



Swansfield Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2025

70 Years of Our School



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to a special new school year - the 70th of our school's history!

Our school opened in 1955 as Alnwick South County Infants School. Over the years, there have been some subtle and not so subtle name changes! Alnwick South County Infants School became Alnwick South County First School and then in 2014, Alnwick South underwent a major rebrand and emerged as Swansfield Park First School. Following a return to two tier education in Alnwick in 2016, we became Swansfield Park Primary School.

Generations of children and staff have come and gone over the years. Many family members of our current children are past pupils of our school and have chosen to bring their children back to the place where their education began.

Many of our staff members have been at our school for more years than they'd like to add up! Mrs Hammond began at Alnwick South in January 1989 and for quite a few years now has been educating the children of some of her original pupils! Mrs Barrass came on board in 1994 as a lunch time supervisor and hasn't looked back since. There aren't many roles in school she hasn't done - from cleaner to Higher Level Teaching Assistant! Mr Johnson is now in his 23rd year at our school, having arrived in 2002 as a newly qualified teacher. Mrs Edwards was a pupil at Alnwick South and returned as a teacher in 2015 and so is celebrating her 10th year of teaching and her 10th class! I began my career as a newly qualified teacher at Alnwick South in 1999, working alongside support staff, teachers and leaders who guided me with care, wisdom and always lots of good humour! I remember being in trouble with the cleaning staff at the end of my first week because there was way too much sand on the floor of my classroom and not enough in the sandpit! (Apologies Mrs Barass - I hope I am now forgiven). After a short period away, I returned in 2005 and so alongside the school's 70th birthday, I am celebrating 20 years at a school that has been such a big part of my life.

Why do so many of us stay for so long?

Why do so many past pupils come back to our school with their own children?

Why do so many families who move to our town choose Swansfield?

Because our school is a school that loves to be at the heart of its community and that heart is a big one!

Happy birthday Swansfield!

Let's have a great year.

With my best wishes,

Anne-Marie Grimes

Introducing Our Senior Students for 2025-26

We are delighted to introduce you to our new senior students. Head girl, Katy and head boy, Kye are going to be superb ambassadors for our school throughout their year in office.

Our new Castle Captains are:

Liam and Amelia
Amelie and Harry
Grace and Casey
Dom and Evelyn



Our Summer 2025 Prize Winners

At our Leavers and Achievers assembly in July, we were proud to present Gold Certificates to:

Evie, Monty, Midhurnika, Everly, Penny, Myla, Wilf, Oliver, Wilfred, Charlie, Georgia and Ollie and Isaac who are now in Y7 at DCHS

Our Sylvia Elliot Progress Cup was awarded to **Elsie Wilkin** for the wonderful progress that she made throughout her year in Apple Class. Elsie has made both her family and the staff who work with her so proud with the tenacity and determination that she shows to succeed!



The Swansfield Way to Promote Positive Behaviour and Relationships

In our summer term newsletter, we shared our Swansfield Way and news of our new Behaviour and Positive Relationships Policy which we developed throughout the last school year. We are delighted to say that this new policy was adopted by our Academy Council (the governing body of our school) at the end of the summer term and we are proud to share it with you. This policy is available on our school website and you can access it:

<https://www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk/statutory-information/policies>

If you have any questions or queries about our policy and procedures, please get in touch. Here's a reminder of our Swansfield Way

Our Swansfield Way

Our Children:

Ready to Care:

about ourselves and others
about our school environment
about doing our best

Ready to be Curious:

about our learning by...
engaging listening exploring
questioning reflecting

Ready to be Courageous

challenging ourselves
learning from our mistakes
trying again
taking responsibility

Our Staff:

Ready to Care:

about ourselves and others
about our school environment
about doing our best

Ready to be Curious:

about our own continuing
learning journey
about our children's learning
by...
inspiring engaging listening
exploring questioning
reflecting

Ready to be Courageous

having ambition for
our children and what
they can achieve
challenging ourselves
taking responsibility

Our Families:

Ready to Care:

about ourselves and others
about our school environment
about doing our best

Ready to be Curious:

about supporting our
children in their learning

Ready to be courageous

having ambition for
our children, what
they can achieve and
taking responsibility

To make our Swansfield Way a success we need the support of everyone in our school community - children, staff and families.

Let's work together to enable all of our children to be caring, curious and courageous citizens of our school, our town and our world!

Celebrating 70 Years

We'll be hosting a special 1950s inspired 70th birthday lunch for our children and special guests on Friday 26th September and Tina our Cook and Nichola, our Assistant Cook, have been working with Richard Bell, Catering Manager from Pele Trust to develop a delicious menu.

