



Swarland Primary School
Newton on the Moor
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 9JP

Telephone/Fax (01670) 787346

Email: admin@swarland.northumberland.sch.uk



September 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a brand-new school year. I am delighted to welcome both our new and returning families to our school community.

Our main goal is to create a safe, welcoming, and exciting place where every child can learn and grow. We know that a child's success depends on a strong team effort between home and school. When we work together, your child has the best support to reach their full potential.

We will keep our lines of communication open with you through a monthly newsletter, weekly updates and reminders and of course you can speak to staff before or after school. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have a query or concern.

Uniform, PE Kits and Art Shirts

Now that we have started a new school year we expect every child to be in the correct school uniform and school shoes please. If you need any support financially with purchasing the correct uniform, please let the school office know so we can assist. We do have spare uniform for children to change into if required.

Last year, we trialled asking older children to come to school in their PE kits on their PE days. This was very successful so we will continue with that this year. Could children in **Year 2 to Year 6** come to school on **Fridays** in their PE kits for this term. Could we respectfully request no football trousers or football shorts to be worn for PE kit or uniform.

Children in **Reception and Year 1** should bring their PE kits into school when possible and leave them on their peg to get changed in school.

This year we are asking children to bring in their own **art shirt** please. This can be an oversized shirt or T-shirt that remains in school on their peg with their name on to use for messy activities. The school will still provide art shirts for children to use but children often prefer to wear their own.

Free School Meals

You may have heard that from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive a free school meal.

Going forward, there will be 2 categories of benefits-based free school meals:





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Targeted Free School Meals, which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less.

Expanded Free School Meals, a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit.

If you are making an application to commence from September under the new criteria, a benefit check, via the Department for Education's Eligibility Checking Engine (ECE) will be completed. If you are entitled, a free school meal will be activated, and you will be notified of the outcome via the Citizen Portal.

If you think your child could be eligible for Free School Meals under the new criteria from September, or for further information on the updated scheme, please [follow this link](#) to submit an application to Northumberland County Council. If your application is granted, please can you let school know so we can update our records.

Please note this does not affect the current free school meals which are available to all Reception to Year 2 pupils and these do not need to be applied for.

Mobile Phones In School Ban

A statutory ban on mobile phones and smart technology in state-funded schools in England came into force on June 29, 2026, following the passage of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026.

Our school will facilitate pupils who walk to and from school independently (Year 5 & 6 only with written parental permissions), to hand a mobile phone to staff at the start of the school day as this allows all pupils to feel safe on their journey to and from school, while removing digital distraction for the entirety of the school day. If in the event of a parent wishing for his/her child to bring a mobile phone to school to facilitate the above:

- the parent must put their request in writing to the Headteacher at the beginning of each academic year
- the phone must be switched off before entering the school gates, not used in playground before or after school and handed in to the school office first thing in the morning and collected from the office by the child at home time (the phone is left at the owner's own risk).

Tuck Shop

Following the successful tuck shop last year, this will once again be delivered by some of our older children. On Tuesdays and Fridays, children are welcome to bring in money to purchase healthy drinks or snacks at playtime. Snacks may include examples such as toast, cereal bars, fruit juice, vegetable puffs, etc.





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Online Safety at Home - for parents and carers

Tues 29th Sept, 3.30pm & 7.00pm - approx 40m, online.

In this session we'll be discussing what young people are getting up to online, the risks and benefits of having access to the internet, plus a range of strategies and resources that can be adopted to help support our young people to be careful, confident, discerning users of the internet. Parents and carers are able to join from the comfort of their own home via a Teams link.

[Online Safety at Home | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#) 3.30pm

[Online Safety at Home | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#) 7.00pm

Staffing

We welcome Mrs Leaver and Mrs Tincombe who have joined our team this year as teaching assistants. Please note that Mrs Stocks will now be called Miss Richardson.

We have lots of exciting trips and activities already planned in this school year and look forward to working with you to help every child be the best that they can be.

Dates For Diary

3rd & 4th Sept – Children start school (Reception part time 8:45-12:30pm)

7th Sept – All children in school 8:45-3:15pm

18th Sept – All children participate in a healthy relationships workshop

24th Sept – Individual photographs taken by Halo Photography

Regards,

Louise Fletcher
Headteacher

