



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Friday 8th September 2017

Welcome Back!

We hope everyone has had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday. We would like to welcome all our pupils and their families to the 2017- 2018 new school year.

Update Telephone Numbers

Can all parents and carers please inform the school if contact numbers have changed as we use the texting service often to remind parents/carers of upcoming events and after school clubs.

Attendance

Once again attendance will be closely monitored this year by the school and Local Education Authority. The school will be alerted to children whose attendance drops below 96% and these children will be closely monitored. If a significant improvement is still not made a referral to the Legal Intervention Team will be made. Children who have 100% attendance at the end of the year will be put into a prize draw and will have a chance to win some very special prizes. Children who attend school make more progress, every lesson counts.

Swimming

Children in Year 5 go swimming every Friday afternoon, the swimming lesson costs are met by the school, but we do ask for a contribution towards transport every week of £2.00 per session per child payable weekly or £12.00 for this half term. Please ensure your child brings his/her swimming kit to school every Friday.

This weeks attendance

Year Group	Attendance
Reception	90%
1	99%
2	92%
3	90%
4	95%
5	88%
6	95%

Free School Meals for Reception/Year 1 and Year 2

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive a free school lunch- this service has been provided by Gateshead school lunch service – in an effort to provide children with a balanced, nutritional mid-day meal.

If you have a child in Year 3,4,5 or Year 6 and you think your child may be entitled to a free school meal – you can phone the Civic Centre on 0191 4333729 to find out details or collect a form from the school office.

If you wish your child to have a school lunch – the cost is £2.00 per day £10.00 per week.

PE Timetable

Day	Afternoon
Monday	Year 1
Tuesday	Year 2
Wednesday	Year 4
Thursday	Year 6 Reception
Friday	Year 3 Year 5 -Swimming

After School Clubs

After school club letters were sent home today. There are limited spaces for after school clubs therefore please complete and return the permission slip to school as soon as possible as places will be given on a first come first served basis. After School Clubs will start Monday 18th September.

Holidays during Term Time

The 2013 regulations remove the provision for head teachers to grant up to 10 days absence in any school year for the purposes of a family holiday where there were special circumstances. Instead, the amendments specify that head teachers may not now grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. In practice this means that we will no longer be authorizing any family holidays in term time. If parents/ carers choose to take their child out of school then the absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised'. This can lead to the involvement of the Educational Welfare Service and the possible issue of a 'fixed penalty notice' amounting to £60 per child per parent/carer which increases to £120 if not paid within the first 28 days. Clearly, there are many situations which may constitute 'exceptional circumstances' and these will be considered on a case by case basis. Your support and understanding of these new arrangements that we are obliged to follow is appreciated.

Names on uniforms

May we remind parents to put children's names onto all articles of school uniform, this will avoid upset and wasted learning time.

Reminder

No Jewellery is not permitted in school due to Health and Safety reasons. A wristwatch is allowed which must be removed for PE Lessons. Please refer to School Prospectus for full details on page 10 section 16. A copy of the school prospectus can be found on the school website www.swalwellprimary.org or at the school office.

Healthy Eating – Packed Lunches

May we remind parents that foods such as; chocolate, sweets and fizzy drinks are not permitted in packed lunches. Crisps, biscuits and cake can be harmful to the body when little or no exercise is taken. Suggested items are listed below.

Red currants, Oatcakes, Cheese, Chutney, Ham, Cherry tomatoes, Carrot sticks, Cucumber sticks, Fruit in jelly, Dried apricots, Semi-skimmed milk, Apple, Orange, Boiled eggs, Brown bread, Plums, Blueberries, Pineapple, Rice cakes, Cream cheese, Tea cake, Raspberries, Fruit smoothie, Fruit scone, Scotch pancake, Nectarine, Celery, Blackberries, Rice, Pasta, Creamed rice pot, Grapes, Tinned fruit, Fromage Frais, Yoghurt, Strawberries, Banana, Melon, Satsuma, Box of raisins, Spring onions, Lettuce, Sweet corn, Pea pods, Tuna fish, Onion, Chicken, Red peppers, Pear, Potato salad, Water, Cereal bar (no added sugar)

Mrs Cruxton, our school cook provides children with a balanced meal each day. Your child may be entitled to a free school meal, which can save you time and money each week– you can phone the Civic Centre on 0191 433 3729 to find out details.

School Lunches – Online Payments

We would like to remind parents that you can pay for school meals online. Paying in this way can be much more convenient for you and from our perspective as it will save us time as well as reduce the chances of money being lost or stolen.

We use a system called 'SIMS Agora' which is very easy-to-use and offers you the flexibility to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - safe in the knowledge that payments are secure and use the highest level of card security and that funds will reach the school safely. For more information or if you require help to set up your child's online school meal account please contact the school office. For more information about SIMS Agora online payments please see the frequently asked questions for parents: www.capita-sims.co.uk/agora-parents

Reading Books

We would like to remind parents that it is part of your parental duty to listen to your child read. Children who are not supported at home do not make as much progress as children who are listened to regularly. You should be listening to your child read at least 3 times per week.