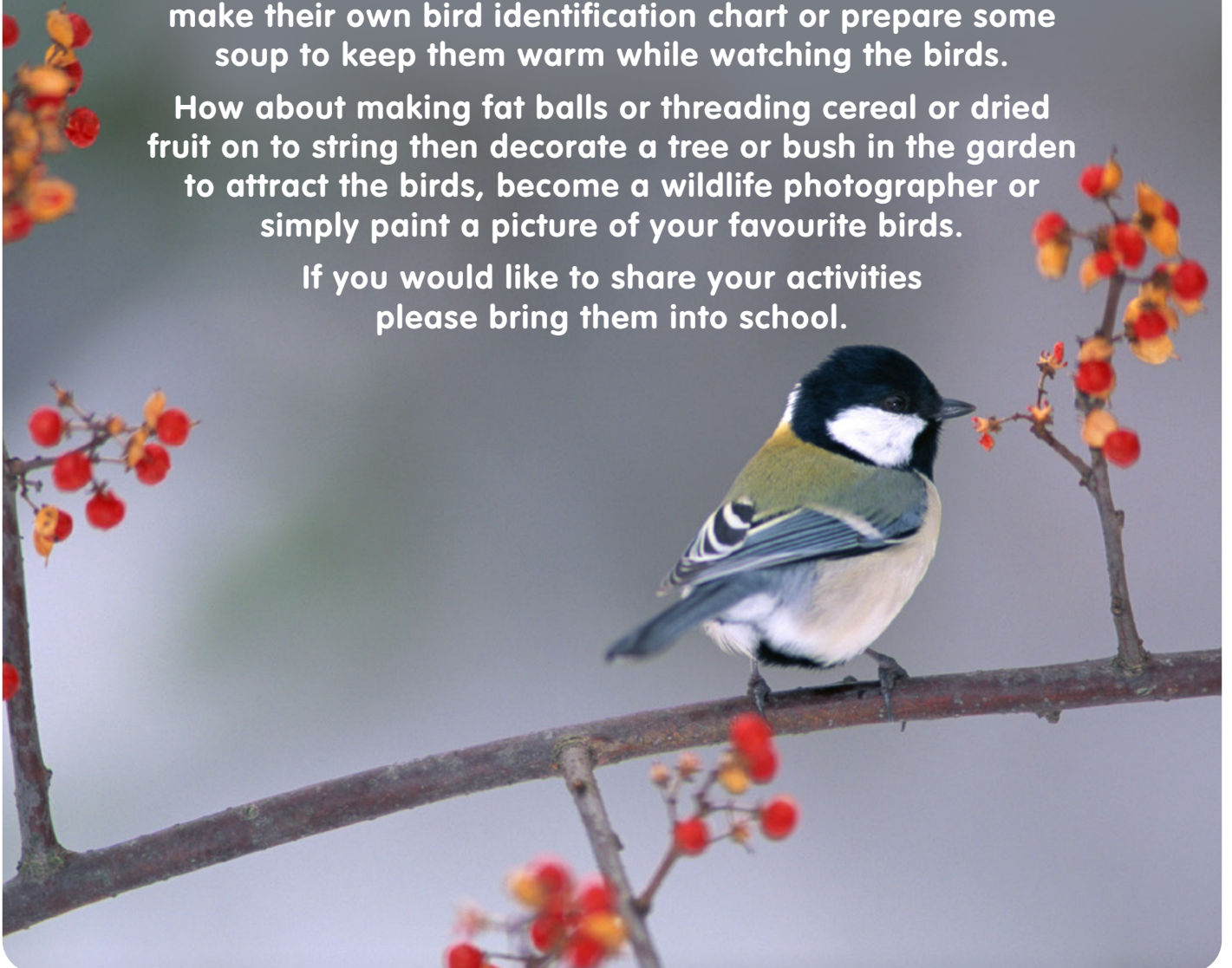
## 27th – 29th January

**Let's get ready to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch on the weekend of 27th – 29th January.**

Why don't you encourage your children to build a bird hide, make their own bird identification chart or prepare some soup to keep them warm while watching the birds.

How about making fat balls or threading cereal or dried fruit on to string then decorate a tree or bush in the garden to attract the birds, become a wildlife photographer or simply paint a picture of your favourite birds.

If you would like to share your activities please bring them into school.



# Festive Out and Abouts!

As well as sharing information about forthcoming events, our newsletters are a great opportunity to look back on some of the great things that we get up to!



During the festive season, many of our children enjoyed getting out and about in the community.

Our Reception children had an enjoyable and informative trip to **Alnwick Baptist Church**, where they were welcomed by **Sarah Hamer** and **Julie Hammond** who regularly come in and share assemblies with us in school. The children had the opportunity to look around the church and learn about being a Christian. They also listened to the Christmas story and had the chance to sing too.

Elizabeth said "I liked seeing the giant cross downstairs it was lit up"

Zach said "I liked seeing how we can make Christingles"  
"I went to my house to make one" "the ribbon is God's love all around"

Christmas has always been a busy time for choir and it was lovely to have a full schedule back this year. **Tommy and Faith**, two of our Year 6 choir members are keen to share their experiences:

“During the last few weeks of term, the **Swansfield Park Choir** was very busy ‘on tour’ in the local community, spreading some Christmas cheer.

The adventure began on a cold, icy morning when we all set off to **Alnwick Gardens** to perform for the **Elderberries at their Christmas Party**. We performed four of our favourite songs, including *Christmas Calypso* and *Feliz Navidad*. It was an honour to perform at this event and so lovely to hear the cheers from our audience.



