

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here we are at the end of a busy term!

I trust you have enjoyed all of the wonderful Christmas performances and events in school. The children had a wonderful time at our annual whole school pantomime trip and made us very proud. The delight on their faces was clear to see.

Christmas parties were enjoyed by all and we even had a visit from The Swalwell Elf. What a lucky school we are. During the parties, all children received a selection box which was donated by one of our families. Again, this generosity is very much appreciated.

Many thanks goes to the entire staff team who make this time of year so special for all our children.

School re-opens to children on Tuesday 9th January when we will look forward to starting the spring term. Until then, we are all looking forward to a well-deserved rest and some time with our families.

I wish you all a rested and safe Christmas and look forward to working with you all in the New Year.

Take care.

Mrs Rachel Hocking

## Diary dates



**8<sup>th</sup> January** – School closed – Staff Training Day

**9<sup>th</sup> January** – All children return to school

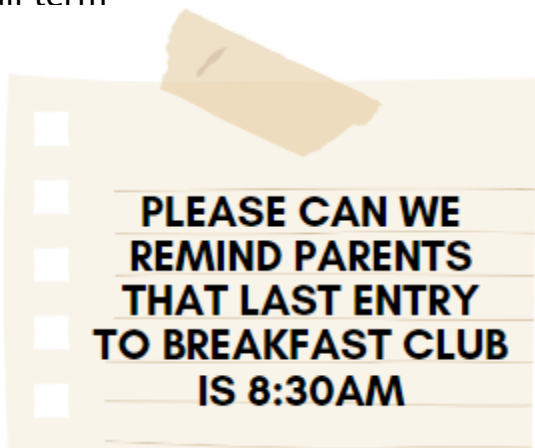
**15<sup>th</sup> January** – Deadline to apply for Reception September 2024 place

**26<sup>th</sup> January** – Year 3/4 Mini Basketball Tournament

**7<sup>th</sup> February** – Kurling Event – selected children

**12<sup>th</sup> February** – Year 6 Whickham School Visit to watch performance

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** – Half term



**PLEASE CAN WE  
REMINDE PARENTS  
THAT LAST ENTRY  
TO BREAKFAST CLUB  
IS 8:30AM**

### [A note from Mrs Hocking...](#)

By now, I know you will have all read our Chair of Governors letter about my appointment to another Gateshead school. This week, I have also shared the news with our children. When I took over as Headteacher, 5 years ago, my ambition for our school was two fold. One to ensure every child reaches their academic and personal potential whilst in our care and the second being a school which is a beacon of success for the authority. I am proud to say both have been achieved. We are regularly sign posted as examples of best practice. This happens because the entire team go above and beyond to ensure all we do is right for the children. The entire team drive the school ethos.

Leaving has been one of the most difficult decisions I have made in my career, Swalwell will always hold a special place in my heart but this move is to the right school and at the right time for Swalwell and my family. I know I have spoken with some of you personally but I did want to take this chance to share these thoughts with you all. I am confident my successor will share the same vision and values as the governing body and I will ensure a smooth handover of information is achieved. Until then, we still have a wealth of events to look forward to and enjoy.

### [Reception 2024 admissions](#)

We would like to remind those who have not done so already, that you must apply for your child's Reception place for September 2024 by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Please apply online at [www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/2796/Primary-school-admissions-September-2024](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/2796/Primary-school-admissions-September-2024)

### [Wonderful news!](#)

Congratulations goes to Miss Foley and her partner who are expecting their second child together next year. We look forward to seeing her bump grow!

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs McAvoy who welcomed their beautiful daughter in recent weeks.

### [Farewell Mrs Leaver](#)

Today all children and staff said goodbye to Mrs Leaver. We wish her lots of luck in her new role and look forward to her visiting Swalwell Primary in the future.

### [After School Provision](#)

PEAK sport provide paid after school care until 5:30pm daily (5pm on a Friday). They are reducing their fees after the Christmas holidays to **£5.50** per session. For all bookings, questions and queries contact PEAK at [www.peak-sport.co.uk/swalwell](http://www.peak-sport.co.uk/swalwell), info@peak-sport.co.uk or 0191 704 2022.

### [Timings of the school day](#)

Our FREE breakfast club begins at 8am until 8:40am (last entry at 8:30am). The Key Stage 1 gate will be opened at 8:45am and **School begins for all children at 8:50am** and ends at 3:20pm. Children who arrive later than 8:50am, will be marked as late. Nursery children who attend for 15 hours should attend from 8:50am to 12pm.

*Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2024!*