We'd love to welcome back former pupils who were at our school in the 1950s to join us for this special occasion.

If you'd like to nominate someone, please email your nomination to admin@swansfield.school.

We're also planning to make a Book of Memories to commemorate happy times at our school and staff who have inspired children throughout the generations.

If you or someone you know would like to share a memory, please email them in to admin@swansfield.school

Maybe your child could talk with someone who came to our school to collect their memories. Children will help to compile this special book in the coming weeks and months and we look forward to sharing it with everyone.

On the afternoon of the 26th September, we will be burying a 2025 time capsule. To prepare the capsule, we'll be talking with the children over the next few weeks about significant features of current school life as we decide what to include. We'll keep you posted!



**Just a
reminder...**

*Please remember to book school lunches, or inform us if your child is having a packed lunch on the App for **every day**.*

When we have to call to ask what your child is having, it wastes valuable admin time!



AN UPDATE FROM FOSP



FOSP - the friends of Swansfield Park Primary School are a marvellous group of volunteers who give their time and support to fundraising for our school. Throughout the year, they organise a range of events for our whole school community to enjoy which generate funding that directly supports our children. In the last school year, if your child went on a school trip, this has likely been subsidised by FOSP funding to keep costs down for families.

The Friends will be hosting a **'meet and greet event'** on **Sept 11th at 08.45**, straight after drop off and they would love to welcome everyone along, particularly those of you who are new to our school community. The FOSP AGM will be held on **Sept 25th at 7pm in school**. Please do come along to this event. If we are not able to form a committee then this vital part of our school will not be able to continue. Our committee is currently made up of parents who have now given a number of years of support. Many of their children are at the top end of school and will soon be moving on. We desperately need the support of new members before it's too late!



"I don't want to go to school today."

We know that not every child wakes up keen to get to school each day. For many reasons, school can sometimes feel like an overwhelming place for our children. There are many things we can do to ensure that school is accessible for all. If you'd like to chat or you're looking for some practical advice, come along to our drop in on Tues 7th October at 08.45. We'll be joined by Sheila Rogerson from the Toby Henderson Foundation who'll be on hand with advice and a listening ear.

The Toby Henderson Trust



Please can everyone remember that:

Hair colour should be **natural** (where hair has been dyed over the summer, this should be returned to natural colour)

No nail varnish/gel nails

Only plastic keeper earrings should be worn for school

Children should wear **school shoes** and not trainers. A leather/leather look shoe as per diagram is acceptable.



FAMILY LUNCHESES AND CLASS ASSEMBLIES

We love to welcome our families and friends into school to join us for special occasions. As in previous years, each class (from Reception upwards) will have a family lunch and a class assembly throughout the year.

Please make a note of these dates for the coming year

Family Lunches

*1st October Ash Class
15th October Larch Class
22nd October Beech Class
19th November Willow Class
26th November Sycamore
Class
14th January Pear Class
4th February Rowan Class
11th March Plum Class
25th March Maple Class
29th April Chestnut Class
10th June Oak Class*

Class Assemblies

*23rd October Chestnut Class
27th November Rowan Class
22nd January Beech Class
29th January Larch Class
5th February Maple Class
12th March Oak Class
19th March Ash Class
26th March Willow Class
7th May Sycamore Class
14th May Plum Class
18th June Pear Class*



**Class
Assemblies**

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11 th September	FOSP Meet and Greet
19 th September	O Duo Percussion Workshops (UKS2)
24 th September	Individual and family photos
25 th September	FOSP AGM
26 th September	70 th Anniversary Celebrations
1 st October	Ash Class family lunch
9 th October	Harvest Festivals
15 th October	Larch Class family lunch
16 th October	FOSP Halloween Disco
22 nd October	Beech Class family lunch
23 rd October	Chestnut Class assembly
24 th October	Break up for half term
3 rd November	Training Day
4 th November	Children return to school

Advanced Dates

5 th , 6 th , 12 th , 13 th November	Parent/Carer Consultations
28 th November	FOSP Christmas Fair
9 th and 10 th December	Rec, Y1 and Y2 Nativity Performance
10 th and 11 th December	Y3 and 4 Pantomime Performance
18 th December	Christingle, St Paul's
19 th December	Break up for Christmas holiday

PLEASE REMEMBER...



NHS

Vomiting and diarrhoea?



Stay hydrated



Take paracetamol if needed



Prevent spread



Stay at home until 2 days after symptoms stop

There's no specific cure for stomach bugs like **norovirus**. Treat yourself at home while the virus runs its course.