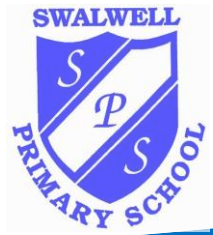


# Swalwell Primary School

## Autumn Term 1 Newsletter 1

[www.swalwellprimary.org](http://www.swalwellprimary.org) | 0191 433 4000 | [swalwell@gatedu.org](mailto:swalwell@gatedu.org)



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this finds you all well. For those of you who have been with us for a while, welcome back. I trust you have had a lovely summer. Those families who are new to Swalwell – welcome to our school. We look forward to working with you and your children and watching them grow.

Children have made a wonderful start to the autumn term. School is calm and purposeful and everyone is smiling. Although not as much as you all were as you waved goodbye to them on Tuesday morning!

As we end the first week of the academic year, I encourage you to take 5 minutes to read some reminders and updates in this newsletter.

I wish you all a restful weekend. Enjoy the sunshine.

Take care.  
Mrs Rachel Hocking

### School Carpark

Please can we remind parents that for health and safety reasons, the school carpark is only to be used by school staff and contracted vehicles. Parents should not pull into the car park to drop off and collect children.

Parents of wheelchair users can continue to use the designated disabled bay.

### KS2 Walkway

Please can parents not walk along the back of the key stage two classrooms. There are a number of raised flagstones which need relaying. For everyone's safety, we are not using this as a walk way. If you need to access the Key Stage Two yard, please do so via the breakfast club gate (main gate). If you have children to collect from early years or Key Stage one, staff will wait with Key Stage two learners until you collect. Many thanks for your support in this regard.

### Timings of the school day

Our FREE breakfast club begins at 8am until 8:40am. The Key Stage 1 gate will be opened at 8:45am. **School begins for all children at 8:50am** and ends at 3:20pm. Nursery children who attend for 15 hours should attend from 8:50am to 12pm. Children who arrive later than 8:50am, will be marked as late. Children who are not collected by 3:30pm on more than 1 occasion will be placed into Peak wrap around care and will be charged £7.50 on collection.

### Dinner Money Increase

We would like to remind parents that the dinner money charge has increased to £2.50 per day for Year's 3 to 6 and £2.00 per day for Nursery. Dinner money must be paid in advance of a meal being taken. Please make any payments using ParentPay.

## After School Provider

Our new After School Provider called Peak Sport began their paid provision until 5:30pm for parents this week. Peak Sport provides a service fully independent of Swalwell Primary and all bookings, questions and queries can be directed to the link to the website, email or telephone number. [www.peak-sport.co.uk](http://www.peak-sport.co.uk), info@peak-sport.co.uk or 0191 704 2022.

## Playground Markings

You may have noticed at school drop off and collection this week, our new playground markings. We think they look fantastic and really brighten up our outdoor spaces.

## Earrings/ Ear Piercing

As per our uniform and health and safety policy earrings should not be worn in school. Children who come to school wearing earrings must have them covered. As it was advised that children had their ears pierced at the beginning of the summer holidays, it is expected that all earrings will be removed after October half term.

## Juice in Bottles

We know of the importance of keeping hydrated throughout the day as this helps us to learn; however, we ask only water is in bottles not juice. Many thanks for your support and understanding in this.

## Non-Uniform Days

As a mam of two primary-aged children, I know how challenging it can be to remember which days school are celebrating, when non uniform day will be etc. I also appreciate, with the cost of living crises we are currently experiencing as a nation how expensive such things can be. Therefore, in a bid to overcome such barriers, the leadership team have planned events we will participate in this year. Prior to each event, we will operate our usual 'swap-shop'. There is no expectation to buy new.

The events we will participate in are tabled below:

Date	Event	Information
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Jeans for Genes	Children to wear and item of denim or non-uniform of their choice Children can also wear uniform and accessorise with something denim/blue e.g. hair band, jacket etc. We invite a 50p donation for this charity.
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Children in Need	Children are invited to come in non-uniform. We invite a 50p donation for this charity. Children are welcome to wear uniform if they would prefer.
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Christmas Jumper/PJ day	This is a Swalwell favourite! Children are invited to come to school in either a Christmas jumper or their pyjamas! No donation is needed.
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	World Book Day	Children are invited to come in non-uniform/fancy dress etc. Children are welcome to wear uniform if they would prefer.
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Comic Relief	Children are invited to come in non-uniform. We invite a 50p donation for this charity. Children are welcome to wear uniform if they would prefer.

## Term Dates 2023-24

Please see the term dates for this academic year below. We ask that, as per Government guidelines holidays are booked during school holidays. Holidays taken during term time will be unauthorised and a fine may be issued by the local authority.

<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>October Half Term Holidays</b>	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
<b>Autumn Term 2</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December
<b>Christmas Holidays</b>	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December – Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>February Half Term Holidays</b>	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February – Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Easter Holidays</b>	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>May Half Term Holidays</b>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May
<b>Summer Term 2</b>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July