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26th September 2024

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carer

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

Friday 27th September – Year 2 'Great Fire of London' Half-Day Workshop [CLICK HERE](#)

Sunday 29th September – Swanland Scarecrow Hunt! [CLICK HERE](#)

➔ Thursday 3rd October – Autumn Census Day

REMINDER – THIS SUNDAY – Sunday 29th September 2024:

Swanland Scarecrow Hunt – 10.00 am–2.00 pm / Swanland Show – 1.00 pm–3.30 pm



We look forward to welcoming you on Sunday at Swanland School playground to purchase your map and voting sheet for 50p before heading off on your walk around the village on our Scarecrow Hunt. Votes need to be back at school for 2.00 pm as the winner will be announced at 2.15 pm. All proceeds from the day will be going towards the fundraising for School Play opportunities for our school children. There will also be a tuck shop sale in the shed on the big playground.



Please also remember to visit the Swanland Show at the Village Hall between 1.00 pm and 3.30 pm. Swanland Show is an annual event, which enables villagers and others to showcase their talents and skills and to compete for prizes, trophies and personal pride; including artwork from children at Swanland School (those that entered back in July); so please do pop along and show your support.



Parent Play Champions

Parents – we need you!! Our OPAL project has been a success so far and we have been so grateful of the support we have received! We hope that OPAL is, and will, make a lasting impression on our pupils and assist them in developing many important life skills such as resilience, problem solving and teamwork skills... all through the fun of play!

We have created a team of enthusiastic staff, governors and students to push our project forward – however we are now on the hunt for some Parent Play Champions! Please see what this voluntary role entails below, and email opal@swanlandschool.co.uk if you could help to extend our committee.

The parent play champions will:

- Observe and assess playtime within the school at least once a year.
- Sit on the OPAL working party and attend development meetings.
- Support other parents to understand the school's approach to play.
- Advocate OPAL's approach and for children's play within the PTA and school community.
- Share contributions and ideas from parents and the wider community.
- Support the ongoing resourcing of loose parts from parents and the wider community.

PTO

Change to School Dinner Menu for Census Day – Thursday 3rd October 2024

Next Thursday is national Census Day for all primary schools, where (amongst other key figures) the number of Key Stage 1 children staying for school dinners that day is recorded. This figure (along with the same figure recorded on the January 2024 Census Day) then determines how much Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) grant the School receives. This UIFSM grant is paid to the School to cover the cost of the provision of free school meals for our children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and is paid at the rate of £2.53 per day, throughout the school year, for every child that stays for a meal on those October and January census days (a total of £480.70 per eligible child).



So, with this in mind, we are tweaking the menu next week to encourage as many children as possible to stay for a hot school meal on Thursday. **Please see the menu for the day ([click here](#)) – Hot Dog (Quorn Sausage for vegetarians), Wedges, Sweetcorn, Garden Peas, and Waffle with Chocolate Sauce for dessert!**

May we please ask you to encourage your EYFS/KS1 child to stay for a hot meal that day or to try a hot school meal for the first time, if they have not already done so! Any additional income is very important for the School, so we do hope you can help. Thank you.

**Eligibility for Pupil Premium/Free School Meals**

Families in receipt of certain state benefits are eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of the child's age. This eligibility for Free School Meals also determines whether the school itself receives the Government's 'Pupil Premium' grant, so it is extremely beneficial to the school to be aware of your child's eligibility, even during Reception and Key Stage 1 years.

Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

If you consider that your child MAY be eligible for free school meals in relation to the state benefits which you receive, **please complete [this online form](#) BEFORE END OF OCTOBER 2024.**

If you receive confirmation that your child is eligible for free school meals, we should be very grateful if you would inform the School Office in strictest confidence. Thank you very much.



Car Parking Concerns – Please Help Us to Help Our Neighbours

People parking inconsiderately on the streets near the school at the beginning and end of the school day remains a large problem for local residents. We have received a complaint regarding parking on kerbs, parking close to driveways and to the entrance to Stapleton Court on Waller Grove. We hope you will work with us to help maintain good relations with our neighbours and refrain from blocking residents' driveways. Thank you.



ParentPay – Current Online Payments

- Year 4 Visit to the Roman Fort, York – due before Thursday 3rd October 2024
- Year 5 Residential to Robinwood (Deposit) – due before Thursday 3rd October 2024
- Halloween Party (all years) – due before Monday 14th October 2024
- Year 6 Residential to Cober Hill (Deposit) – due before Wednesday 16th October 2024
- Year 6 Visit to ER Theatre – due before Friday 18th October 2024

Please note, deadlines for events will no longer be extended. Thank you.



Flyers on the School Website

Community flyers added to the school website this week can be found by [clicking on this link](#) then looking under Autumn Term 2024-25, First Half Autumn Term Flyers.

Disclaimer: Swanland Primary School does not endorse the following flyers; we are simply sharing the information.

Dates
for your



FORTHCOMING DIARY DATES

Autumn Term 2024 Diary ([→ New Diary Item](#))

Monday 7th Oct – Immunisation Nurse in school (Nasal Spray Flu Vaccination) [CLICK HERE](#)

Wednesday 9th October – Harvest Festival Service [CLICK HERE](#)

→ Monday 14th October – PTA Cauliflower Cards deadline [CLICK HERE](#)

Tuesday 15th October – Year 4 Visit to Murton Park (*see separate letter*)

Monday 21st October – Parent Teacher Consultation Evening – 1RP only [CLICK HERE](#)

Tuesday 22nd October – Parent Teacher Consultation Evening – ALL classes [CLICK HERE](#)

Wednesday 23rd October – PTA Bag2School Collection (*see separate letter*)

Wednesday 23rd October – Parent Teacher Consultation Evening – ALL classes [CLICK HERE](#)

Thursday 24th October – Halloween Disco (*see separate letter*)

Thursday 24th October – School Closes for October Half-Term Holiday (3.20 pm)

Monday 4th November – School Re-opens After October Half-Term Holiday (8.45–8.50 am)

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Stephenson
Head Teacher