



The Bugle

September 2023

A message from Mrs Ramsell ...

Welcome back to school everyone! We've had a fantastic start to the Term and we are so thrilled with how well the children have settled back into school. First things first, we must welcome our new EYFS children as well as our other new children who have joined us across the school in higher Year Groups. Welcome to Team New Swannington everyone! We are delighted to have you in our school and we look forward to sharing lots of incredible learning and experiences with you across the years.

Before we move on, however, I would like to make an extra special mention about our EYFS children who joined us on the 29th. Their first experience of school has been amazing. School is a very different experience from their previous Pre-School/Nursery provision and to say that they have taken on the challenge with courage and determination would be an understatement. We are all extremely impressed with their first days and we hope that they have enjoyed every moment. We look forward to getting to know them all even better as the weeks and months progress.

I spent a fabulous week in Whitby with our Year 6 children last week. We enjoyed not only a wonderful week of sunshine but the children also had so many experiences that hopefully will be happy memories for them all. More of that later ...

In the meantime, here's to a great year ahead New Swannington!



As advertised through our Facebook pages and School App, we held an open Parent Forum on 2 September 2023 with the purpose of reviewing our Vision, Values and Ethos. This was a very valuable session and are excited to share more about this with you all soon.



Just a quick reminder for any of our families who have children starting school in Autumn 2024 ... the first of our Open Mornings will take place on **Saturday, 23 September 2023 between 10am and 12pm**. Please join us. There is no need to book.

We will be holding a further Open Morning on **Saturday, 18 November 2023** from 10am until 12pm.

Schoolgateway



We recently introduced our new School Gateway App for booking dinners, wraparound care and for paying for trips. First impressions have been very good and we have received positive feedback. We are still learning how the technology works so please bear with us. Conversely, if you have any issues, please do let us know.

We will continue to use the purple SIMs App for sending messages home as this supports PDF attachments whereas the School Gateway doesn't. Hopefully this will change in due course and we will be in a position to transition across to School Gateway for all communication home.



As you will be aware, we place high emphasis on good attendance and the impact that absence can have on children's progress and general education.

We wanted to clarify that if a child is unwell they should not come to school. We completely understand that children pick up all sorts of bugs and infections and, in those cases, we would wish them to be at home so that they can recover fully.

The matter relating to holidays being taken during Term Time is entirely different. We enjoy lengthy holidays during the school year and we actively discourage family holidays being taken during the remaining 38 weeks. The Department of Education and LCC stipulate that family holidays during term time will result in a Fine. We are obliged to strictly adhere to the guidance we receive from LCC as we are maintained by them.

We recognise that costs vary hugely in term time and during school holidays, however, the impact on your children's education cannot be underestimated. Thank you for your support in this matter.

As a reminder, please it is important that our Absence Policy is adhered to if your child is absent ie.

- ensure their child attends school every day the school is open except when a statutory reason applies;
- notify the school as soon as possible when their child has to be unexpectedly absent through sickness. In this case, parents/carers must call the school absence line as early as possible on 01530 832656 and provide details of the child's name and the reason for absence. If we do not receive contact from you, due to Safeguarding obligations, we will make a home visit and the matter be referred to social care;
- only request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and do so in advance. Exceptional circumstances do not include holidays, family events, birthdays etc. We completely understand that booking holidays in term time has a financial impact, however, please do not underestimate the impact this time away from school has on your child's education. We would appreciate your honesty in reporting this absence so that we can use the correct coding;
- book any medical appointments around the school day where possible.

In order to provide continuous monitoring of children's attendance, Mrs Smith, our Attendance Officer in school, will contact families where we have identified a concern about the level of absence or where a pattern of absence has been detected.

- Absence will also consider children who arrive persistently late. Once again, I would like to clarify that school starts at 8.45am and the registers close at 9.00am. If your child has to press the buzzer to gain access to school, this means that they are late and will receive a late mark which will impact on their attendance percentage.
- If you remove your child from school during the day to attend a medical appointment, for safeguarding reasons, they are signed out of school (and back in, if appropriate), this will also show as an absence (as they have been out of school for that period of time).
- If you remove your child from school due to a family holiday, this will be recorded as unauthorised. On their return to school, you will be provided with all the learning material that was missed during this period of absence and there will be an expectation for this to be completed and returned, in full, by the end of their first week back for marking and recording purposes.

Following the changes to the guidance around C-19 isolation, we do not expect to be absence associated with this to be a problem (although to date this has been recorded as an authorised absence).

We will continue to report your child's absence percentage to you at the end of each half term which will be based on the following criteria:

- o 99% and above (excellent)
- o 95 - 99% (good)
- o 90 - 94% (poor)
- o Below 90% (persistent absentee).

