



Swanmore CE (Aided)  
Primary School



# STARTING SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2024

(Information for Parents of Year R Children)



**The Journey Starts Here!**

**We would like to wish you a very warm welcome to  
Swanmore CE (Aided) Primary School.**

**This booklet is designed to provide information to help  
ensure that you and your child  
have a smooth transition to our school.**

# WELCOME TO SWANMORE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

I would like to welcome all parents, children, families and friends as you embark on your journey with our School. I hope you find this booklet useful and that it gives you all the information you need.

Early years are such a special and important time in children's lives. We strive to not only help the children make great strides in their learning but to also create some very special memories, not only during this first year but throughout the time your child spends with us at Swanmore Primary School.

In Year R learning predominantly takes place through play. Practitioners 'tune in' to your child and support their learning through well planned, stimulating and exciting activities in a safe learning environment. We aim to create a real love of learning which will last with your child forever.

We believe the success to your child's education is very much a partnership between home, school and the community. When your child starts in Year R, it is a point where home and school works for the same end, so your child is happy and makes progress in their learning. Children come to school with such a wealth of experiences and knowledge. It is our aim to build on this together, with parents to ensure that every child, no matter what ability or background really does get the best start to education.

I am very proud to be Head Teacher of Swanmore Primary School. We have a very dedicated and committed team who strive for the best outcomes for every child. The children are delightful and make this school a wonderfully rewarding place to work. Should you have any questions, please do speak to a member of the team.

I very much look forward to meeting you in person and getting to know your children as they thrive and mature with us over the next seven years.



John Paterson  
Headteacher

At Swanmore we want to provide a safe and happy environment in which our children can thrive and learn to love school. Days in Year R should be full of fun and intrigue where the children have the freedom to develop their creativity in all areas of the curriculum. Our children are able to free flow across both classrooms which are organised into discrete curriculum areas with high quality resources, which provide exciting and stimulating play opportunities. The Early Years' staff are partners in play; modelling the use of the resources, promoting language, encouraging problem solving skills and resilience while developing positive and happy relationships with every Robin and Wren.

Here are some of the things our team said when asked about what they wanted Year R to provide for our children:

- A warm, loving, safe and comfortable environment with a sense of belonging, supporting happy confident children
- Opportunities to be brave and foster an "I can" attitude
- Positive, caring relationships and mutual respect
- Opportunities for exploration, being curious, and asking questions.
- A life-long love of learning
- Inspirational and passionate teaching which empowers individual children to succeed
- Caring practitioners who develop relations with the child and their families to help them transition, settle and feel secure
- A rich variety of experiences to develop an enquiring mind & build skills
- Outdoor learning which engenders a love of the natural world and a respect for nature
- Encouraging children to be fair and tolerant, to contribute to and be involved with the wider community through visitors to school
- Reflective practice, a learning environment that is regularly adapted to reflect current interests and new skills to be acquired
- Enabling children to develop emotional resilience and well-being, a restorative approach to behavioural issues and to develop an understanding of right & wrong

## **A message from Our Early Year's Lead**

I am so happy to be welcoming you to our Swanmore Primary School family. We have two Reception classes, Robins and Wrens, and four full time members of staff, two Teachers and two Early Years Teaching Assistants.

Our Reception year is full of fun and we love playing alongside the children as they learn lots of exciting new things. We love being outside with the children watching the seasons as they change, especially on our welly walks. Throughout your child's time in Year R we will learn about many different things through our project work – space, woodland animals, dinosaurs, spring & new life, superhero's to name a few. Alongside this we teach phonics and maths in a fun and practical way which enables our children to make great progress. Suffice it to say your child's school journey is about to begin and we are sure it will be remarkable! We aim to give the children memories of a happy and exciting year in a place where they feel safe and loved.



