



Swansfield Park Primary School Friday Flyer

23rd January 2026

Headteacher's update

It's been a great week at Swansfield! All around school as I've popped in and out of classrooms I have seen curious learners hard at work. I've been so pleased to be able to give out five of our very special 3Cs postcards this week. I give these out when I notice someone doing something that deserves recognition and celebration.

This week, postcards have gone to:

Arielle in Pear Class - she's always so interested in all of her class learning

Sid in Oak Class - his reading in RWI has been superb this week

Willow in Maple Class - her geographical explanations when I was in on Tuesday were superb

In addition to this - special mentions go to Jessica in Sycamore and our very own Caroline from the school kitchen who have been showing some Swansfield Courage by treading the boards in Alnwick Theatre Club's production of Aladdin this week. We are very proud of you!

Here are the things you need to know ahead of next week:

- It's Larch Class assembly on Thursday at 14.30. The children can't wait to perform for you and give you a little window into their class learning
- Teacher led clubs continue on Monday and Thursday 15.00 - 15.45

Read on for all the week's news, including more wintery exploration in EYFS and Art across KS1 and KS2.

Wishing you all a good weekend,

With best wishes,

Anne-Marie Grimes



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Picture News

We had our friends from Open the Book in to take an assembly on Wednesday afternoon so we weren't able to have our normal Picture News assembly with Mrs Farrar but children considered the news in their classrooms and may like to share this with you at home.



In the news this week

Recently, a new award, called the Jane Goodall Earth Medal, has been created to celebrate people who work to help others and care for the world. It is named after Dr Jane Goodall, who spent her life protecting animals and encouraging people to look after nature. The award recognises kind and caring actions that make a positive difference, even when people are not looking for praise.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > What do you think about the new award? Share with someone at home. Do you believe it's important to recognise kind actions?
- > Can you think of someone you know who helps others or cares for the world in everyday ways?
- > Can you come up with other ways that people can be recognised for their actions?

Why this matters

Social media platforms are designed to maximise attention, not to support healthy childhood development. The evidence of harm is now clear: rising anxiety, sleep disruption, exposure to inappropriate content, and intense social pressure on children at ever-younger ages.

Families and schools are trying to respond — but they are being asked to hold the line against powerful, algorithm-driven systems.

Clear age boundaries would make a big difference. Send the letter to your MP now.

[Email your MP](#)



In the National News

You may have heard or read this week that there's a movement to raise the age for social media use in the UK. Before Christmas, I shared many articles from Smartphone Free Childhood. I know that many of you feel



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strongly about this too. This organisation is now encouraging parents to email their M.P and they have created a template letter that can be used. Here's the link if you want to take a stand:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/raise-the-age>



Our Stars of the Week

Let's give a big round of applause to our Stars of the Week:

Rosie Groves, Willow Donahoe, Elsie Wilkin, Finn Storey, Albei Nickson, Matilda Tetley-Paul, Ada Joyce, Ada Thomas, William Green, Elia Kennedy, Henry Knox, Summer Webster and Ivy Archer.

Well done, we are very proud of you



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Our Week In Early Years

Over in Apple Class, we have been soaring through the week as birds! We have enjoyed a range of lovely activities across the Early Years curriculum. We have found out about local birds and we went bird watching outside with binoculars. When we saw a bird, we drew it on the ground using chalk. Indoors this week we have painted beautiful pictures of robins and blue tits and we will continue painting other garden birds next week. We drew some brilliant large scale birds on large rolls of paper too. We know some key vocabulary now such as wings, beak, tail, feathers and claws. We made some bird feeders to encourage birds to come to Apple class garden. We have been learning about the importance of looking after birds in the Winter and why we need to do this.



Meanwhile, over in Pear and Plum Classes, we have been thinking about some other animals in our local environment and how they survive the winter. We've been exploring hibernation and we know that hedgehogs, dormice and bats all do this. We



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had a go at making warm and cosy winter homes for winter sleeps. We know that other animals such as squirrels, frogs and badgers become far less active and sleep for long periods throughout the cold months.





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Art in KS1

As part of our unit on printmaking, this week we were exploring relief printing. We used shells, string, twigs, coins etc to create impressions in plasticine which we then printed from.





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Art in LKS2...

In Art, we are exploring how artists use different materials to make their art. We have studied the work of Hannah Rae and Alice Kettle. In class, we used different fabrics to make collages and then used thread to sew marks onto the fabric.



