



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



3rd September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of a new school year at Swarland Primary School. May I extend a special welcome to our new starters and families who are joining our school community for the first time.

I am delighted to see all of our children again after the school closures and summer holidays. I know the staff will join me in saying the school has not been the same without all of the children in altogether. We have all missed the children. It has been wonderful to experience classrooms full of laughter and a buzz of fun and excitement in the school once again. The children have really impressed me with how well they settled back into the school routine and expectations after just one day! Your children truly are amazing.

At the start of the new term we aim to reassure all children and their families that Swarland Primary School is a safe and fun place to learn. We will endeavour to ensure all children settle back into school life and routines smoothly and begin their school learning with friends in a stimulating and supportive environment.

This newsletter aims to provide you with information regarding the start of the term and the new school year.

Staggered Start and Finish Times to the School Day

As previously stated, school starting times are staggered this term to ease congestion in the playground, corridors and car park.

Reception attending full time and KS1 (Year 1 & 2) arrive at school at 8:45am and collected at 2:45pm. Children in KS2 (Year 3 to Year 6) arrive at 8:55am and collected at 3pm.

Bus children will be collected and dropped off at their usual pick up times.

During the transition time for Reception, may I politely request that morning children are dropped off at 9:15am and collected at 11:15am and afternoon children are dropped off at 1:10pm and picked up at 3:10pm, unless other arrangements have been made with your child's class teacher or myself.

We understand that parents with siblings may choose just one of the times to drop off all of their children rather than repeated trips.

Bus arrangements

Please may we politely request that bus arrangements for the start of the term are communicated with the school office as soon as possible. This must be done by an adult rather than the child for safety reasons. Thank you. The school transport team should have now communicated with all those families who





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are entitled to the school transport scheme with their safety measures. Please note we have been advised that siblings should not be sat together on the bus and we must keep them in the class bubbles.

Resources and equipment

Children will be provided with their personal set of resources such as pencils, rulers, scissors, whilst in school. Children can bring their own pencil case should they wish to but they must be left in school rather than taken home and returned each day. All children should have a P.E. kit (with outdoor trainers indoor/outdoor clothing), a Forest School kit (wellies, waterproofs, trousers and warm long sleeved top) and an optional art apron. These should be left on the children's pegs in their cloakroom please.

Reading Books and Homework

All children are expected to read at home each day as part of their homework. Reading books will be sent from school. To ensure safety, your child will return their finished reading book to a special box which will allow the books to be left for 72 hours before another child can use it.

Some children will also receive logins and passwords for Mathletics, IDL literacy, School 360, TT Rockstars as and when appropriate to do so. Information will be sent in due course regarding these programmes to support your child's learning with literacy and numeracy at home.

Fruit & Snack & Water

The Government provides a piece of fruit for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to have at playtimes. This scheme begins again next week. However, older children are allowed to bring in their own fruit snack for their playtime should they wish to do so. All children are still allowed to bring in their own bottle of water.

Mental Health and Well being

This term there will be a particular focus on the mental health and well-being of our children. To support children with this, we will be using a program called Friends Resilience. Friends Resilience guides the social and emotional development of children using fun, play-based activities. The program nurtures the child's development by teaching them to engage with resilience skills and this, in turn, encourages a smooth transition back into school life for the child.

Communication with parents

Each month you will receive a newsletter with updates and dates for diary.

Our school website has information for parents regarding curriculum, routines, holiday dates etc. You will also find school policies on our website for safeguarding, child protection, behaviour and our latest Covid-19 risk assessments. www.swarland.northumberland.sch.uk

Parent Consultations

This term we will be offering an additional telephone Parent Consultation at the end of September so parents have a chance to discuss how their child has settled back into the school life. Further details and booking forms will follow in due course via Parentmail.





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Meetings Class Teachers

Although we usually offer an open door policy, due to safety restrictions in place, this will not be possible in the short term. If you have any concerns or issues you wish to discuss with your child's class teacher, please make an appointment via the school office by telephone where possible please and our staff will do all we can to accommodate your request. Alternatively, I will be available most mornings to greet the children as they arrive if you need to pass on a message or need a quick chat. Thank you for your co-operation.

Alnwick Food Bank

Alnwick Food Bank will continue to support those families who need it. They have asked that as many as possible to come to collect food parcels at Lindisfarne Adult Centre.

They continue to help individuals and families and continue to accept self-referring.

They are now able to offer some fresh and chilled items. Their revised opening hours for collections are now as follows:-

Collection times:-

Tuesday 0915-1030

Thursday 0915-1030

Friday 0900-1500

They will continue to deliver to those in need who are genuinely unable to collect and this we will do on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Staffing

I am delighted to welcome new staff to our team - Mr Woods to our team this term, who will be teaching in Year 5 & 6. Miss Campbell and Miss Easton will also be joining us this year in Year 3 & 4 and Year 1 & 2 respectively. Mrs Brunger sadly decided to say her goodbyes to the school during the summer term. We wish her all the best in the future.

Illness

If your child is unwell or your child or anyone in the household are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms (continuous new cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell), please keep your child at home. If a child becomes unwell at school, we will be asking parents to collect the child as soon as possible. If a child becomes unwell and has a confirmed case of Covid-19 please contact the school as soon as possible. The school is required to inform Public Health who then advise the school of the next precautions to take.

If you require any further information, please contact the Headteacher.

Changes

During this term you may notice some changes to our Autumn Term arrangements due to the pandemic and our safety precautions. For example additional parent consultations, no longer being able to offer parent lunches and there will no extra-curricular clubs offered by school due to not mixing staff and children





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from different groups. However, please be assured that we always strive to be the best that we can be to make sure this is a successful start to the new school year for every child in the school.

I am delighted to be able to welcome back all of the children and I am sure this will be a wonderful start to the new school.

Regards,
Louise Fletcher
Headteacher

