



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



4th September 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of a new school year. I hope you all had a wonderful summer break.

Celebrations

Starting the school year on a celebratory note, I am delighted to inform you that during the summer holidays we were awarded the Green Eco-Flag Award for our work regarding the environment including the school allotment, the plastic bottle green house and the recycling opportunities at Swarland Primary. Well done everyone.

We were also awarded School Games Gold Award, an improvement from our silver award the year before. This recognises our increased participation in inter and intra-school sports competitions and the extra-curricular provision offered.

Swimming and Sports

This year we would like to take all of the children to Willowburn Leisure Centre each Friday morning. The children will rotate activities through the course of the year experiencing swimming, multi-skills, gymnastics and volleyball using their excellent range of resources and facilities. This half term children in Year 3-6 will be swimming and children in Reception to Year 2 will be doing gymnastics and multi-skills. Please ensure your child comes to school with appropriate swimming kit or PE clothes. The coach will leave at 9am each Friday morning. The school will be funding this but we politely request a voluntary contribution of £4 per session to help us towards the cost of transport and tuition.

Music tuition

For those parents who have signed up for their child to take part in small group tuition lessons, we are awaiting confirmation of start dates and times. We will inform you once the music service have put the final arrangements in place. Small group music lessons will not take place this week.

Headteacher - Mrs Louise Fletcher





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Residential Trips

The Governors have reviewed our Residential arrangements for the forthcoming years in light of the current financial climate. Children will have the opportunity to attend two residentials during their time in KS2 (Years 3-6): one in lower key stage two and one in upper key stage two. Parents may then spread the cost over two years, opting to pay into a fund over this time, should they wish to do so. It is intended that the lower key stage two trip will be an adventurous activity programme and upper key stage two a cultural experience. Children in Lower Key Stage Two (Year 3/4) will have the opportunity to attend Robin Wood this academic year in May 2020. Upper Key Stage Two trip still needs to be confirmed, however we are hoping that in 2020/21 children will have the opportunity to visit London.

Collecting for sports kits

From 6 September, when a member of the community spends £30 in any Aldi store, they will receive a special Team GB athlete sticker. Please send these in to school. If we complete a poster with 300 stickers we receive a school sports kit, and will be entered into the prize draw to win one of twenty £20,000 cash prizes!

Safeguarding

I have been asked to inform you about Operation Endeavour. This is an innovative project in which schools and colleges in Northumberland are participating, and which is run in partnership with Northumberland County Council and Northumbria Police.

Operation Endeavour, which commenced in November 2018, aims to support children and young people who go missing from home. Children who go missing from home are at risk of significant harm and they may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation, violent crime, gang exploitation, or to drug and alcohol misuse.

As a result, following any report of a child going missing to the Police, the Police will make contact with Children's Social Care who will then communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff.

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Each school has members of staff (key adults) who have been fully trained in liaising with the Police and Children's Social Care when required, and will ensure that the necessary support is made available to the child or young person following their return.

I believe that this project demonstrates our school's commitment to working in partnership to safeguard and protect children, and to providing the best possible care and support for our pupils.

In the meantime, if you would like to speak to someone further about the project or require further information please contact our key adult in school who is Mrs Fletcher.

On behalf of all the school staff, we look forward to working with you this year to be the best we can be and ensure every child reaches their full potential.

Staffing

This year, Miss Campbell, will be carrying out her teacher training with us. Miss Campbell will be working across the school at different times of the year.

School Development Priorities for 2019-2020

As a school we are on a continuous journey to be the best that we can be at all times. Reflecting on our current practise, the staff, leaders and Governors have agreed the following development priorities for the forthcoming academic year:

- To raise children's outcomes in spelling and handwriting across the school.
- To ensure all pupils are fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics (mental arithmetic and recall facts).
- To develop the capacity and effectiveness of middle leaders - subject leaders.
- To provide focussed opportunities for pupils to encounter the world of work.
- To ensure attendance and in particular punctuality for all pupils is sustained and/or improved upon.

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Punctuality

The large majority of our children do come to school on time and are ready to begin learning for 8:55am when the register is taken. However there are some children who are persistently late to school, even if it is just by a few minutes every day. Following our drive to improve punctuality across the school, we will be introducing a late book. The school doors will close at 8:55am when the registers are taken. Any parent who arrives at school after 8:55am to drop their child off, will be required to complete the late book to provide a reason for the lateness. This will allow us to monitor trends and patterns of lateness with individuals and provide the necessary support to improve punctuality.

Bikeability For Year 5/6

At the end of last academic year, we provided an opportunity for Y5/6 children to participate in Bikeability this September and complete the necessary confirmation slips. Please note due to the availability of instructors, the date has now had to be changed to the beginning of the week to Monday 16th to Wednesday 18th September. If you have not already signed the confirmation slip for your child but would like them to take part in Bikeability, please contact the school office.

Dates for Diaries

4 th -6 th September	Reception in from 8:45-12:30pm.
9 th September	Reception in full time.
13 th September	Y5/6 PSHE workshop regarding power and control in relationships led by police.
13 th September	Y3-6 swimming and Rec, Y1 & 2 PE at Willowburn Leisure Centre each Friday.
16 th -18 th Sept	Y5/6 Bikeability course.
27 th September	Home School Association AGM at Nelson's 8pm - new members welcome.
7 th October	Individual photographs taken
15 th October	Flu vaccinations for Reception & Y6
21 st October	Parent consultations 1-6pm & Book Fair
25 th October	Children break up for half term
4 th November	INSET Day

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5th November Children come back to school after half term.

Regards,
Louise Fletcher
Headteacher

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