

Symington Primary School – Newsletter August 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,



Welcome back to the new academic year 2025/26! Our new P1 pupils have done so well in this first short week of this term. I hope that parents/carers are also doing well. It is a big step moving from EYC to school and not having daily contact with key workers.

The weather so far has been kind and enabled the children to be outside at every opportunity, may I remind you of sunscreen please with my fingers crossed that the weather continues. This newsletter is always a strange one to write as it feels very much like a list of reminders, when in actual fact, we are so busy from the get go – so here it is.

Welcome

We welcome a whole new P1 and several members of staff:

Miss C Devlin returns after maternity leave, to our office where she is joined this year by Mrs A Ferguson. Mrs R Wilson joins us providing reduced class contact time for teachers by delivering PE and languages to some classes. Mrs S Hamid Saleem joins us on Wednesdays as a Learning Support Teacher. Mrs F Hillan joins us in P3 as our Newly Qualified Teacher and will be supported/share with Mr Wilson.

Retirement

It is both happy and sad news from me as I announce my early retirement. After 17 years as Head Teacher at Symington and over 35 years as a teacher it is time to move on to a new phase of living and learning for me. Although I give you this news now, I will be with the school with my full commitment and aspirations for all until 19th December, when I will bow out. The process of appointing a new Head Teacher will begin immediately and the post will be advertised within the next week. Miss Smith our fabulous DHT wishes to continue in her role which she loves and will be an amazing support and guide to the new HT.

Learning in Classes

Your child will bring home the “Learning Link” for their class by the end of the week. This small document outlines the direction of learning for the term and how you might help/support your child. It will also tell you gym days and any requirements for your child. P6 and P7 will also be using Teams to share homework and reminders for the children throughout the year, as senior pupils we hope to build their independence in their learning. Please take the time to ensure they can log in.



Open Afternoon

We would like to invite you to an Open Afternoon on Thursday 18th September from 2pm. This is a relaxed time to go to your child's class see where they learn and meet the teacher and also have a coffee with other parents and a catch up before collecting your child at 3pm.



Bikability P6

Cycling proficiency training for P6 will begin in September – details to follow to P6

Swimming P5

P5 will receive swimming lessons. We are awaiting confirmation of venue and time but this is likely to happen very quickly.

ParentPortal, Parent Pay and Xpressions(Groupcall).

The above are all now used by the school for communication and secure document/info sharing. New P1 parents will be sent information on how to register and log in by our school office but registration and enrolment has to be completed before this is able to happen.so please return any documents as soon as possible.

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Parents' Evening

Formal Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 1st October and Thursday 2nd. You will be able to book your slot with your child's teacher through ParentPortal. We will of course remind you nearer the time.

School Lunches

School lunches for P1-P5 are still free this year. P6 and P7 must pay for meals at school and you remember to top up their Parent Pay account for lunches. You should be informed receive reminders immediately that your child has a negative balance. This can also happen for P1-5 pupils if they decide to have extra – this should only happen occasionally as usually children have to choose between a starter or dessert on the electronic system. You will still have a Parent Pay link for this regardless of the stage your child is in.



Out and About

P4 will be the first to venture out this year visiting Vikingar during the Viking festival on Friday 5th September. P7 embark on their Residential Visit to Dolphin House on Tuesday 23rd September.



Calendar

You will find an attached Parent Calendar with proposed dates of upcoming events, to help with busy family life. This will also be available on ParentPortal.

Reminders:

- Please put your child's name on EVERYTHING! (including Lunchboxes and bottles)
- Please ensure you have completed the Annual Data Check and permissions on Parent Portal
- PE kits into bags which can be left at school – we recommend checking gym shoe sizes each term.
- Make sure you are registered and logged into all communication channels.
- Front Entrance – tempting though it is, if your child is late or even struggling to enter school please **do not venture past the reception area** – a member of staff will come and help and escort your child safely to their room
- Parent Evening booking system

Holidays

Friday 19th and Monday 22nd September

Monday 11th October -until pupils return Tuesday 21st October.

School stops for Festive break 2.30pm Friday 19th December – pupils return Monday 5th January