



Swansfield Newsletter

MARCH 2025

Spring and new beginnings

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term. With mornings and evenings getting lighter each day and signs of new life appearing all around us, it feels like we're leaving winter behind and cheering in the new season!

In the January newsletter, I mentioned that we were moving closer to joining The Pele Trust, along with 6 other local primary schools. Progress towards this has continued and I am hopeful that on the 1st April, we will officially be part of The Trust, meaning that our children will continue in the same school family through both their Primary and Secondary education.

Over the last half term, I have continued to work closely with colleagues from Duchess Community High, Longhoughton Primary, Embleton Primary, Ellingham Primary, Seahouses Primary, Branton Primary and Shilbottle Primary and we are excited about the benefits of our collaboration for our school communities. In addition to this, both the CEO, Kieran McGrane and Deputy CEO, Lynn Bain, of Pele Trust have been to visit us at Swansfield. They are keen to get to know our school - the children, the staff and the wider community and thoroughly enjoyed seeing our learners in action! As part of Pele Trust, we will benefit from expertise to continually develop and improve our curriculum offer, our SEND provision and our resource management, just to name a few key benefits.

I'll keep you posted as we head closer to our conversion date but in the meantime, you might like to take a look at The Pele Trust website to find out more about the organisation that we will be a part of. <https://www.peletrust.org.uk/>

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions about our academisation or any other school matter.

With my best wishes,
Anne-Marie Grimes



CLARTY COMMANDO ADVENTURES

In January, we launched our Wednesday Clarty Commando Adventure, with 8 children from Years 4-6 forming a team to use the woodland as their classroom to learn new skills and develop their knowledge of the natural world. The group has risen to this challenge and under the leadership of Mark Tuff and Lisa Pickard, supported by Dom Arthur they are thriving!

A few of the Clarty team will tell you more...



My favourite thing was making my hammer. We made our hammers out of wood and we used a saw and an axe to make them. I got to take mine home and we can use it to put nails into things. Mark teaches us but he also likes it when we teach him. I taught Mark a new trick with the claw of a hammer at Clarty Commandos.

Sebastien



I have learnt how to use tools like axes and hammers.

I can build a fire now. My next project is to build a mud kitchen for our Forest School back at Swansfield. All of the children will be able to play with what we build.

Ollie



I've learnt to light a fire. It's hard to do this when it's wet. Here's how you do it... we start with some kindling and we light cotton wool with the flint and steel and then we get a spark. Then we add some little sticks and then we add some bigger sticks. Our fire is important because it keeps us warm and we use it to boil the water to make our hot chocolate. Before the holidays, we cooked our burgers on the fire at lunchtime.

Jack





I enjoyed making my mallet, building a fire and also playing hide and seek. I also helped Mark build a fence at Clarty Commandos.

Liam



I enjoyed building the bird house and playing hide and seek. I learnt how to build a fire with Liam and also we built a floor with wood chippings. One day we cooked our own lunch on the fire . I brought sausages and burgers and we all shared them.

Clarty Commandos is the best.

Noah



CENTRE FOR LIFE PLANETARIUM

As part of their ongoing Space Explorers work with the Life Science Centre, UKS2 welcomed a huge inflatable planetarium into school on Friday 7th March. The children had a fabulous time inside the planetarium travelling to the moon and exploring it once they had landed. Here are a few of their highlights

I had an amazing time at the planetarium that came to our school hall. My favourite part was when we got into groups and worked as a team to do Morse code using a torch, sending a message back to earth!

Half way through our journey to the moon (our mission was to go to the moon and find an appropriate place for a space station) a meteor hit our space ship front and slowed us down but we thankfully managed to fix it. **I loved the planetarium, I hope it comes back!**
Bea Rose

When the Life Planetarium came to Swansfield we went to the moon. **A meteorite hit our spaceship so we used Duck tape to fix it!** At one point we went in a rover but I have to say, my favourite part was taking off from earth!

