



Swarland County 1<sup>st</sup> School  
Newton on the Moor  
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1<sup>st</sup> February 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Dance Celebration

Parents are invited to join us on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 2:15pm in the school hall to celebrate the dance achievements of the children. This will be an opportunity to see the dances the children have been working on with Mrs Stewart this term.

### Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2016 will take place on the 9th February with the theme Play your part for a better internet! Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, we will be joining in the celebration with hundreds of other organisations getting involved in helping to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

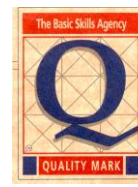
### Author Visit

We continually try to promote the pleasure of reading with our children. To this end we are delighted to invite the author Stuart Reid to our school to talk about his books and instil his love of reading with the children. The award winning Scottish author Stuart Reid will be doing a book reading on Monday 14th March 2016. Stuart's first book *Gorgeous George and the Giant Geriatric Generator* won the Silver Medal at the Forward National Literature Awards. His next three books *Gorgeous George and the Zigzag Zit-faced Zombies* and *Gorgeous George and the Unidentified Unsinkable Underpants Parts 1 & 2* were written to inspire children to read for pleasure. His books will be available to buy on the day. All books purchased on the day will be signed by the author, with a personal dedication to each pupil. Books will be available for £7 each, two for £12, three for £17 or special offer price of four for £20.



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Headteacher - Mrs Louise Fletcher





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### Philosophy For Children (P4C)

During this term children will be experiencing Philosophy For Learning. The research indicates it can have a positive impact on pupils' maths and reading attainment and impact positively on pupils' confidence to speak and listening skills.

P4C is an approach to teaching and learning that was founded by Professor Matthew Lipman.

P4C has developed over 35 years, and is practised in approximately 60 countries.

Children are taught how to create their own philosophical questions. They then choose one question that is the focus of a philosophical enquiry, or dialogue. For example the question might be 'is it ever ok to steal?'

The teacher, as facilitator, supports the children in their thinking, reasoning and questioning, as well as the way the children speak and listen to each other in the dialogue. After the enquiry the children and facilitator reflect on the quality of the thinking, reasoning and participation, and suggest how they could improve; either as individuals or as a group.

P4C is intended to be a regular activity so that the children develop their skills and understanding over time. The role of the facilitator is crucial to ensuring quality dialogue and progress, as well as integration with the curriculum.

It is well documented that P4C has an impact on children's cognitive, social and emotional development. P4C is about getting children to think and communicate well; to think better for themselves.

### Duchess High School

New plans for the extension of the Duchess High School are now available for viewing in our school office should you wish to see them. The Council have provided feedback forms for those wishing to complete them. Please contact Mrs Hall in the school office to view plans and receive your feedback form.

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### Dates For Diaries

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February - Children's Pancake Day lunch.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February - Safer Internet Day

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Bringing grammar to life through song workshop for all children.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February - Parent Consultations

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - World Book Day.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Meeting for parents regarding Ford Castle 6pm.

Warmest regards,

Louise Fletcher

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