



Swarland Primary School
Newton on the Moor
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 9JP
Telephone/Fax (01670) 787346
Email: admin@swarland.northumberland.sch.uk



16th April 2018

Dear Parents,

Independence

At this point in the year, we would like to encourage our children to become as independent as possible. Please could we ask that your child comes into school by themselves, saying goodbye to them in the yard if not coming to school by bus. This encourages children to be more independent and reduces the number of adults in the school on a morning, which supports us with safeguarding. Of course, if a parent needs to speak to an adult, this opportunity will be still be available.

Children in KS2 have a planner to help them organise their equipment and kits each day as this would be the expectation in middle school and high school. It supports their transition. Please encourage your child to check them daily to organise themselves for the week.

Staffing

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Stanley, who covered Mrs Stocks' maternity leave, has been appointed to teach Y5 & 6 maths and English next academic year. We are looking forward to her joining our team once again.

Playground Markings

Over the Easter holidays our new playground markings were installed. Children and adults have commented on how bright and colourful they are and children have already begun to invent their own games using these in their own play. Thank you once again to Mr. Wilson, the H.S.A and all those who supported the fundraising events to make this possible. It is really appreciated.

Robin Wood Residential

The children in KS2, Y3, 4 & 5 will be going on their residential trip to Robin Woods in Alston on Monday 23rd April to Wednesday 25th April. Mrs Stocks, Mrs Rutherford and Mrs Siswick will be accompanying them on this trip. The Robin Wood centre have asked us to communicate to parents that they would like children who have suffered from vomiting or diarrhoea within 48 hours of their trip departure date, not to attend the centre to stop the spreading of any infection. If you have any concerns regarding the trip, please see Mrs Stocks or Mrs Fletcher.

Headteacher - Mrs Louise Fletcher





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Summer Term Assessments

During the Summer Term, summative assessments do take place. Children are required to be in school for these assessments and therefore leave of absence will not be authorised during a testing period. Year 1 phonics test will take place week beginning 11th June. Year 2 assessment tests in mathematics and reading will take place in May. Results of the test will be reported to parents along with their end of year report.

Supporting your child at home

Please may we encourage all parents to read with their child every day. Last term we noticed a significant number of children were not reading at home for significant periods of time. Children progress much more quickly with their reading when they have regular daily opportunities to read at home and at school. If children wish to read other texts at home other than their school books, this should also be recorded in their reading record books by an adult. Even children who can read independently, benefit greatly from reading aloud to practise intonation and expression. In depth discussions about stories with parents, support children's comprehension skills as well as develop pleasure in reading. Please help us to foster a positive reading habit with our children.

Many of the terms we now teach children in our grammar and punctuation lessons are unfamiliar to those who were not taught grammar at school. Such terms as adverb, adjective, clause, sub-ordinate clause, conjunctions and parenthesis become common for the children as they progress through school. Therefore to help parents gain a better understanding of the terms that are taught to children, there is now a parent guide to grammar on our website. This can be accessed at http://www.swarland.northumberland.sch.uk/website/supporting_your_child_at_home/108240

The guide explains the terms and also indicates which terms should be understood and used by which age group.

Rugby

Children in Key Stage 1 & 2 will be taking part in rugby lessons with Bear - the sports coach from Cramlington Rugby Rockets - on a Friday afternoon this half term. Please could you ensure that all children have appropriate outdoor PE kit on Wednesdays and Fridays.

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NSPCC Assembly

On Tuesday 1st May, the NSPCC will be coming to school to do an assembly with children regarding safeguarding. Further information regarding the content of the assembly will be sent to parents via ParentMail nearer the time.

Modelling Resource Request

The Reception children will be focusing on junk modelling as part of their curriculum this term. If you have any cardboard boxes, tubes, egg boxes or cartons that may be suitable for craft projects, we would very much appreciate them. Thank you.

Class School Photographs

The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 8th May to take class photographs. Order forms and proofs will be sent to you in due course.

Dates for Diaries

- 20th April - Rugby lessons start for KS1 and 2
- 23rd April - KS2 residential to Robin Wood for 3 days.
- 1st May - NSPCC assembly for children.
- 8th May - Class photographs
- 17th May - Children's special lunch to celebrate the Royal wedding
- 17th May - Y5 robotics workshop at Duchess High School
- 18th May - H.S.A. Movie Night 4:45pm start
- 25th May - Children break up for half term.

Regards,

Louise Fletcher

Headteacher - Mrs Louise Fletcher