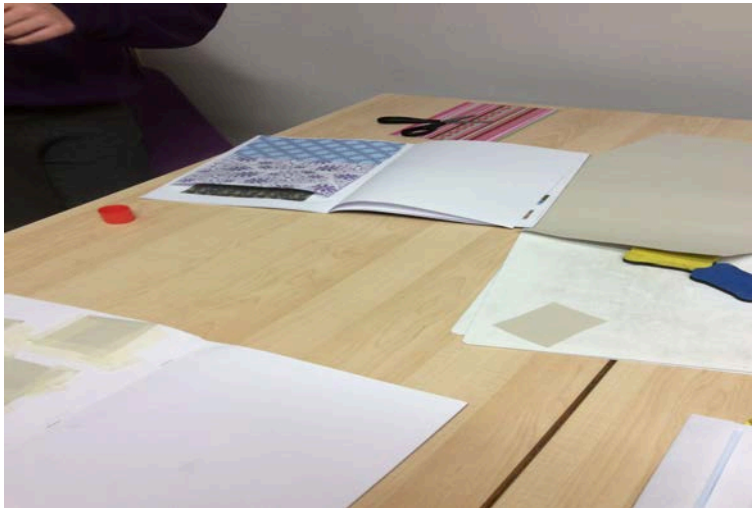
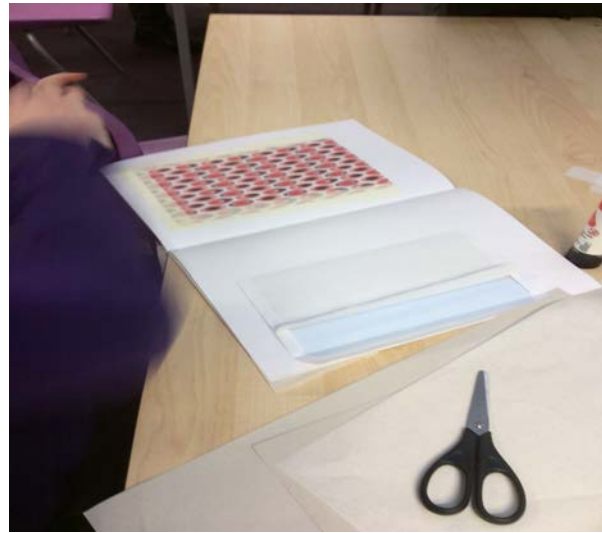


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And Art in UKS2

In Art, Larch class has been 'Making Spaces and Places' in their Sketchbooks. They have been extending their sketchbooks by thinking creatively about how they could change the pages and giving themselves different sizes and shapes of paper to work on.

Anna said, 'It was really good as we could be creative!' Katy and Archie said it was 'fun having no restrictions - it was the best art lesson ever!'





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Attendance

We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our school starts at 8.35am for KS2 children with classroom doors opening at 8.30am and 8.45am for Early Years and KS1 with classroom doors opening at 8.35am. Anyone arriving after these times should enter school via the office and will be marked as late.

Our attendance has remained quite stable this week at 95.4%.

This is so close to our 96% target, it would be great to hit this next week! Many thanks to all families who are supporting children to come to school every day that they can.

A breakdown of attendance for this week is summarised below:

| Class | Weekly attendance | Annual attendance |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Reception | 96.2% | 91% |
| Year 1 | 92.6% | 95.6% |
| Year 2 | 96.3% | 94.7% |
| Year 3 | 98% | 94.4% |
| Year 4 | 98.8% | 94.9% |
| Year 5 | 91.9% | 94.1% |
| Year 6 | 94.9% | 94% |

Well done to Year 4 who are our top attenders this week!

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



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Key Dates for the Spring 1

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 29 th January | Larch Class Assembly 2.30pm |
| Wednesday 4 th February | Rowan Class Family Lunch |
| Thursday 5 th February | Maple Class Assembly 2.30pm |
| Thursday 5 th February | Lights, Camera, Action – Friends Fundraising Event |
| Monday 23 rd February | Teacher Training Day (school closed to pupils) |
| Thursday 5 th March | World Book Day |
| Wednesday 11 th March | Plum Class Family Lunch |
| Thursday 12 th March | Oak Class Assembly 2.30pm |
| Thursday 19 th March | Ash Class Assembly 2.30pm |
| Wednesday 25 th March | Maple Class Family Lunch |
| Thursday 26 th March | Willow Class Assembly 2.30pm |
| Friday 3 rd April | Bank Holiday |
| Monday 20 th April | School Reopens |