

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you all well. Next week, we will host our spring term parents evening where you will be presented with the opportunity to chat with your child's class teacher on their achievements, progress and next steps in their learning. Children's books/learning journals will be available to see. As ever, tea and coffee will be available for you to enjoy. Katie will have our pre-loved uniform in the hall - please do take a look.

This term, our children continue to make us proud and have represented the school in such a positive light at numerous events. Around school, children are respectful of one another and show wonderful empathy towards their peers. They truly are a credit to you all.

Just as we think the early signs of spring are starting, the weather once again turns cold. Please remember to ensure your child has a warm coat and hat in school as, where possible, we will help them enjoy our wonderful outdoors. The light nights will be with us before we know it!

As ever, thanks goes to the entire team who regularly go above and beyond to make a difference to our children.

Please do grab a cuppa and enjoy the rest of this newsletter.

Thank you for your wonderful support.

Take Care. Stay Safe.

Mrs Rachel Hocking

Diary dates



12th February – Year 6 Whickham School
Visit to watch performance – afternoon.

12th February – Parents' Evening

14th February – Year 1 & 2 Washington
Wetland Visit

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd February –
Half term

28th February – Year 6 Whickham School
transition lesson – afternoon.

8th March – World Book Day

13th March – Year 6 Holy Trinity Church –
Easter visit

15th March – Red Nose Day – non-
uniform

20th March – Year 1 & 2 Dance Festival -
Morning

26th March – Year 4 & 5 Spring Sing –
Morning

Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April –
Easter holidays

Staffing update

This half term we say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Cunningham who will be retiring at February half term. Mrs Cunningham has dedicated 30 years to our school occupying multiple roles. Her capacity to ensure every child in her care feels nurtured, safe and protected is admirable. In my time as headteacher, she has been a wonderful member of the team who is committed to Swalwell children. Infact, Mrs Cunningham will have taught some of you reading this and this in itself demonstrates the dedication she has given to our school and the community. As this chapter closes for her and the one of retirement starts, I genuinely thank her for all she has done for our school and wish her all the love and luck moving forward. She has promised to come back and see the children and help out on school trips!

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Campbell into the teaching assistant team.

Very soon, Miss Graham will be starting her maternity leave. We look forward to hearing of the new arrival.

Public Health update

There has been an increase in pupil absence due to illness this half term. Due to this, we contacted Public Health who issued a letter containing advice which was emailed to all parents early last week. If you child is unwell, please keep them at home to reduce the spread of infections in school. All children who have a temperature must stay at home for 24 hours.

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening will take place for all pupils on Monday 12th February 3:30pm to 6:30pm. All parents were sent a letter to book an appointment last week. Please contact your child's class teacher if you are unsure of your allocated appointment time. Parents must attend these appointments without children. Please arrange childcare, where possible. There will be staff on site to supervise a small number of children for those who do not have any other option for childcare.

World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day in school on Friday 8th March this year. Children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character!

If you have any unwanted costumes at home, please donate to school. These will be placed in the hall during Parents' Evening on Monday 12th February for parents to take FREE of charge.

Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

We will hold our annual non-uniform day in aid of Comic Relief on Friday 15th March. Children can come to school dressed in Red Nose Day themed attire or in general non-uniform for a donation of 50p towards Comic Relief. Please pay all donations via ParentPay.

Parking

Please can we remind parents not to park in the school carpark for drop off and collection of children. Only those with a disabled badge should enter the school car park.

[Year 1 & 2 Dance Festival](#)

Rehearsals are in full swing in Year 1 & 2 for the Gateshead School Sports Partnership Dance Festival.

A letter was sent to all parents last week detailing how to purchase tickets. There are multiple performances due to the number of schools taking part so please ensure you purchase tickets for the performance on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 10am. Please direct all ticket enquiries to The Glasshouse International Centre for Music (formerly the Sage).

[Year 4 & 5 Spring Sing](#)

Year 4 & 5 children will be showcasing their singing talents at the annual Spring Sing. This will take place at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music (formerly the Sage) on Tuesday 26th March at 10:45am. Please refer to the letter sent out last week, if you wish to purchase tickets. There are multiple performances so please ensure you select the correct date and time for our school.

[Earrings](#)

We would like to remind all parents that earrings are not permitted in school for health and safety reasons. If you wish to have your child's ears pierced, we recommend doing so at the beginning of the school summer holidays to enable them time to heal and be removed before returning to school. If your child is unable to remove earrings for school, please ensure they are covered with plasters.

[New professional photos!](#)

Phototronics took some fantastic new professional photographs of our pupils in December to be used for marketing materials for school. We thought it would be nice to share some of them with you. Phototronics will be back in school to take individual pupil and family photographs for parents to purchase, if you wish to do so, on Friday 24th May 2024.



Lunch theme days

Our fantastic school catering team have organised the following themed lunch days. There will be no jacket potato or deli options available on these days, only the options stated.

World Book Day



FRIDAY 8TH MARCH

Main meal – Witches cauldron pizza with bookworm bites, wizard wedges, Jack's beans & pen license peas

Dessert – Giant fruit crumble, eat me custard or The Very Hungry Caterpillar biscuit

Easter



WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH

Main meal – Shepherd's pie (lamb), spring peas and green beans

Vegetarian Option – Leek and potato puff pastry pie, roasted potatoes and vegetables

Dessert – Easter fruit cupcake or chocolate crispy cake

British Sandwich Week



TUESDAY 21ST MAY

Main meal – Steak and cheese sandwich, fries, crudities and slaw

Vegetarian Option – Cheese and onion baked toastie, fries, crudities and slaw

Dessert – Jammy dodgers & fruit

National Picnic Week



MONDAY 17TH JUNE

Main meal – Finger sandwiches, sausage or cheese roll, pizza finger, crisps and crudities

Dessert – Blueberry muffin

End of Year Celebration



THURSDAY 18TH JULY

Main meal – Beef or chicken fillet stack, cheese, onion rings, shoestring fries, slaw or sweetcorn with a selection of toppings (cheese, crispy bacon and gherkins)

Vegetarian Option – Quorn burgers

Dessert – Ice cream cone