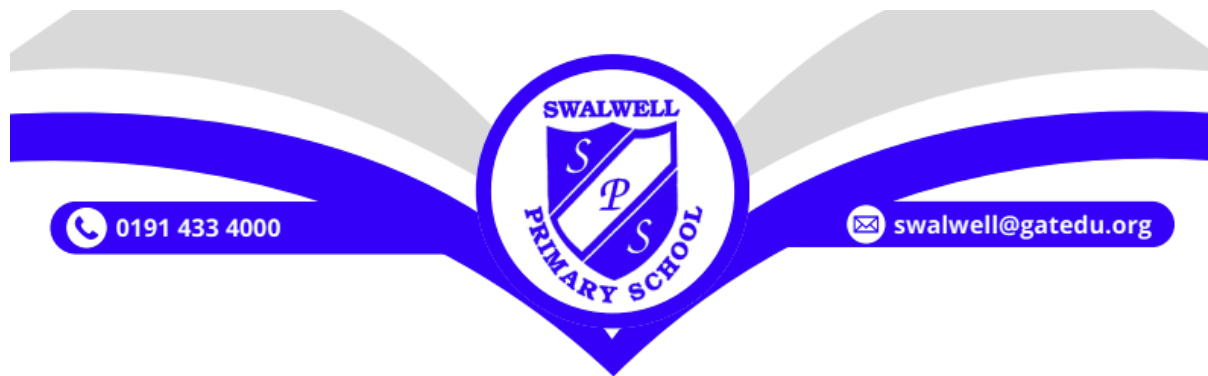




Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer break and this finds you all safe and well. The weather has certainly been kind to us. This makes all the difference!

As we begin a new academic year, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our families. For those who are new to Swalwell Primary School, we are delighted that you have joined our school community and look forward to getting to know you and your children. For families who have been part of our school for some time, I am pleased to welcome you back and look forward to continuing our partnership in supporting your child's learning and development.

It is particularly special for me to be returning to Swalwell Primary School as Executive Headteacher. Having previously served as Headteacher here, I am delighted to be rejoining this wonderful school community and working alongside our pupils, families and staff once again. It is a privilege to play a part in each child's educational journey, and I am excited about the opportunities that this new school year will bring.

To help families plan for the year, I am writing to share some key dates and important information for the academic year. This information will also be included in our weekly bulletins and on the school website.

PE Days

In order to support fundamental life skill and preparation for the future, children in Years 1 - Year 6 are asked to get changed into PE kits in school. We have allocated changing areas/rooms around school in order to accommodate this. This is based upon the phase in which the children are educated. Children are welcome to keep kit in school or bring it in on PE days however we recommend bringing PE kit into school on a Monday and taking home on a Friday for washing. PE days for each class are listed below:

- Monday: Year 6
- Tuesday: Year 5 & Year 6
- Wednesday: Year 1 & Year 2
- Thursday: Year 5 (Swimming)
- Friday: Year 3 & Year 4

Forest School and Muddy Monsters

Following the success of last year's Forest School programme, we are delighted to continue our partnership with Muddy Monsters this academic year. This year, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3/4 will take part in weekly Forest School sessions every Thursday.

We ask that children in these classes come to school every Thursday wearing old, weather-appropriate clothing and footwear suitable for outdoor learning, as Forest School activities can be muddy. In addition, children should bring a spare set of clothes and footwear to change into

after their session each week. Please ensure they are dressed appropriately for the weather, including a waterproof coat if needed.

Breakfast Club

We have a FREE breakfast club from 8am each day funded by Greggs and staffed by members of our staff team, in the school hall. All children are welcome to attend, just come along on the day – no need to book. Last entry to breakfast club is 8:30am. Drop off for breakfast club is on the Key Stage Two playground via the hall doors.

After school wrap around care:

Swalwell Stars runs every night until 5:00pm. Such facility is operated by our staff team, once again, in the school grounds. The cost is £8 per child from 3:20 until 5pm. Bookings and payments can be made via your ParentPay account. We accept also accept payment via the government's Tax-Free Childcare scheme, please contact the school office for further information on this.

Celebrated Events in School

Below is a list of some celebrations in school and parent events. More information will follow closer to individual events. Throughout the year more will be added, sporting events and trips, for example. PLEASE NOTE - Whilst we will try to keep to these, dates, some may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

September	
30 th	Parent Phonics Workshop - 2:30pm. Session for parents with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. An insight as to how we teach phonics in school and how you can support your child.
October	
5 th	Phototronics – Individual & family photographs
6 th	Reading Breakfast – 9am - Parents invited. More information to follow.
19 th & 20 th	Autumn Term Parents Evening. Sign up slots to be shared closer to the event (3:45pm – 5:45pm).
21 st	ARMS Coffee Afternoon - 2.15pm Coffee afternoon for parents of children in our ARMS units – opportunity for parents to meet.
23 rd	Halloween Disco – during school day. Halloween Themed Lunch - charged at standard lunch rate.
November	
w.c. 9 th	Anti-bullying week in school. More information to follow.
13 th	Children in Need
December	
3 rd	Christmas Fair – Parents Invited – 2:30pm.
4 th	Christmas Craft Morning – Parents Invited – 9am to 10am.
7 th	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Christmas Performance – 2pm
8 th	Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Performance – 2pm
10 th	Early Years Christmas Performance – 9:15am
11 th	Christmas Lunch – charged at standard lunch rate
14 th	Early Years Christmas Party (am) Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Party (pm)

15 th	Whole School Pantomime Visit (am)
16 th	Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Party
17 th	Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Party
18 th	Christmas Jumper Day

Communication

During the last year we have refined our communication channels with you. The following approaches will be taken:

- **Arbor – in app messages and email:** this is our main channel of communication to share information with parents.
- **Weekly Bulletin:** Events for the week ahead will be shared with any timely reminders.

Please do remember to follow our school Facebook page and website where we will share celebrations and upcoming events in school.

Term Dates 2026-27

School opens to Reception-Y6 pupils on Wednesday 2 September 2026

(INSET Day Tuesday 1 September)

Autumn Half Term Break 2026: Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October

Christmas Break 2026: Monday 21 December to Friday 1 January

Spring Half Term Break 2027: Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February

Easter Break 2027: Friday 26 March to Friday 9 April

Summer Half Term Break 2027: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June

Summer Break 2027: School closes Friday 16 July

Children will return to school for next academic year on **Monday 6 September 2027**.

Many thanks for your support, I look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Take care.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Rachel Hocking

Executive Headteacher