



STEPHENSON WAY ACADEMY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

-Headteacher: Mrs T Page

-Stephenson Way, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 7DD

-Tel: 01325 300324 -Email: office@swans.education -Website: www.swcps.co.uk



Spring 2 Newsletter (Week Ending 12.3.21)



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Spring term newsletter, the first one with everyone back at school since lockdown. It has been absolutely wonderful to welcome everyone back to SWANS this week: I have lost count of the number of children who have come to tell me how happy they are that they are back at school: so are we!

Risk assessment and Covid Guidance

Obviously we are still following all government Covid-19 guidance and stringent risk assessments are in place to ensure everyone's safety is a priority in school. We ask that any contact with school is made via telephone where possible but in the event that you do need to come to the office, a face covering must be worn. Please make sure that where possible, only 1 person drops off / collects children from school and that 2m social distancing measures are followed when on site. Thank you.

Online Safety

During lockdown, many children have been spending a lot more time than perhaps they normally would online. We have been made aware of several concerning incidents where children have unwittingly accepted friend requests from strangers, leading to them being sent inappropriate material. Please look at the NSPCC website for further information on how to keep your children safe online <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> There are also lots of useful links on our new school website www.stephensonway.co.uk

Y6 Easter Children's Raffle

This week, our Y6 pupils have decided to donate easter eggs for a children's raffle, raising funds to purchase Y6 Leaver's hoodies in the Summer term.

Staff have also very kindly donated goodies. Tickets will be on sale in each class from **Monday 15th March** at a cost of 50p per ticket. Tickets will be kept safely in school ready for the raffle to be drawn on the last day of term, Friday 26th March Good luck!

Red Nose Day

Will be on Friday 19th March. Children are invited to come to school in non-uniform, wearing Red Nose merchandise if they wish for a cost of £1 per child. Unfortunately, we will not be selling merchandise in school, due to current Covid restrictions.

World Book Day

We delayed our World Book Day until **Monday 26th April** as we wanted to make sure every child was back to school and fully involved. We will be welcoming the fabulous author Adam Bushnell to work with all classes on the day. Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character (don't go out to buy costumes, get creative and have a go at making your own!) We will also be launching our fantastic new SWANS 60 Bookflix reading reward system on this day.

Uniform

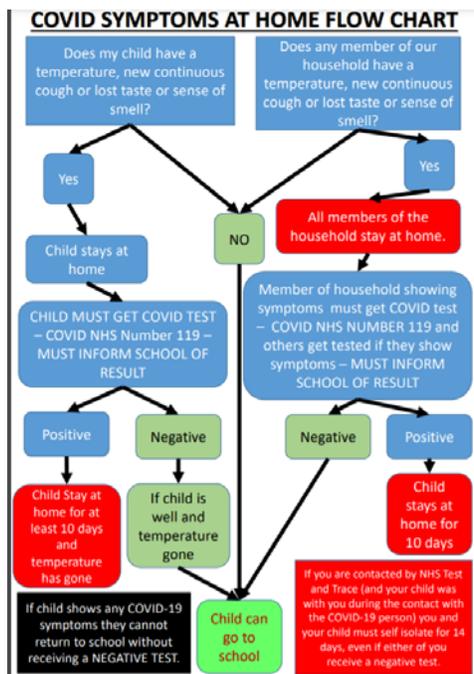
Many children have outgrown their current uniform throughout lockdown. If you need new uniform this can be ordered directly from www.elizabethsewbroedery.co.uk



Laptops: if you borrowed a school laptop during lockdown, please return to the school office by **Monday 15th March.**

Attendance

We have been delighted at the extremely high level of attendance on returning to school this week with an incredible average of 98%, well done everyone!



We continue to monitor attendance and lateness very carefully: lost days mean lost learning and we will contact any families where attendance is below that which is expected 95%, in line with the Local Authority Attendance procedures.

Medical evidence may be required for absences that fall below this point, letters have been sent this week as a reminder to any parents/carers who fall into this category

However, the vast majority of children attend school every day, making the best possible progress in their learning. Rewards are given during our weekly phase bubble assemblies, with the classes earning the highest attendance receiving 'eggs in the nest'.

The class with the highest average attendance each week is announced in our Phase assemblies every Friday.

Punctuality

We have attached a Late for School information sheet with this newsletter: please read carefully as there are some useful hints and tips to ensure your child arrives at school on time, well -prepared and ready to start the day.

Class Dojo

Thanks to everyone who has signed up and been using Class Dojo throughout lockdown. It has been a great way to keep in touch and complete home learning. We are looking to develop the use of Class Dojo going forward to further support homework / home learning. Please complete and return the attached consent form by Wednesday 17th March: all returned forms will be entered into a prize draw.

Please can I remind parents that any attendance reporting must not be made through Dojo and must be reported through the school office on 01325 300324.

Tea Time and Breakfast Club

Breakfast and Tea -Time Club are back up and running. All bookings must be made via the school office by midday of the Friday of the previous week. We have limited numbers available due to phase bubble constraints and therefore bookings cannot be taken after midday on Friday for the following week. Thank you.

After School Clubs

We continue to have reduced places for after school clubs due to current constraints. Demand for clubs is very high and to ensure fairness, we will operate a draw system, (rather than 'first come, first served'). If your child does not get a place, they will be placed on the reserve list in case anyone drops out or, for the next time the club runs, to have first refusal.

Change in circumstances

If you have recently changed your address, mobile phone etc. please make sure you let the office know so that we are able to contact you quickly in the event of an emergency. If you wish to change school meal arrangements (moving to packed lunch), we require 1 week's notice, please. Thank you

Term Dates 2020 - 21

Please note: school will be closed for staff training on the following dates:

- Friday 28th May 2021
- Monday 19th July 2021
- Tuesday July 2021



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| | Break up after school on | Return to school |
|------------------|--|--|
| Easter 2021 | Friday 26 th March 2021 | Monday 12 th April 2021 |
| May Day 2021 | Friday 30 th April | Tuesday 4 th May 2021 |
| Summer Half Term | Thursday 27 th May 2021 <i>(NB school closed Friday 28th for staff training)</i> | Monday 7 th June 2021 |
| Summer 2021 | Friday 16 th July 2021 <i>(NB school closed for staff training on 19th & 20th July 2021)</i> | Wednesday 1 st September 2021 |

Staffing Updates

I am delighted to announce that Mr Everson has been successfully appointed as Deputy Head at a local primary school after Easter. He will be a huge miss at SWANS, having been with us since being a fresh-faced student teacher 14 years ago! We wish him every success and lots of happiness in his new school.

I am also pleased to announce that Mrs Alton will be taking over from Mr Everson in Year 2 after Easter, having been promoted to Assistant Headteacher and SENCo. Year 3 will then be taught by Miss Widdowson when she returns in the summer term. Finally, congratulations also go to Miss Whitfield, who has been promoted to Assistant Head Teacher after Easter.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support in what has been a year like no other in the history of SWANS. We are looking forward to a successful and happy summer term, making up for lost time with lots of learning, fun and friendship!

Mrs Page☺
Head Teacher

