



Swarland Primary School
Newton on the Moor
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 9JP
Telephone/Fax (01670) 787346
Email: admin@swarland.northumberland.sch.uk



12th May 2017

Dear Parents,

ParentMail

Thank you to all parents who have registered with ParentMail. We now have 80% of our parents registered. On 5th June, our new payment system will go online. Parents may choose to pay for school items such as school meals, milk and trips using the online pay option in ParentMail. Please be aware that this option is for card use only and will incur a 1.29% card charge fee on each transaction.

Summer Term Assessments

During the Summer Term, summative assessments do take place. Children are required to be in school for these assessments and therefore leave of absence will not be authorised during a testing period. Year 2 assessment tests in mathematics and reading will take place in May. Summative assessments for Years 3 and 4 will take place in May. The results of the test will be reported to parents along with their end of year report.

Year 1 Phonics Test

This will take place week beginning 13th June.

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

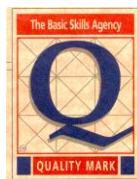
Children in Year 1, throughout the country, will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1 or they have not taken the test before.

Head teachers should decide whether it is appropriate for each of their pupils to take the phonics screening check. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

What Happens During the Test?

The test contains 40 words. Each child will sit one to one and read each word aloud to a teacher. The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and

Headteacher - Mrs Louise Fletcher





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will complete the check at their own pace. The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).

Pseudo Words (Nonsense words)

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This provides the children with a context for the pseudo word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils; they do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.

Reporting to Parents

By the end of the summer term all schools must report their child's results to parents. They will also confirm if the child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.

How Can I Help My Child At Home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise - get them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each letter, e.g. /c/ in cat, or the letter group, e.g. /ng in sing. Next move your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.

Staffing Changes and Class Structure For Next Year

Class structures for next year will be:

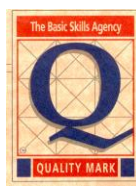
Reception: Mr McLeod

Year 1 & 2: Mrs Morris

Year 3, 4 & 5: Mrs Stanley during maternity cover until Mrs Stocks returns.

You will be notice that Miss Blair will be leaving us at the end of this term. We wish to thank Miss Blair for her hard work whilst at Swarland and making our Reception class a warm and welcoming place.

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Mr McLeod will be joining our team in September and is looking forward to meeting the new Reception children during their transition visits.

Please note that the Y3, 4, 5 class will be a class of 33. However, Mrs Siswick, who is a trained teacher, currently working as a teaching assistant in our school, will be working alongside the class teacher during literacy and numeracy sessions.

International Day Against Homophobia

On 17th May it is the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. Children will be taking part in age appropriate activities regarding this topic including using "Different Families, Same Love" materials from the Stonewall company.

Dates for Diaries

18th May - HSA Meeting at Cook & Barker 7pm

22nd-24th May - Y3/4 residential to Kingswood

26th May - Break up for half term.

12th June - Sports Day weather permitting.

Regards,

Louise Fletcher

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