

NEWSLETTER



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Welcome back!

I do hope that everyone had a good Christmas holiday.

The children returned to school with a spring in their step this week and we've enjoyed hearing all their Christmas and holiday news.

As always, we never quite know what weather January and February will throw at us. We endeavour to 'get outside' as much as we can, with opportunities to continue playing on the field. In order to make this possible, please can children have wellies or outdoor shoes to keep in school for playtime and lunchtime use. Hats and gloves are also a must to keep warm in the elements!

We're looking forward to welcoming families in for Larch, Pear and Rowan family lunches this half term and read on for details about opportunities to come in and work alongside your children. In addition to this, we are also looking forward to class assemblies from Beech, Larch and Maple classes.

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or queries that I can help with.

**Best wishes,
Anne-Marie Grimes**





The Swansfield 3Cs Spring Update

We see our 3Cs of care, curiosity and courage on display each and every day at Swansfield. Here's a round up of what we've been achieving and what we'll be working on this half term...

Being caring

CANNY - Council of Alnwick and North Northumberland Youth

A group of our UKS2 children applied for and were selected to join this new youth initiative. They thought you might like to find out a little bit more about the work that they are going to do and what happened at their first CANNY meeting:

Our CANNY meetings take place at the Duchess Community High School. At CANNY, we collaborated with other school representatives. In our 1st meeting, we discussed what makes a good CANNY member. We decided that CANNY is good for people who want to talk about making their community better. We are all very passionate about this. Then we talked about how we could do this. We came up with a great idea that we need a zebra crossing where Rosie the lollypop lady stands. We also decided that it would be good to have some double yellow lines near the zebra crossing too. We'll keep you updated on how our ideas are going!

Daisy, Freya, Sophie Mc, Lucy and Marshall

Positive playtime experiences

We want playtimes and lunchtimes to be an enjoyable experience for all. A big part of ensuring that this happens is our request for children to have kind hands, kind feet and kind words as they interact with each other. This message is reiterated regularly in school and we'd be very grateful if you could do this at home too. To support children during these times of

our school day, we have a range of activities on offer at lunchtimes such as supervised sports activities, lunchtime story time with our librarians for our Reception and KS1 children and library and computing time for our KS2 children on a weekly rota.

Being curious



We are delighted to be taking part in two scientific projects during the spring term. Our Sycamore Class children will be working alongside

Alfie Murton, a former pupil of our school who now works as a mechanical engineer with AtkinsRéalis, a world-leading design, engineering and project management consultancy firm which is passionate about addressing climate change and reaching the UK's 'Net Zero' targets. Alfie will work with teams of children in Sycamore (all children will participate) and they will be tasked with proposing and presenting one or more creative inventions to help our school and local community contribute towards Net Zero.

These proposals will focus upon:

Energy

- How could the energy demand of the school or local community be reduced?
- How could the energy supply to the school or local community be made "greener"?

Transport

- How could travel to and from the school be improved to reduce pupils' carbon footprint?

Infrastructure

- How could the school building itself be improved to be more energy efficient?

We are confident that this will be a really exciting learning opportunity for the children in Sycamore and we look forward to bringing you details of their proposals!



Our Maple class children will be working in conjunction with the Alnwick Gardens and Northumbria University on a recycling project using natural plants and dyes alongside the recycling of everyday items to create products. The aim is for the children to learn how natural dyes can be extracted from everyday plants and then used in a sustainable way as part of a recycling scheme. They will be

supported by teaching students from the University and staff from The Alnwick Gardens. The children will create an eco-show piece for a display at The Alnwick Garden over the weekend of May 10th, 11th and 12th. The pupils involved, along with their families involved will be able to attend on the Sunday afternoon to showcase and talk to people about their masterpieces.

We'll keep you updated on progress with these exciting ventures!

Being courageous



We'd like to say another huge 'well done' to our **Gold certificate winners** from the autumn term. These courageous learners were presented with their certificates at our Christingle service. They were:

Jaxon Kennedy, Ella Routledge, Harrison Knox, Poppy McMullen, Brooke Wilcox, Niamh Holland, Amara-Jay Heathcote, Daisy Mallaburn, George Rose, Lily Newson, Daniel Casini and Brody Gibson.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to tell you all about Freya in Year 6 who was the winner of our **Sylvia Elliot Progress Cup** for the autumn term. In Mrs Murdy's words *"Freya is a Swansfield Superstar! She approaches each and every day with such determination and enthusiasm and takes every opportunity to become involved in all aspects of school life. As a dedicated member of our Lunchtime Crew as well as a thoughtful member of our Canny Project, Freya shines in all aspects of school life. Well done Freya!"* Miss Back adds, *"I really couldn't think of anyone more deserving of our progress cup. Every single day, Freya shows the very best of herself in all that she does."*



We are so proud of you, Freya. You are an excellent role model to others and we know that you are going to continue achieving great things in the remainder of your time at Swansfield and through your secondary education.

