



Swinton Primary School

Newsletter No. 02 – September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our first term in school, we hope you have found the curriculum newsletters helpful when talking to your children about what they are learning. We continue to explore and deliver our vision, values and aims through our interdisciplinary learning and we celebrate our pupils' successes in learning and recognise wider and personal achievement through our star pupil awards.

Classes are settled, engaging in their learning and there is a positive, welcoming and hardworking atmosphere across the school.

We are focusing on the importance of children wearing school uniform.

We all work hard to ensure our school is a kind, safe, inclusive and respectful place of learning where children can feel proud of their school and community. As a staff we encourage and support our children to wear their school uniform and our P7's their senior jumpers, both in class time and for PE. We believe wearing school uniform develops a sense of belonging and supports the development of positive relationships across the school. The school jumpers have a simple design to allow comfortable movement and enable children to participate in all the activities we do in school safely.

We will be delivering a virtual harvest assembly focussing on the work of the Hirsell Estate. Children can pick the apples from the orchard this week. If you would like a bag of apples, we will leave them outside in boxes at the front of the school and you can collect them yourselves.

We would like to wish all our families an enjoyable October break.

Please remember that Monday, 18th October is an In-service day for staff. School resumes for pupils on Tuesday, 19th October.

As the weather is now turning a little colder, please ensure your child brings their school jumper and a coat to school every day. **Please ensure all items are marked with your child's name so that we can return them if they are mislaid.**

Contacting the School

If you have any queries relating to your child's wellbeing or their learning then please email Mrs Berrett or Mrs Watson in the first instance or your child's teacher directly on their glow account. We will ensure the correct member of staff deals with your query.

Absences, lunch queries or pick up / drop off arrangements or appointments should be phoned into the school office on 01890 860237.

Wider & Personal Achievement

The children have been enjoying exploring and developing ideas for our school grounds, making bug hotels to attract biodiversity and learning the skills of collaboration and team work in small groups.

ELC

Spaces are still available at our ELC setting where your child will enjoy their nursery experience in the same building where they will attend school, allowing them to become familiar with the building, staff and their peers before starting Primary 1. If you wish to enrol your child at Swinton ELC please follow the link:

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20038/school_and_nursery_places/528/early_learning_and_childcare/8

Swinton ELC's Vision is to provide "A place we can work together to grow, learn and challenge ourselves."

Here are some testimonials from our parents from last term

'Our daughter has thoroughly enjoyed her time at Swinton nursery. She settled in quickly and has really grown in confidence and independence in the year she has spent there. The staff are fantastic, creating a fun, caring and happy environment for the children to thrive in. We would not hesitate in recommending Swinton nursery to other parents.'

'We would highly recommend Swinton Nursery to anyone looking for a nursery in the area. The nursery has a lovely warm and inviting feel, which was very important to us. Every day there is a new activity planned. The staff are just wonderful, caring, nurturing and supportive.'

'A fantastic start to nursery, a warm and gentle environment to learn. Encouraging, positive and happy nursery staff who do a wide variety of things with the children. I couldn't ask for more from a nursery. Thank you.'

After-School Netball Club

Mrs Matthews will be running a Netball Club for Primary 5/6/7 every Thursday after school from 3:30 - 4:30pm. These sessions begin on Thursday, 21 October and will help teach your child skills and confidence in preparation for the Small Schools Netball Competition on Thursday, 11 November in Galashiels. Details to follow.

Parent Council

We now have newly appointed members of our Parent Council.

Chairperson:	Cat Macdonald-Home
Secretary:	Rachel Weddell
Treasurer:	Samantha Jackson
Committee:	Sadie Ferguson, Amanda Aitken, Marianne Hodge, Ali McIntosh, Victoria Reid, Catherine Owen, Claire Shearlaw-Scott, Kelly Brown

The Parent Council works hard to ensure that Swinton Primary School & ELC is relevant, heard and present throughout Berwickshire cluster, the Scottish Borders and beyond.

We would like to thank the retiring chair, Marianne Hodge, for her continuous support over the last 4 years in her role as both vice chair and chair and during the current unprecedented times. She has continued to represent and put forward the views and queries of all parents and carers to both the school and to the wider parent forum within Scottish Borders Council. We would also like to thank Ali Mackintosh for her support and hard work within the treasurers role and particularly during a time when our fundraising has been both difficult to deliver and support. A huge thank you to all our parents who support our school in whatever way you can. The children benefit hugely from the invaluable fundraising that has been able to take place and enables the school to use a range of resources in order to deliver wider experiences both inside and across the school.

Swinton Primary School Parent Council is looking for parents to help with fundraising. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Cat at pcswintonprimaryschool@scottishborders.npfs.org.uk.

We would like to thank Marianne Hodge for organising the parents in painting the picnic tables and planters. They make the school look so bright and welcoming.

Murals

We would love to continue brightening up the outside of our school and wonder if there are any artists among our parents and carers who would be willing to volunteer their time to create a bright and welcoming mural(s) on our school walls. Please contact the school office if you are able to help.

P.E.

