



Swarland Primary School
Newton on the Moor

Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 9JP

Telephone/Fax (01670) 787346

Email: admin@swarland.northumberland.sch.uk



September 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the beginning of a new school year at Swarland Primary School. May I extend a special warm welcome to our new starters and families. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer holiday and are ready for the exciting Autumn Term ahead.

Each month we will send a newsletter to you containing events and information that you may require. This will be supplemented with additional items throughout the year.

Individual Photographs

On Wednesday 18th September the children will have their individual photographs taken by a professional. Information regarding how to purchase these photos will be sent in due course. If parents would like to bring siblings who do not attend Swarland along for photographs then they can come along at 8:30am.

Shining Stars

Shining Stars offer a Breakfast Club and after-school wraparound care from 7:45am until 5:45pm every day, Monday to Friday. Please contact them directly on 07522 155 922 to book a place for your child if required.

School Development Priorities

This year we will be focussing on enhancing writing and on character development (a set of values to help guide children - social, moral, spiritual, behaviour and conduct). This year we will be working as part of the AIn alliance (a group of small, rural, local schools) to provide enrichment opportunities for all of the children through strengthened collaboration.





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Book Exchange

We have a book exchange point in the school yard. Children are welcome to take a book from the Book Exchange to read at home or donate a book they are finished with to the exchange point for another child to share. We hope this promotes a positive reading habit with children.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

A form will come out today via Parentmail to sign up for the extra-curricular clubs offered this half term. Please can you complete this asap so that we can allocate spaces.

Fruit for snacks at playtime

The government-funded free fruit and vegetables for playtime snacks is provided for children in Reception to Year 2. If there are any leftover, this is always offered to our older children but they are welcome to bring in a piece of fruit or veg to have at playtime if they would like.

Leave of Absence & School Attendance

All leave of absence requests must be made in writing at least two weeks before the start of leave. Forms are available from the school office and website. Please note family holidays will not be authorised during term time. New regulations were brought in on the 19th August 2024 - please see below for details:

A new 'National Framework' has been introduced to bring consistency in the use of Penalty Notices across England. A new national threshold will be met if a pupil has been recorded as absent for 10 sessions (5 school days) within a rolling 10-week period. Penalty notices will be issued by the Local Authority. For a first offence, the Penalty Notice will be £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days and rising to £160 if paid after 21 days. For a second offence the amount will be £160 per parent, per child. A third penalty notice cannot be issued within a three-year period and therefore prosecution will be considered should this occur. Should a Penalty Notice remain unpaid then prosecution for the





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substantive offence of 'failing to secure the regular attendance of a child of compulsory school age' will be considered.

Please note that any holidays taken within term-time from 19th August may be liable for these Penalty Notices regardless of when the holiday was booked.

Fundraising

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the HSA last year we were able to purchase 15 new chromebooks for the children to use from the start of this term. Thank you to everyone who supported the fundraising activities and to the HSA for all their hard work.

Regards,
Louise Fletcher
Headteacher





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Dates for Diary

4th September - Children come back to school. Reception half days until 12:30pm for this week

9th September - full-time hours for Reception children

10th September - HSA AGM at The Village Inn, Longframlington at 6:30pm

18th September - Individual photographs

14th October (week commencing) - Parent consultations (varied times per class - further information to follow soon)

18th October - Home School Association Halloween Bingo

21st October - possible whole school Alnwick Castle trip

25th October - Break-up for half term

4th November - back to school