Family Support

We are excited to share with you the first of our family support sessions:
‘Fun with Numbers’

Here at Swansfield Park, we are very proud of our maths provision. To enable children to become confident mathematicians, we use lots of hands-on resources and ensure that ‘maths talk’ brings our daily lessons to life. Come and see it in action!

We are inviting parents and carers to join their child for a fun, interactive number session where calculation methods, games, quizzes and interactive resources will be shared.

During these sessions, your child will have the opportunity to ‘show off’ their fabulous number skills as they take the lead and show us what **they** can really do.

Tea and coffee will be available in the school hall from 08:45, our family number fun will then begin at 9:00am. Please use the Google Form to sign up to the relevant sessions:

Year 6: Thursday 25th January

Year 5: Thursday 1st February

Year 4: Thursday 8th February

Year 3: Thursday 15th February

Year 2: Thursday 14th March

Year 1: Thursday 21st March

Reception: Monday 25th March

A Google link will be sent for you to sign up with a maximum of two adults per child.

We look forward to the excitement that these sessions will create for both you and your child.





Reading Round-Up



Thank you to the KS2 parents who came along to our Accelerated Reader presentation last term, the information from this session is available on the school website and will be emailed out to parents.

In an opportunity for everyone to get involved in reading at school, we want you to become part of our new reading display celebrating our creativity and love of stories.

As part of our library revamp, we are creating a display to show off not only the creativity of our school, but also the love we have for reading at Swansfield Park!

All you have to do is send in a picture of you reading in an unusual place. Staff have already been busy sharing their photographs with us and we can't wait to share them with you!

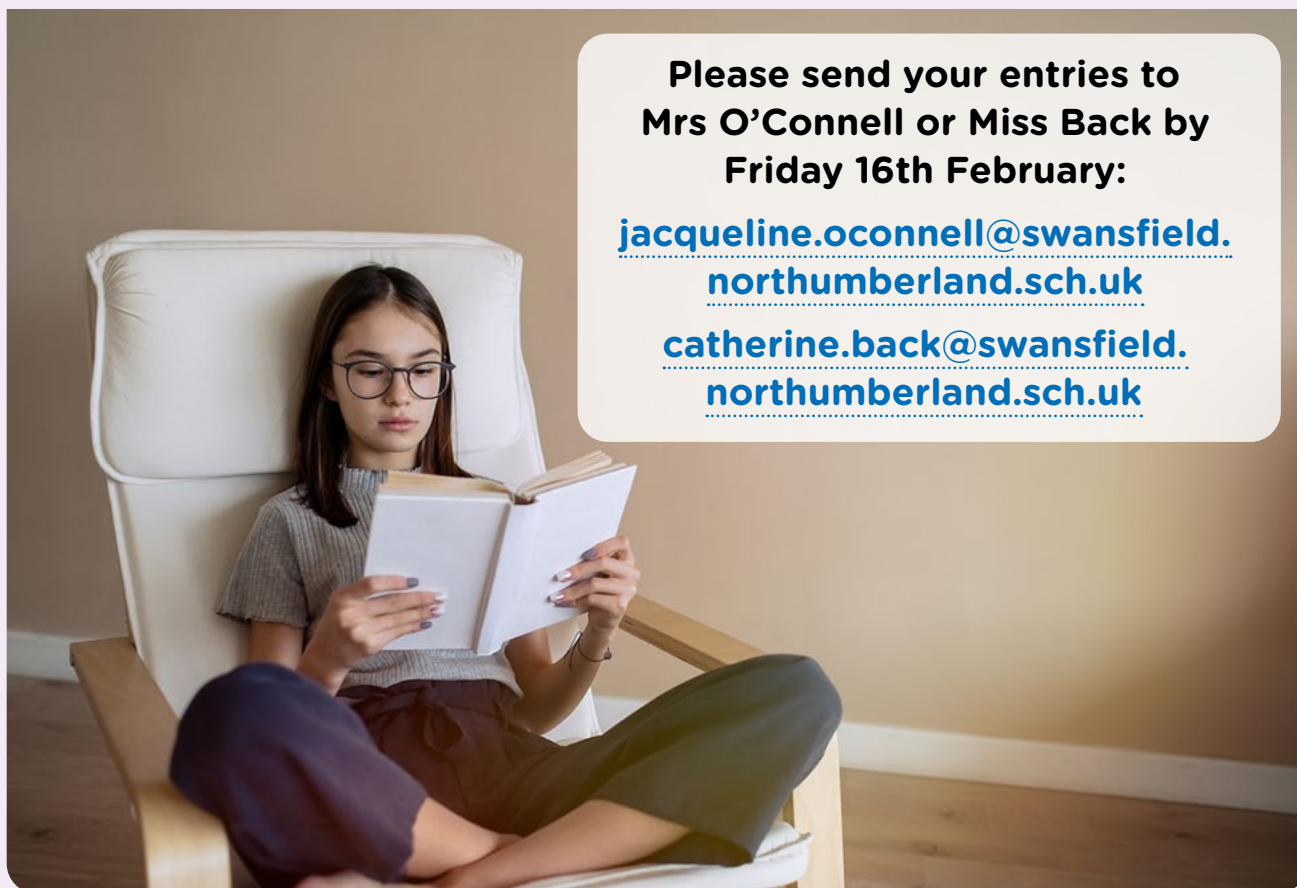
You can be reading anything, anywhere. Could you be reading your favourite story while eating your cornflakes? Could you be reading a magazine while helping your mum and dad do the weekly shop? Could you be reading a novel while cleaning out the hamster's cage?

