



Swarland County 1st School
Newton on the Moor
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 9JP

Telephone/Fax (01670) 787346
Email: admin@swarland.northumberland.sch.uk



1st December 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Safeguarding and independence

Now that our children are settled into the school routine, we would like to encourage our children to become as independent as possible when coming into school. By coming into school independently saying goodbye to parents in the school yard, it can help children to organise themselves and their belongings and develop a sense of responsibility. This recommendation also has the benefit of having fewer adults in school with regard to safeguarding, meaning that any unknown persons can be more easily identifiable. There will still be the opportunity for parents to liaise with their child's class teacher about minor issues should they require the time at the start of the school day.

Christmas Fair

Thank you to all of those who made our Christmas Fair a great success by donating items, helping to organise and run stall or coming along to support us on the day. It was well attended and a great time was had by all.

If you could not make it to the Christmas Fair but would still like to order a school bag with your child's drawing of themselves on or your child's badge, please see the school office. Bags are £6 each or two for £10. Badges £1. The bag will be displayed in the school for any interested parents.

NSPCC Bobble Hat Day

This Friday, the 4th December, we will be helping to raise money for the NSPCC by asking children to come to school in a festive bobble hat in exchange for a donation to this worthwhile cause. Any donation can be made to the school office, thank you.

Christmas Performances

The children will be performing their production of The Shiniest Star on Monday 14th December at 1pm and Tuesday 15th December at 9:30am. Due to the capacity in our school hall we are requesting no more than two adults per child please at the event.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch for the children will take place on Wednesday 16th December. The cost will be £2.00 for any child in Y3/4 who wishes to join us.

Headteacher - Mrs Louise Fletcher





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Christmas Party

The Christmas Party will be on Friday 18th December. Our cook has kindly offered to make the party food for the school lunch. Therefore we will require all children to have a paid school lunch on this day. This will cost £2 per child if in Y3/4 as children in Reception to Year 2 have free school meals as part of the Government scheme. Children should come to school already dressed in their warm party clothes and with their outdoor footwear. No heels or sandals please. We are hoping to have a special guest who will take time out of his busy schedule to come and visit us on this afternoon.

Carols in the square

There will be an opportunity for our children to attend Carols In Swarland Square on 19th December at 6pm. Rev James Harvey from Felton has invited the children and their families to come and join everyone as they have fun, drink coffee (& hot chocolate!) to keep everyone warm and sing carols to start the Christmas celebrations. Bring all the family! He would love to see you there! There will be free coffee & mince pies/chocolate brownies.

Any queries - contact Rev James Harvey on 01670 787263.

Christmas Panto

All the children will have the delightful opportunity to watch the Sleeping Beauty Panto visiting our school on the afternoon of Tuesday 15th December. The H.S.A. have kindly offered to pay for this entertainment.

Consultation

The Council's Cabinet met to consider the outcomes of the consultations carried out in relation to school structure in the Alnwick Partnership and to decide whether or not to publish statutory proposals in relation to the 10 community schools in the Alnwick Partnership. For your information, the Cabinet have decided to approve the publication of statutory proposals in relation to the 10 community schools and these were published on Thursday 12 November opening a 4 week period of statutory consultation when representations for or against the proposals can be submitted. These include proposals to close Seahouses, Alnwick the Duke's and Alnwick Lindisfarne Middle Schools with effect from 31 August 2017, to extend the age ranges of Swarland, Branton, Shilbottle, Hipsburn, Swansfield Park and Seahouses First Schools from September 2016 and to extend the age range of The Duchess's Community High School from September 2017. At the same time, St Paul's Catholic Schools Federation will be publishing a statutory proposal to close St Paul's Middle School with effect from 31 August 2017.

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Swimming

Swimming will commence in the Spring Term beginning 5th January for all of our pupils, Reception to Year 4. This is following a survey we carried out at the end of last term, with parents, to see if there was an interest for their child to go swimming from Reception age. There was an overwhelming positive response to this survey. Swimming will take place on Tuesday afternoons at the Willowburn Leisure Centre. There is a voluntary contribution for these lessons which is £3.50 per session which covers the cost of the lesson and the coach travel. For those who wish to pay for the term it will be £38.50.

New Year Opening Dates

Children will be returning to school after the Christmas holidays on Tuesday 5th January 2016.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of myself and the staff.

Dates for Diaries

- 4th December - NSPCC Charity Fund Raiser Bobble Hat Day
- 5th December - H.S.A. Trip to Edinburgh
- 14th December - Children's Christmas Performance at school 1pm
- 15th December - Children's Christmas Performance 9:30am at school
- 15th December - Children's panto at school in the afternoon
- 16th December - Christmas Lunch
- 17th December - Whole School trip to Winter Wonderland at Whitehouse Farm.
- 18th December - Christmas Party

Warmest Regards,

Louise Fletcher

Headteacher - Mrs Louise Fletcher

