



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



2nd March 2020

Dear Parents,

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

The Spring Term Parent Consultations will be taking place on Monday 30th March from 1pm-6pm. This will provide you with an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and next steps. Appointments to see your child's class teacher can be booked via Parent Mail. You will receive a notification when the booking form becomes live.

Y2 ASSESSMENT MEETING FOR PARENTS

We would like to invite parents with a child in Year 2, to a meeting to discuss the end of Y2 assessments. These assessments will take place in May and outcomes will be reported in their end of year reports. The meeting will be an opportunity to discuss national expectations and see examples of test papers and ask any questions. The meeting will take place at 3pm on Monday 9th March in Mrs. Morris' room.

RESIDENTIAL FOR Y3 /4 MEETING FOR PARENTS

There will be a meeting for parents Thursday 19th March at 6pm regarding the Y3/4 Robin Wood trip. This will be an opportunity to ask any questions regarding the trip to Robin Woods on 4th, 5th and 6th May.

YEAR 4 STATUTORY MULTIPLICATION TABLES CHECK

In the week beginning 8th June, all Year 4 children will be required to participate in the new national statutory multiplication check. The purpose of the Multiplication Tables Check is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. The Multiplication Tables Check has been described as "an online, on-screen digital assessment" - meaning the children will take the test on a desktop computer, laptop or tablet (such as an iPad) at school.

The times tables test will be timed, with the entire assessment lasting approximately 5 minutes in total. The children will be set a handful of practice questions before they begin the test. Following the

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practice questions, the test itself will comprise of 25 questions, all formatted, for example, as $2 \times 5 =$ with the child required to input the result. Children will be given six seconds to answer each of the questions, with a three second blank gap between each question. The questions will be randomly selected by the testing programme from 121 different options, ranging from $2 \times 2 =$ up to 12×12 . The software has been programmed to show children more questions from the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables, as these are trickier times tables focused on more in Years 3 and 4. Results from the test will be reported to parents with their end of year reports.

STAFFING

At the end of this academic year, Mr McLeod will be leaving Swarland Primary School to pursue the next step in his career. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr McLeod for his commitment and contributions towards the school in the last three years. His excellent sports coaching skills and good sense of humour will be greatly missed but we wish him all the best in his next school.

The Governors of the school are in the process of recruiting and advertising for an experienced outstanding teacher to join our team. We will send further information when the post has been filled.

WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 5th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day. Children will be able to come to school dressed as their chosen book character if they so wish. Each child will be given a World Book Day token this week to use towards purchasing a book in many retailers.

STAYING SAFE. SPEAKING OUT NSPCC VISIT

The NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe programme is visiting our school to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse.

I'm pleased to tell you that we will be working with the NSPCC, the UK's leading children's charity, who will be delivering their Speak out. Stay safe. programme on Friday 27th March. This is a nationwide

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programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK and Channel Islands. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, they'll be presenting an assembly to the children in our school as well as a workshop for Years 5 and 6.

Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops their specially trained staff and volunteers will give our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries, sensitively discussing issues like bullying and sexual abuse, without using scary words or adult language. We have studied the content of the materials and heard from other schools who have participated and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of their visit, we are convinced children will feel empowered - knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

If you would like any more information about the Speak out. Stay safe. programme you can come in to speak to me or visit the NSPCC website nspcc.org.uk/buddy

Talking PANTS with your children

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe - and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'Talk PANTS', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse - without using scary words or even mentioning sex.

The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at nspcc.org.uk/pants

If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website nspcc.org.uk/parents

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HOCKEY MATCH 28th MARCH

On Thursday 2nd April children in Y3-6 have the opportunity to take part in an inter-school hockey competition at Duchess High School at 3:30pm. Any child wishing to participate needs parental consent via the ParentMail form which will be issued nearer the time. Parents will be requested to take their children to and from the event.

Y5/6 GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM

The Girls Football League begins again this half term with the first match on Tuesday 3rd March at Whittingham - 3:45pm kick off. Mr McLeod will be coaching the team at the venue.

WILLOWBURN LEISURE CENTRE FOR AFTER HALF TERM

This February half term, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be taking part in multi-sports at Willowburn Leisure Centre and children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will continue with their swimming. There will only be 5 sessions this half term due to our Easter celebrations taking place on the last day of term.

Mrs Burroughs will also be delivering P.E for children in Year 1-6. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school on Wednesdays. Earrings should be removed before children come to school on Wednesdays and Fridays.

After Easter, Reception, Year 1, 2 will go swimming and Y3, 4, 5 and 6 will take part in gymnastics and multi- sports.

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Parents are invited to attend our Easter Assembly at 9am on Friday 3rd April. We are inviting all children to make an Easter Bonnet and a decorated egg at home for a competition which will be judged on the day for an Easter prize. The children can be as creative as they like with their bonnets and eggs. The prizes will be given to those children who have made an extra special effort in their own work. In school

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children will be decorating eggs for their traditional Easter Egg Roll competition on the last day of Spring Term.

H.S.A EASTER BINGO

On Friday 27th March 5pm the H.S.A. will be running their Easter Bingo event for families. This event is always well attended and packed full of family fun. We ask that parents donate Easter Eggs for this event as prizes for the children. There will be a donation box placed in the school entrance for this purpose. Refreshments will be available on the evening. Please look out for their flier.

DATES FOR DIARIES

Tuesday 3rd March - Y5/6 Girls Football match Whittingham vs Swarland 3:45pm kick off.

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day - dress up as a book character.

Thursday 5th March - H.S.A Meeting at Cook & Barker 7:30pm

Thursday 19th March - Y3/4 Residential meeting for parents 6pm.

Friday 27th March - NSPCC workshop - Stay Safe, Speak Out.

Friday 27th March - H.S.A Easter Bingo.

Friday 3rd April - Easter assembly - no swimming or Willowburn trip.

Regards,

Mrs Louise Fletcher

Headteacher

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