We have got some wonderful prizes for the most creative and unusual entries: first prize will win a £20 book voucher, second prize will win a £10.00 book voucher and third prize will win a £5 book voucher.

**Please send your entries to
Mrs O'Connell or Miss Back by
Friday 16th February:**

[jacqueline.oconnell@swansfield.
northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:jacqueline.oconnell@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk)

[catherine.back@swansfield.
northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:catherine.back@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk)



Parent Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who responded to our parent view survey during the autumn term and well done to Heather Waite who was the lucky voucher winner! Here's what you told us:

98.7% of respondents said that they would recommend our school to another parent

96.1% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their child does well at our school.

96.1% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that our school lets them know how their child is doing.

In relation to **supporting children with special educational needs**, although this was not applicable to 71.6% of respondents,

23.9% agreed or strongly agreed that their child was well supported to succeed.

85% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that our school supports their child's wider personal development.

99.3% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their child feels safe at our school.

97.4% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their child feels happy at our school.

93.6% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that our school ensures that pupils are well behaved.

In relation to **school's effective action against bullying**, while this wasn't relevant to 72.3% of respondents,

15.5% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that bullying was dealt with quickly and effectively.

85.8% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the school has high expectations for their child.

96.8% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the school gives clear information about what their child will learn during the year.

82.6% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the school dealt properly with concerns raised (14.8% of respondents did not know).

