



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



3rd February 2020

Dear Parents,

CAREERS WEEK

Thank you to all of those who supported us by volunteering their time to come and talk to the children about their jobs. We had overwhelming support and the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the talks. A careers service also provided workshops for the children regarding variety of occupations, budgeting skills and visions of their futures. Children said " Careers week showed me jobs I did not know about." "I learnt how to be sensible with my money." "I know which skills I have which would be best suited to different jobs." "I know I have the confidence to go for my dream job".

RAISING AWARENESS OF APPROPRIATE MOBILE PHONE & DEVICE USE

Although children are not allowed to bring mobile phones, fit bits or tablets into this school, it has been brought to my attention that a number of children do have these devices at home. There have been a number of instances recently of parents contacting school about children sending inappropriate messages to one another via What's App, text message or chat rooms at home with the conflict continuing in school. As a school, we address appropriate use of technology with children regularly as part of the e-safety curriculum and will be doing so again on 11th February for Safer Internet Day. However, please may I urge parents to check their child's mobile phone and device use and reinforce appropriate communication via social media at home too. Parents are advised that if a child is upset by something that has been sent by one of our children via mobile phone, to take a screen shot of the evidence, if they wish the school to deal with it further. I would appreciate your support in this matter.

MONIES

As we approach the end of the financial year in March, please may we remind parents who have any outstanding payments for lunches, music tuition, swimming, milk or trips to make arrangements with the school office to settle these by the end of the Spring Term. Thank you.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal. However if you are unemployed, receive a qualifying benefit, Income Support or Income Based Jobseekers Allowance you may be entitled to register for free school meals. This is extremely beneficial to your child and the school as those children who register and are

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entitled to a free school meal via the above criteria, may receive a sum of money into the school which may be used to help your child in their learning or support finances for trips. We would urge you to register if you think you may qualify. Please be aware that the school has been informed that some children have had their free school meal entitlement cancelled due to a change in circumstances. If you require any further information, please contact the school office. The parent or guardian will need to complete an application and return it to the school or the Free School Meal office at County Hall. You can apply for free school meals online at <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=1098#free> or telephone 01670 623592. If you require further information, please contact the school office.

MID YEAR REPORTS

A mid-year report discussing your child's progress in reading, writing and mathematics will be distributed at the beginning of February. If you need to discuss anything in the report, please contact your child's class teacher. However there will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher and look at your child's work at the Parent Consultations which will take place this term on March 30th.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

As you will be aware from previous correspondence, we have a Parent Governor Vacancy to join our Governing Body. Any parent interested in the post should complete the nomination form (distributed with previous letter or collect one from the school office) no later than Tuesday 4th February.

HEADLICE & WORMS

We have had an outbreak of head lice and worms in the school last week. Please could we ask parents to be vigilant and ensure that children with long hair have it tied back to help prevent any further outbreak and regular effective handwashing takes place. We will of course be encouraging children to do the same at school.

INDEPENDENCE

At Swarland Primary School we strive to encourage learning behaviours of perseverance, resilience, tolerance, positive attitude, readiness and independence. We are asking parents to help us support children's independence by allowing them to come into school by themselves and organise their own belongings - even in Reception. When children organise their own bags, PE kits, handing in reading books and homework and putting their own lunch box on the trolley, they are provided with further opportunities to develop independence and responsibility.

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As children get older, organising their own belongings helps them immensely for transition to middle school and high school. Feedback from the latter schools suggests that children can struggle with independence and taking responsibility for their own equipment when they arrive at the school. It may be useful to ask children to pack their own bags on an evening before school and create checklists of equipment, books and homework that may be needed each day to support this transition.

ALNWICK FOOD BANK

Please see below the following message from the Alnwick Food Bank.

"Alnwick District Food Bank would like to offer you food help over the February Half Term holiday. Our thanks go to our schools who kindly agree to contact you on our behalf. We are planning one food parcel for either collection or delivery in the week before schools break up. If you are able to collect that would help us greatly, but we realise this may not be possible, as, in reality, access to transport is needed.

*If you would like to accept our offer, please send us your name, address, and contact details. Please include in your message how many adults and the number and ages of children, including those of pre-school age, we are to help. Our contact details are as follows:-
Text : 07498 488797
E-mail : alnwickdistrictfoodbank@gmail.com*

Please contact us by latest Saturday 8th February, after which we will be in touch to finalise arrangements.

If you are able to collect we are open at our base in the Lindisfarne Adult Learning Centre, Lindisfarne Road, Alnwick NE66 1AX on Tuesday 11th February from 10-12noon when our Drop In is open. You would be very welcome to stop by for tea, coffee and chat when collecting. We are also there on Thursday 13th between 9 and 10am. Alternatively we can arrange for your collection at the Salvation Army Shop in Bondgate Within, Alnwick, otherwise we will agree delivery with you. We look forward to you contacting us and can assure you that your details will be kept confidential. We would kindly ask you not to share with others, as this offer is for families that schools believe might appreciate a helping hand, and it has not been sent to all.- Alnwick District Food Bank."

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Green Flag Award



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DATES FOR DIARIES

Week commencing 3rd February - Mid-year reports distributed.

Week commencing 10th February - Anti-bullying week.

11th February - Safer Internet Day

Friday 14th February - Children break up for half term.

Monday 24th February - Children come back to school.

Regards,

Mrs Louise Fletcher

Headteacher

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