

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of another school year. I would like to extend a special welcome to all of our new parents and starters. I am delighted that you are now a part of our school community and look forward to working with you.

I hope the summer has lived up to your expectations and everyone has had a chance to recharge and have some relaxation time with family and friends.

Everyone at Swarland Primary School has been making preparations for the start of the new term and we are all looking forward to meeting everyone to start the new school year.

This year we have many exciting activities, trips, topics and clubs planned and we are eager to immerse the children into an exciting environment and foster a love of learning.

Covid-19 updates

Following Government and local authority guidelines, I want to make you aware that in September children will not need to be taught in class bubbles. Schools will no longer be sending class bubbles home to self-isolate if they come in contact with a positive case. NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact.

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. Please do not send your child to school if they display any of the Covid-19 symptoms. Children will be sent home if they develop symptoms whilst at school.

Our school control measures will remain in place. Children will still be maintaining frequent handwashing and hand sanitizing. Rooms will still be well ventilated and a rigorous cleaning routine will remain in place. Staff will be taking part in weekly lateral flow testing.

We will no longer have a staggered start and finish time. School will be open at 8:45am and finish at 3pm for all children. Children will still be asked to come into school independently and say goodbye to parents in the playground to minimise adults in the school. There was a noticeable improvement in children's independence and organisational skills last year using this method.

All children will be having lunch and playtimes together. All children will be expected to wear school uniform, school shoes, not fashion boots or trainers. For children who feel the cold due to increased ventilation in the school, we advise children to wear additional underclothes rather than hoodies or non-uniform items.

Should there be an outbreak of Covid-19 in school, a contingency plan is in place and additional measures will be introduced following Government guidelines and communicated with you via Parentmail.

Ground Source Heating

The Local Authority arranged for ground source heating to be installed in the school over the summer holidays to help reduce our carbon footprint. There are still some outstanding elements to be completed outside. Therefore you will notice additional machinery, workmen, temporary fencing and dirt outside. Please may we ask parents to avoid using the car park where possible for the next few days until the work is completed.

And finally

School will reopen for all children on Wednesday 8th September 2021. For Reception children, Wednesday 8th, Thursday 9th and Friday 10th September will be half days to support their transition. The sessions will run from 8:45am to 12:30pm. Children will have their lunch at school. They are entitled to a free school lunch or may bring a packed lunch to school.

Reception children will begin full time on Monday 13th September when their school day will run from 8:45-3pm alongside the other pupils.

I look forward to meeting everyone on Wednesday 8th September.

Dates For Diary

Thursday 9 th September	Flu form return deadline
Friday 10 th September	KS2 (Y3-Y6) will be taking part in Tag Rugby with Bear from Cramlington Rockets.
Thurs 23 rd & Fri 24 th September	- Year 5 & 6 have the opportunity to take part in Bikeability (cycling proficiency).
Monday 27 th September	Individual school photographs.
Monday 18 th October	Parent Teacher Consultations
Friday 22 nd October	Children break up for half term