Uniform

Our uniform standards are important and we would like all of our children to strictly adhere to them from the new academic year. Our uniform guidelines can be found on our website by following this link:

<https://www.newswanningtonprimary.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2479&type=pdf>

Our very successful Pre-Loved Uniform Shop is available to everyone and we encourage families to swap uniform when it has been outgrown.

As previously advised, PE kits should still be worn to school on the days that children have their PE lessons. This has worked very well, particularly as we find that less time is spent getting changed and more time enjoying PE lessons. However, the standard of PE clothes has noticeably slipped so can we please reiterate the following:

- PE kits should comprise of white t-shirts, black/navy shorts/joggers, NSPS hoody or black/navy hoody.
- Coloured t shirts, shorts, joggers, hoodies are NOT acceptable.
- Trainers should be dark. Coloured or sparkly trainers are NOT acceptable.
- Non-branded kit should also be worn.

When the children have Forest School sessions, once again, they should wear their Forest School clothes to school. They will need:

- Old clothes
- Old boots/waterproof trainers
- Waterproof coat
- Waterproof outerwear

The key is to ensure that the clothes they wear are old and will not cause distress if they become damaged or dirty.



We are a **Nut Free School**.

We have children in our school with severe Nut Allergies and it is important that we keep them safe.

Please pay particular attention to the contents of your child's snacks and lunchboxes as some nut products are hidden in cereal bags and chocolate spreads.



Well what a great time we had over the Summer holidays, enjoying the Ready, Set, Read Summer Reading Challenge! We were so pleased to see so many of our children joining in the fun. It was great to see so many children in THE Chair and Crossing the Finish Line.

We are currently awaiting results from Coalville Library but our Starometer certainly told a very positive story! We will keep you posted.

Parking in Church Lane

Can we please just remind everyone to park respectfully in the Lane. We enjoy great relationships with our neighbours and we want that to continue.

Please do not park on the zig zags, double yellows, in driveways or blocking the Farmer's access (as he does need this all the time). Thank you.



It's our 100th Birthday!

We're going to be 100 years old on Monday, 2 October 2023 and we'd love you to join us for our Birthday celebrations on Saturday, 30 September 2023.

We'd be delighted to receive memories from our past pupils, photos, anecdotes, anything really that we can build a great picture of the story of New Swannington since we opened on our current site.

Please spread the word so that we can welcome as many of our past (and present) pupils back inside our walls for one special day.

... and of course, no Birthday Party would be complete without Birthday cake to enjoy!

Dinners

We are committed to ensuring our children have a healthy well-balanced lunch when they are at school and our kitchen staff provide lovely meals on a 2-week rolling basis.

Our menu is available to view by copying and pasting the following link into your browser:

<https://www.newswanningtonprimary.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1181&type=pdf>

If you would prefer your child to bring a pack up from home, can we politely ask that the contents are healthy options ie.

- No chocolate bars.
- Healthy snacks at playtime.
- Water rather than juice (as not only is it healthier but juice is incredibly sticky when spilt).



Forest School sessions for all our children will recommence soon. These are run in 3-week sessions throughout the year.

We will advise you when your child's Forest School session is commencing, however, in the meantime, please refer to our Forest School Handbook for further information about this outdoor learning experience. Please follow the link to our website:

<https://www.newswanningtonprimary.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1238&type=pdf>

Harvest Festival

Following your generosity last year and the donations you kindly gave for Harvest Festival, we have decided to do something similar this year. We are still keen to support our local community and, this year, we have decided to support Coalville Foodbank. We would be delighted if you could help us with our collection bringing in a **non-perishable** item during **w/c 2 October 2023 until Friday, 13 October 2023**:

- Non-perishable items such as:

Soup	Jam
Coffee	Long Life Juices
Long Life Milk	Tinned Tuna
Chocolate Bars	Toiletries eg. Shower Gel, Deodorant

Can we please stress that perishable items such as fruit and vegetables will not be accepted.

In addition to our Foodbank collection, we would also like to invite you into school to listen to our children sing (all Year Groups will be singing in all sessions). The dates we have set aside are as follows, however, please **ONLY** attend one session:

- From 2.45pm on Tuesday, 10 October 2023
- From 2.45pm on Wednesday, 11 October 2023
- From 2.45pm on Thursday, 12 October 2023

Due to capacity restrictions in the Hall, we can only allow 2 adults per family to attend.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support and we do hope that you will all agree that this is great way for our families to support the local community.

Year 6, Whitby Residential

We enjoyed our Year 6, Whitby Residential last week and had a fabulous time. You may have followed us on travels via our Facebook page.

We really enjoyed a fun packed week and the children had some great experiences that will have hopefully give them many happy memories. Here are a few of our photos, however, please follow the link to our Photo Gallery on our website where there are more photos to enjoy.

<https://www.newswanningtonprimary.org.uk/gallery/?pid=72&gcatid=5&albumid=249>