Mrs. Jo Hughes  
Wrens Class teacher and Early Years Lead

## **A POSITIVE START IN SCHOOL**

Starting school is an exciting time with a wealth of new experiences and relationships to develop, but it can also be unsettling. At Swanmore we want to be able to offer the very best transition so that we can cater for all children's needs in the first few days and weeks.

### **THE TRANSITION PROCESS**

At Swanmore we believe that a happy start to school life is vital if the children are to enjoy and make the most of being in Year R. We offer a comprehensive transition programme to ensure that your child has a positive start at Swanmore Primary School.



### **INDUCTION EVENING**

We should like to welcome you to a Parents' Induction Meeting on the evening of Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm.

### **SONGS & RHYMES**

Our new children are invited to attend two out of our four Songs & Rhymes Sessions with a parent where they will have the opportunity to meet the team, see their classroom and join in with some activities. One quarter of the year group will attend each session which gives the staff the opportunity to spend quality time with them and their parents. Children will be put into their colour groups for these sessions prior to our evening Parents' Induction Meeting.

The dates for our Songs and Rhymes sessions are:

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June** Songs & Rhymes 1.30-2.15pm green group 2.30-3.15pm pink group

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June** Songs & Rhymes 9.15-10.00am yellow group 10.15-11.00am orange group

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June** Songs and Rhymes 9.15-10.00am green group 10.15-11.00am pink group

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June** Songs and Rhymes 1.30-2.15pm yellow group 2.30-3.15pm orange group

### **STAY & PLAY**

If your child attends Swanmore Pre School or the Greenery, the preschool staff will bring the children to visit school at least once. For all the children who attend alternative settings we would like to invite your child to stay and play for 45 minutes on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July between 10.30 – 11.15am. Parents may stay or leave if their child is settled.

### **STORYTIME DROP IN**

In addition we offer a drop in story time session in one of the Year R classrooms with a member of the team from 2.50-3.10pm on the following Wednesdays:

Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July



In June and July the Year R teachers will visit your child at their preschool setting to discuss your child with their current Key Worker and meet the children in an environment that is familiar to them.

### **Week One: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September (Tuesday – Monday) - Year R Home Visits**

During the period Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September, the Year R staff will carry out Home Visits in order to get to know the children in a familiar environment and chat through any concerns that parents may have. Appointments can be made at the Induction evening on 5<sup>th</sup> June or at the School office.

#### **WHICH OPTION TO CHOOSE?**

Starting school can be very tiring even for children who are used to full days at nursery. There are new routines to learn and relationships to develop, and with 60 children in the unit it will be a busy, bustling and highly stimulating environment.

For the remainder of the week 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September we offer a carefully planned induction schedule which enables all children to start school in small group sizes. As experienced practitioners we know that having all 60 children starting school on the first day can be over-whelming; and children are much more likely to thrive and feel confident in smaller group sizes and in a quieter environment.

### **Week Two: 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September (Tuesday – Friday) - Year R Part-Time Induction Week**

**Please note, whilst we recommend you try to observe our induction week, your child may attend full time from 10<sup>th</sup> September but this will have a knock on effect of increasing the number of children in each group.**

#### **FULL TIME**

In our induction week this lower child to adult ratio in our induction week enables each child to spend quality time with staff rapidly forming strong attachments. However, should you wish your child to start school full time from Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, we will accommodate your request.

Following on from our induction week when children have become familiar with staff, the environment, and the school routines we suggest that parents who wish to opt for their child to attend full time begin on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September.



#### **PART-TIME**

Alternatively children can continue to be part-time with a tailor-made schedule to suit the child's needs. All children need to attend for a minimum of 5 sessions (a session being a morning or an afternoon). We can finalise this at the home visit, and each week we can gradually increase the sessions up until October half-term. Of course, you may feel, by the last week of September, that your child is ready for full-time school. Once the children have had a few weeks in School we would like to invite you to a family picnic on the School field on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm.

The wellbeing of the children is at the heart of all we do at Swanmore. **Nothing is set in stone**, whether you have opted for part-time but find that your child is keen to attend more sessions or if your child is not coping

with full-time we are happy to adapt to make sure these vital first few weeks in school are a positive experience.

