



Swarland Primary School
Newton on the Moor
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 9JP

Telephone/Fax (01670) 787346

Email: admin@swarland.northumberland.sch.uk



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of a new term at Swarland Primary School and a special welcome to our new parents and children who are joining us for the first time. I hope you all had a wonderful summer break.

Staffing

We would like to welcome Miss Blair to our school team this year she will be teaching in our Reception class. We look forward to the exciting things she has planned for our new Reception children.

Bus Arrangements

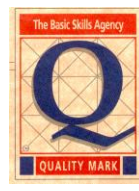
Could those children travelling to school by bus, please inform the school office if there are alternative arrangements in place to be picked up from school on any day of the week. Thank you.

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 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. 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.

School dinners for those in Year 3 & 4 will be at a cost of £66 for this half term. Cheques should be made payable to Northumberland County Council. Thank you.

Headteacher - Mrs Louise Fletcher





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Parent Questionnaire Results

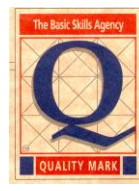
Thank you to all those parents who completed the end of term questionnaire. I am delighted to report that 100% of parents who responded strongly agreed or agreed with all statements regarding children being happy to come to school, being well taught, being well looked after and safe, making good progress, pupils being well behaved and school responding well to any concerns raised. Thank you to those who provided additional comments and constructive feedback on how we could improve further. The two areas of development highlighted were:

- Portion size of school meals being increased for older children.
- Appropriate homework for the child's age.

As a result, although we follow the Northumberland County Guidelines for nutritional guidance and portion sizes which are weighed out per pupil, we have increased the portion size for older children and are providing seconds for those who require it on most occasions.

The opinion regarding homework has been wide ranging from those parents who do not believe a child of primary age should be given any homework, to those who asked for regular additional structured homework. Some parents have commented that homework including reading is a source of tension at home, whilst others have suggested it should be a priority to help them with their transition to secondary school. With such a spread of responses, I understand that this issue will not be resolved for all parents. As a school, we recognise the benefits of parents supporting their child's learning at home and the positive impact this can have on a child's progress. Therefore we have decided as a school that the following homework will be given out to children from September. All children will be encouraged to read daily and parents should record what they have read in their reading record books, including older children who are free readers. There will be weekly spelling and handwriting practise of high frequency and tricky words. These will be distributed each week and checked if they can apply them in their writing each week. A sticker will also be placed in the child's reading record book detailing the focus of mental mathematics skills for that week. There will be a progress check at the end of each week. Parents who require any further advice on how to

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support their child with their learning may see their child's class teacher or consult the 'Supporting Your Child At Home' section on the website. However, homework will not be made compulsory.

Year 4 Parents

A number of Year 4 parents have asked for the opportunity to discuss primary provision in Year 5 & 6 before making a decision about whether to attend Swarland Primary or Middle School. Therefore on Tuesday 27th September at 3pm there will be a meeting for Y4 parents who wish to discuss their options.

Craft club starts up in Longframlington

As from September, a new craft club will be running in St. Mary's church community room for years 3 - 6 on Thursdays from 4.15-5.15pm (or straight from the middle school bus). Led by Felton Arts Charlotte Lobb, children will get the chance to use all sorts of different materials and see what they can make with them. It will be interesting, fun and a great chance to get creative! Starts 15th September. Please come and get creative!

Want any more details? Contact Audrey Truman on 01665 570922.

Dates For Diaries

Monday 19th September - Individual school photographs taken.

Wednesday 21st September - Year 3 & 4 musical instrument tuition lessons begin with the violin.

Tuesday 27th September - Year 4 Parents meeting regarding primary provision.

Monday 10th October - 1-6pm Parent Consultations.

Tuesday 18th October - School nurse visits Y1-Y3 for flu vaccination (consent slips to follow)

Friday 21st October - Children break up for October half term and return to school on TUESDAY 1st NOVEMBER.

Regards,
Louise Fletcher

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