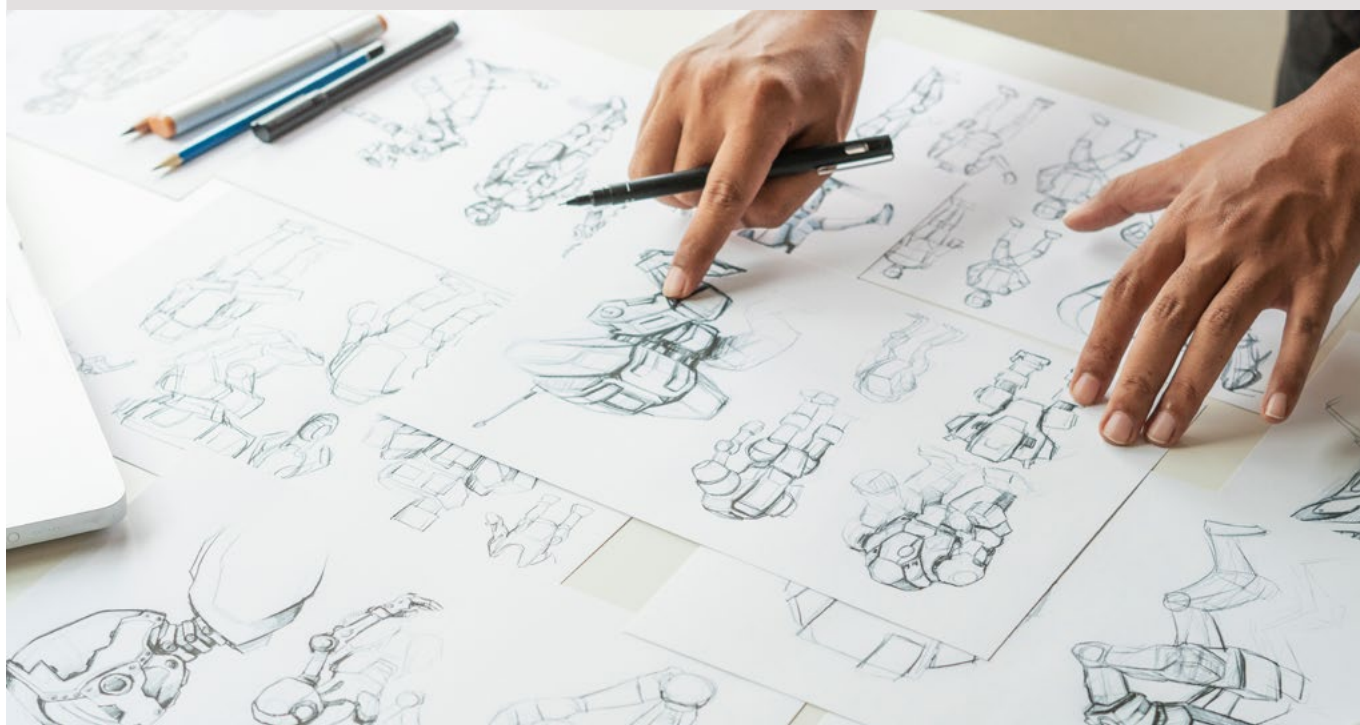
89% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their child can take part in clubs and activities at school (7.1% did not know).

88.3% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that there is a good range of subjects available at our school (7.7% of respondents did not know).



We were delighted to receive this positive feedback. Please rest assured that we will continue to take all opportunities to provide the very best education and experiences for all of our children. As always, if you have any suggestions or thoughts about how we can continue to serve our school community, please do get in touch.

Supporting the Curriculum



Our LKS2 friends are exploring **animation** this half term and would be very interested to hear from anyone in our school community who has any interest or skill in this area. If so, please get in touch with Mr Warburton via email:

craig.warburton@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk

As we look forward to the second half of the spring term we'll be celebrating **British Science Week** and here's a message from our Science Lead, Miss Thompson:

Calling All Scientists!

The theme for British Science Week 2024 is... Time!



We will be celebrating **Science at Swansfield** from **11th March to 15th March**, and we would love for you to help us with our learning. The children will be exploring how things change over time; from evolution, life cycles, earth's movement and scientific innovations.

Do you have a Science-related job? If so, we would love it if you could come and talk to the children about your role and the steps you have taken to achieve this. We would like to inspire our children to become budding scientists and gain knowledge and insight into career paths that are open to them as they grow up.

Mrs Farrar is very interested in hearing from anyone in our school community who has a job that 'helps others'.

Please get in touch via email at bethany.farrar@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk if you would be available to come into Nursery after the half term holiday to talk about your job.

DIARYDATES

17th January
Pear Class family lunch

7th March
Oak Class Assembly

25th January
Year 6 Fun with Numbers

7th March
World Book Day

25th January
Beech Class Assembly

11th - 15th March
British Science Week

29th January
National Storytelling Week

14th March
Year 2 Fun with Numbers

1st February
Year 5 Fun with Numbers

15th March
Comic Relief

7th February
Rowan Class Family Lunch

18th March
Year 5 Bikeability

8th February
Year 4 Fun with Numbers

20th March
Beech Class Family Lunch

8th February
Larch Class Assembly

21st March
Year 1 Fun with Numbers

15th February
Year 3 Fun with Numbers

25th March
Reception Fun with Numbers

15th February
Maple Class Assembly

27th March
Spring Assembly

16th February
Breakup Half Term Holiday

28th March
Breakup Easter Holidays

Communications

We use many different ways to communicate with parents.

Keep up to date through the school website at: www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk

Email the office at: admin@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk

Check the text messages received from **Teachers2Parents**

- please ensure that the office have an up to date mobile number for you.

Read the Head Teacher's weekly blog posted on the website and on Facebook every Monday for the very latest news.