Una Morris-Watson

It was a thrilling experience, it felt so real. From the space-travel to the exploring it felt so real that I actually got dizzy! I'd recommend this to any age group. **Everyone should see this amazing planetarium.**
Sophia Tutleman



Our time in the planetarium was **AMAZING!** We even got to learn how to do Morse code. We also went to the moon and a meteorite even **HIT US!**
Charlie Hume



INTRODUCING CANNY

Hello we are CANNY, which stands for Council of Alwick North Northumberland Youth, we are a small handful of responsible Year 6 girls and we were recruited by creating a 2 minute video of why we should join CANNY. CANNY's role is to improve our school, town and community. Last year the former CANNY team went to the Thomas Percy site where they met up with the Mayor to discuss ideas on how to improve the local community. They also considered options on how to help our environment and to make the town a better place to live or visit. This year CANNY will hopefully get the opportunity to do that once more with the Mayor but we will also be able to meet up with the local counsellor. We will also be doing more fundraising in school so that we can buy a new piece of play equipment for everyone at Swansfield to enjoy.

As we are nearing the end of the year, we will be looking for a new CANNY team to carry on the responsibilities of a happy town and safe school. If it sounds like something you'd want to try, apply and don't let this opportunity pass you!

Best wishes,
The CANNY Team



WORLD BOOK DAY

On World Book Day we congratulated the following children on their commitment to reading:

Everly Blair, Mattia Peruzzo, Darcie Walker, Pippa Isaac-Lawson, Mylah Smith,
Joshua Stalker, Amy Davidson, Georgia Short, William Thomas, Casey Parker,
Vincent Spence, Ada Joyce, Ruby Robson, Artie Potts, Billy Gray, William Green,
Erica Crane, Carlisle De Villiers, Seb Metcalf, Harvey Robinson

These children were nominated by staff members for reading consistently and enthusiastically every week!



World Book Day was a great celebration at Swansfield! We took the opportunity for the grand opening of our Reading Den and we were delighted that George Skipper, from Alwick Freemasons was able to come along and cut the ribbon with his Granddaughter, Georgia. We were able to purchase the reading den with a generous donation from the Freemasons. Children will be able to use this space for guided reading sessions and at playtimes and lunchtimes to get stuck into a book!

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Over the last few newsletters, we've taken a look at our geography and history curriculums across school. Here, we focus upon the roots of our children's understanding of the world that they live in. In Early Years, our children learn to make observations, they recognise, name and describe what they see as well as beginning to make contrasts by identifying and articulating similarities and differences. In pre-school and nursery, this very much starts with what children can immediately experience as they build new vocabulary and make important observations. As children move towards the end of their nursery journey and into Reception, they begin to make contrasts. Very often this involves comparing two things that are very different or comparing something very familiar with something very new.



Children in Nursery have been exploring what it's like in winter where we live in Alnwick. They have made observations about the weather, the temperature and how winter can be hard for animals in our environment - particularly the birds. They found ways to help our birds in winter and learnt to name lots of common garden birds as part of this work.

In Reception, as well as recapping features of winter here in Alnwick, the Pears and Plums contrasted this to winter time in the Polar regions.

They investigated what these landscapes look like, how they differ from each other and how animal life varies between each region.



FAMILY SUPPORT



Diversity is our strength



AUTISM SUPPORT Morning

After a successful launch we are pleased to say Sheila Davies will be returning to join us again and offer advice and support around neurodiversity. Everyone is welcome with or without a diagnosis.

Tuesday 25th March 08:45

We will be joined once again by Sheila from Toby Henderson Trust on 25th March for our next Autism Support meeting.

Please come along to the main entrance - you'll be warmly welcomed and the kettle will be on!



Dates for your Diary

19th March	Plum Class family lunch 11.45am
21st March	Comic Relief Jungle Book performance Years 1 - 4
1st April	Ash Class assembly 2.30pm Parent / Carer meeting Ford Castle Trip (Y4) 3.15pm
2nd April	Maple Class family lunch 11.45am Parent / Carer meeting Year 6 residential 5pm
7th April	Rock Steady concert (times to be confirmed) Spring
11th April	Spring Assembly (by invitation) School closes for Easter holidays
7th May	Chestnut Class family lunch 11.45am
8th May	Sycamore Class assembly 2.30pm
21st May	Year 6 Residential trip
22nd May	Plum Class assembly 2.30pm
23rd May	School closes for Half term holidays
26th May	Teacher training day - school closed to pupils

Teacher led clubs will run in the weeks commencing:

17th March, 24th March, 31st March, 7th April