- Monday: All classes
- Thursday: P5/6/7 and P3/4
- Friday: P1/2

Please make a note of these days. Children should bring a waterproof coat and a bottle filled with water only.

In order to maximise the time children can participate in their PE lesson, we are continuing to ask that children come to school in their PE kit. This is on a trial basis for now. However, we recommend that a school jumper should be worn over their tops. We also recommend that children ensure they are prepared for both outdoor and indoor PE. We encourage a smart look in P.E. Please ensure your child's clothes fit appropriately and are suitable and safe for PE activities. Please be aware we do not allow club or national football or rugby tops.

P.E. kit is as follows:

- Leggings, track suit bottoms or shorts, T-shirt, gym shoes or clean trainers, sweatshirt and waterproof top for outdoor use only.

Mrs Mathews will inform children of the appropriate kit to be worn before each P.E. block.

School Uniform

We believe our school uniform helps children to develop a sense of belonging to their school community and we encourage our children to wear their uniform with pride. **Please ensure all school clothes are labelled with your child's name.** We have washed and gently used school uniform available in all sizes. Please contact the school if you would like to see these items which we have available to browse through.

All uniforms are available to order through Border Embroideries, who currently have a sale online and in store on plain and embroidered uniform. The maximum saving is 60%, with all items having a minimum of 25% off. The higher discounts only apply to uniform items overstocked after the back to school period - not all sizes/colours are included. The sale runs until the 1st of November.



ELC: <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/swinton-primary-elc-sweatshirt-216956.html>

P1-P6: <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/swinton-ps-sweatshirt-217555.html>

P7: <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/swinton-primary-sweatshirt-p7-only-216864.html>



Music Tuition

A reminder that Mrs Warren is in school on Tuesday mornings. All children should remember to bring in their instruments and music on the day.

It's Good to Grow with Morrison's

Can you help us get free gardening equipment for our school? It's easy to do. All you need to do is sign up to the Morrison's app between 6 September and 24 October and head to the 'It's Good to Grow' section and select Swinton Primary School. You will get one Grow Token for every £10 spent in store or online and you can donate these to the school via the app or website. We can then redeem these tokens against a wide range of gardening equipment for our school.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will be open from 8 am. For this week there is no need to book but we ask that you book through helen.tims@scotborders.gov.uk for next week. The cost is 20p per day. Please ensure your child arrives before 8:20am if attending Breakfast Club and uses the front entrance.

Water Bottles

We would like to ask that all pupils come to school with a water bottle (**clearly marked with their name**) every day. Please ensure that this bottle is only filled with water.

Snacks

We would like to remind parents that we are a **NUT FREE** school. It is very important that you do not send your child to school with any snacks containing nuts.



ParentSpace Consultation Day

We were really sorry to have to cancel our planned Consultation Day with Nature Unlimited last week, but fear not, it's back!

We try really hard to respond to the feedback you give us and one of the things you've told us is that it's hard to attend events when you have no childcare. So, we've combined the day with something for the kids this time during the October half term.

It's really important to us that we hear your views about what we're doing and we'd love you to help us shape the future of ParentSpace.

Thanks to the Corra Foundation and the Scottish Government Communities Recovery Fund we have funding to invite you to a Consultation Day on Tuesday the 12th of October from 10am to 2pm where we can take some time out to think about all this and plan how we want to go forward together.

We are delighted to have teamed up with the fabulous team at Nature Unlimited who are going to create a magical space in the woods, near Earlston, for us with a den, lunch cooked on the fire and a clay activity! While the adults are busy playing, primary aged children will be occupied on a Wild Woodlanders session and have a picnic - please bring a packed lunch for them.

So come with your thinking caps on and be prepared to have fun too!

Please let us know if getting to the wood would be a barrier to you attending as we are investigating options on transport.

Places are limited so get in touch with ali@parentspace.org.uk as soon as possible or by Thursday, 6th October!

We can't wait to hear from you!

Diary Dates

Please make a note of the following dates. Any changes will be communicated via group call / Facebook. Please note that under the current circumstances, dates may change at short notice.

Diary Dates for 2021/22	
Date	Item
Friday, 8 October	Last day for pupils and staff
Monday, 18 October	In Service Day - School closed for pupils
Tuesday, 19 October	Pupils resume
Thursday, 21 October	Afterschool P5/6/7 Netball Club - Details to follow
Friday, 29 October	Halloween Fun Day - Details to follow
Thursday, 11 November	National Dental Inspection Programme - P1/2 only
Thursday, 11 November	Small Schools Netball Competition - Details to follow
Monday, 29 November	St. Andrew's Day - School Closed
Tuesday, 30 November	All resume
Tuesday, 30 November	Whole School Flu Immunisations
Wednesday, 15 December	Snow White Christmas Panto - details to follow
Thursday, 23 December	Last day of term for pupils and staff
Monday, 10 January 2022	All resume

Coldstream Junior FC

Our sessions for children born in 2016 are starting next week!! Sessions will run 6pm - 6.45pm on Wednesdays.

To register your child for a place, please get in touch!
Places may be limited, depending on the level of interest!