A few days later we performed for the residents of **St Pauls Court** and **Summer Hill**

**Care Home**. The residents enjoyed singing along with us and having a chat. We were also lucky enough to sing at **Sainsbury's** and **Starbucks** in front of our friends and family. Our singing was so amazing that we each got a large chocolate coin at Starbucks!

We were all very tired after our adventures and had walked over 10,000 steps on one of the days. **It was lovely to be out singing in the community again and we can't wait for our next performance.** ”



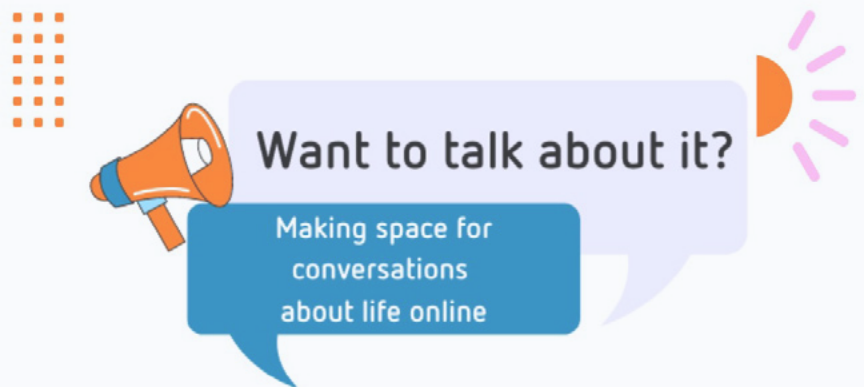


# Safer Internet Day

Throughout their school life, your child will be taught about e-safety in an age-appropriate manner. This term, we'll also be celebrating **Safer Internet Day**.

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 **2023, Safer Internet Day will take place on Tuesday 7th February** and the theme will be **'Want to talk about it - making space for conversations about life online'**.

Classes will be involved in a range of activities that highlight the importance of e-safety. If you'd like to join in at home, you can find a range of resources at <https://www.saferinternetday.org/en-GB/home>.



## National Storytelling Week

**30th January - 5th February**



Story-telling is a part of your child's everyday experience at Swansfield Park. Storytime happens in each classroom each day of the school year from Cherry Class right up to Year 6 and that's a non-negotiable that we're proud of! In addition to listening to stories, we encourage each child to find their voice as a story-teller, both orally and through writing.

Storytelling week is a great opportunity to place the spotlight on this wonderful skill. The children will be listening to their teachers share their favourite stories, they may have the opportunity to join authors online as they share their favourite stories and in addition to this, there'll be the opportunity for children to tell their own story. For this year's event, children are being encouraged to make a scrapbook to share their story. There are formats suitable for our youngest and oldest children and all ages in between! We'd really like to encourage children to create their own scrapbooks at home - this could be a great job for a January weekend if the weather is not kind! If children would like to bring these in to share with their class, that would be wonderful! Here is the link to the scrapbook formats but we'll have copies printed out in school for children to bring home if they'd like to.

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/my-storytelling-scrapbook/>

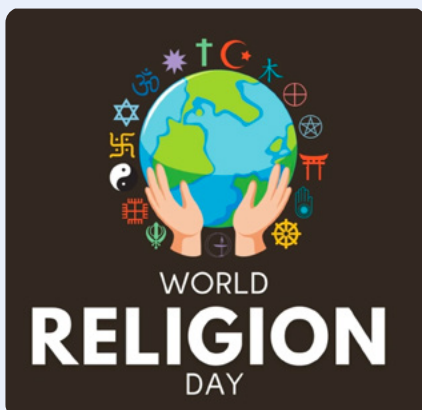
# British Science Week

**We will be celebrating British Science Week 2023:  
it runs from 13th March to 17th March.**

We would like to raise the profile of Science across our school by inviting those who work in STEM related jobs to talk about their careers and inspire our children. The theme of 2023 Science week is 'Connections', so we would like to build ours!

We would be interested in hearing from you if you are able to support our learning in any way.

Please could you contact the school office with your details and some information about what you could provide.



**Each class across school will be marking this event in the week beginning the 16th January.**

This may involve learning a song or a prayer from a world religion or finding out about a celebration from one of the main world religions. Look out on class web pages where we'll share the children's learning and experiences.

# DIARY DATES

**Sunday 15th January**

**Reception Application deadline via  
Northumberland's  
online portal**

**Thursday 19th January**

**Rowan Class Assembly 2:30pm**

**Thursday 26th January**

**Oak Class Assembly 2:30pm**

**Monday 30th January -  
Friday 3rd February**

**"National Storytelling Week"**

**Tuesday 7th February**

**Safer Internet Day**

**Thursday 16th February**

**Chestnut Class Assembly**

**School closes  
HALF TERM HOLIDAY**

**Friday 17th February**

**Training Day**

**Monday 27th February**

**School reopens - back to learning!**

**Thursday 2nd March**

**World Book Day**

**Thursday 9th March**

**UKS2 Theatre Royal visit "Annie"**

**Monday 13th March -  
Friday 17th March**

**"British Science Week"**

**Friday 17th March**

**Comic Relief**

**Thursday 23rd March**

**Ash Class Assembly**

**Thursday 30th March**

**Spring Assembly**

**Friday 31st March**

**School Closes  
EASTER HOLIDAY**

## 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](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.

