



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



1st April 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all safe and well and managing in the unusual circumstances. All staff including myself send their best wishes to you and your families. We all miss the children dearly. Thank you to those who keep us up to date with what has been going on in their child's learning journey.

In this newsletter you will find information we have been asked to pass on to you from other organisations regarding learning links and safeguarding as well as some further school recommended websites and updates.

School remains open for some children

If you are a keyworker as identified on the Government list

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> or you have a child with an Educational Health Care Plan and you need to send your child to school so you can work and there is no alternative, please contact the school to arrange. School is still open and our telephone number 01670 787346 is still operational.

Easter

Swarland Primary School will be remaining open for childcare for children of keyworkers during what would have been the Easter holidays at this present time. However, whilst every effort is being made this is becoming increasingly more difficult with fewer staff available. There will be no additional learning packs during the Easter period. Next learning packs will be available on Monday 20th April on the website.

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Although we will not be having our Easter assembly together, we are still inviting all children to make an Easter Bonnet and/or a decorated egg at home. We will then have a virtual Easter Bonnet parade and celebration of decorated eggs for those who wish to share their creations. The children can be as creative as they like with their bonnets and eggs, given access to the materials they have at home. You may even want to have your own family egg rolling competition which has been a yearly tradition at Swarland Primary School.

Free School Meals

Be aware of scam emails. We have been informed that some parents have received an email stating the following: 'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'.

We can confirm that this is a scam email and is not official. We urge parents that if you receive any emails like this, please do not respond, and delete it immediately.

Yesterday, the Government announced a Voucher Scheme for those in receipt of free school meals. If you are entitled to free school meals, we will be in touch with you very soon via email, to discuss how the scheme will work.

Residential Trips

Unfortunately we have had to cancel the Y3/4 trip to Robin Woods and the Y6 trip to Kielder. The safety of our children is paramount. Any monies already paid for the trips will be refunded.

Education setting social distancing

For those children who are still coming to school we are ensuring that the risk of virus spread for both staff and children is as low as possible by:

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- telling children, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, not to visit school if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- ensure class sizes reflect the numbers of teaching staff available and are kept as small as possible
- monitoring the movement of pupils around the school to reduce groups of children gathering
- discouraging parents from gathering at school gates
- try to follow the social distancing guidelines

Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do

Stay at home

Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)

Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people

Wash your hands as soon as you get home

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

Phonics & Reading

Some parents have asked us about what they should be prioritising with their children. The answer is very simple - **reading, reading, reading, reading!** This includes early reading and phonics for the younger children Reception to Year 2. To this end I strongly recommend the resources from Oxford Owl who support Read, Write, Inc, the phonics scheme we use in Swarland Primary School.

The site offers a parent video guide on the pronunciation of phonics, e-books linked to phonics that they are regularly updating and daily phonics lessons. Please note younger children can access a wide range of reading books from this site. Please see their offer:

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RWI Phonics Support

We will also be offering a range of free support so that children can continue their Read Write Inc. learning journey away from the classroom during these uncertain times. This will include a 'phonics spine' of 72 free ebooks matched to Read Write Inc. levels, along with 62 Speed Sounds practice sheets, parent information booklets and 8 Speedy Green Word Slideshows. These free resources will all be added to the Read Write Inc. page on Oxford Owl for Home over the coming weeks.

They will also have FAQs for parents, plus regular storytelling films of well-loved stories will be uploaded to the Ruth Miskin Training YouTube channel. What's available now? Take a look at Oxford Owl for Home where we now have 14 free Read Write Inc. ebooks (click on the 'eBooks' link underneath 'Read Write Inc. Phonics Guide for Parents'), plus lots of guidance for parents and carers: www.oxfordowl.co.uk/read-write-inc-home Parent videos on pronouncing the sounds, how to sound-blend, read diagraphs, read stretchy sounds etc. are also available on this page.

Also, I am not sure if you have seen on social media that Ruth Miskin Training are running daily RWI phonics speed sound lessons at 9:30am, 10am and 10:30am. There will be new lessons everyday. Daily lessons will be available to view on You Tube for 24 hours.

Online Safety

A number of parents have asked about the possibility of using online interactive programs or video chat APPs to keep children socialising. As a school, the Local Authority have encouraged us to find other avenues and promote safeguarding online wherever possible. It will be especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites children may access. For this reason staff will not be using video lessons or promoting Zoom or Google Hangouts with children.

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Parents and carers may choose to supplement the school offer of learning packs with support from online companies and in some cases individual tutors. May I emphasise the importance of securing online support from a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children. Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
London Grid for Learning - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
Net-aware - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carers

Learning links

Active Northumberland have asked us to share the following links regarding keeping children active during school closures.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1iicHKTZHcODmnn0Ik8OGgmK9Z5NU7G27ZV1Cu9Ls1p0/edit?usp=sharing>

Personal Challenge Weekly Tasks

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1upWqnXzQWYi7R94iMp7XfhT--fLYt7L8OLJMbVHs6eI/edit?usp=sharing>

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PREVENT

Who's educating your child online while the schools are closed?

Please keep a check on their online activity.

Useful online resources -

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/radicalisation/>

<https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/northeast/>

<https://www.ltai.info/>

<https://act.campaign.gov.uk/>



Punctuation Show

A while ago, Barrie the Punctuation Man visited our school to provide a show to the children on key grammatical and punctuation concepts. He has offered the following link to support parents:

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After #pewithjoewicks, let The Punctuation Show take care of English on Tuesday at 10:15am on Facebook Live. Simply 'like' my page at <https://www.facebook.com/the punctuation show/> in order to join in the fun.

Did you know that when you stream the Joe Wicks PE sessions from You Tube that was suggested in an earlier letter, all proceeds are now going to the NHS!

And finally,,,,

Swarland staff are here to help when we can during this time. All class teachers are contactable via e-mail and will respond when able to do so to any learning query.

These unusual events will pass and I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Regards,

Louise Fletcher

Headteacher

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