Children will be put into their Induction groups prior to our evening Induction meeting for parents' Induction meeting (Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm.)

<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b>
	Group 1 8.50am –12.00 No Lunch	Group 2 8.50am –12.00 No Lunch	Group 1 8.50am –12.45 Including Lunch	Group 2 8.50am –12.45 Including Lunch
	Group 2 1.30 until 3.20 / 3.30pm	Group 1 1.30 until 3.20 / 3.30pm	Group 2 1.30 until 3.20 / 3.30pm	Group 1 1.30 until 3.20 / 3.30pm

**You only need to consider the following section if you are opting for your child to attend part-time from 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

### **Week 3 Onwards: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September & onwards**

Children may attend full time or parents can select a part-time schedule to suit their child's needs – selecting to attend for a minimum of 5 sessions. (Please select below). Feel free to fill in this timetable ready for your home visit, however, if you would like advice on the best schedule for your child we can discuss this with you at your home visit. Please note we would like all children to attend school full time after October half term.

<b>Session</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Morning 8.50/9 – 11.50am					
Afternoon 1.15 – 3.20/3.30pm					



## **OUR VISION STATEMENT AND SCHOOL RULES**

### **OUR VISION STATEMENT**

Swanmore Church of England Primary School's Christian values of Honesty, Charity and Respect strive to develop children into caring, reflective and proactive individuals; aspiring for the greatest achievement in all they do, seeking to improve themselves and the world around them.

We are committed to providing a warm, caring and safe environment for all of our children so that they can learn and play in a relaxed and secure environment that mirrors our school values of Honesty, Charity and Respect. The school will use a positive behaviour approach to encourage and recognise good behaviour and consistently use a range of appropriate consequences to support children to use appropriate behaviour.

### **RULES**

The school has three rules: **Ready, Respect** and **Safe**

**Ready** – being focussed, motivated and prepared for learning.

**Respect** – looking after each other, the school environment and the equipment and resources.

**Safe** – managing risks and ensuring that their behaviour keeps themselves and others safe.





## **INDEPENDENCE**

When your child first starts school, parents obviously want to be involved and help as much as possible. However, by encouraging your child to become independent you build their self-esteem. This in turn will make settling into school routines easier and enhance readiness to learn. With classes of up to 30 being taught by one teacher and a teaching assistant, the children will soon need to develop their independence. Please support us and help them to become more independent at home too. Below is a list of self-help skills that you could begin to work on at home prior to them starting school.

**Sometimes parents think their children need to know how to write their name before starting school, but this is not the case. We would much rather teach the children in school as re-teaching the correct formation can take a long time and be disheartening for children.** However, it would really help your child if they are able to do the following things for themselves before they start school:



- dress and undress independently
- take off their shoes and put on Wellies, and vice versa
- put on, fasten, and take off, their coat
- go to the toilet independently, and flush it!
- wash hands after: using the toilet, engaging in messy activities and before eating
- be willing to try a range of healthy foods and drinks
- use utensils and feed him/herself
- blow and wipe their own nose
- sit and listen to a story
- have a go at holding a pencil for drawing
- practise sitting with their legs crossed
- count up to 10 (e.g when climbing stairs or stepping on paving stones)

## **THE SCHOOL DAY**

8.50/9.00am – 12.00pm

1. 15pm – 3.20/3.30pm

Entry to school in the mornings is from 8.50am onwards when the classroom doors on the Early Years playground is opened. Children need to be in by 9 in order to be registered. We also offer a staggered hometime from 3.20-3.30pm to reduce the number of adults waiting to collect in the Early Years playground, which ensures a more controlled and safer end to the day. Feel free to collect your child any time within this 10 minute window. Each child has a peg for their coat and PE bag and a tray for their bookbag. Water bottles and lunch boxes for those choosing to have packed lunch are placed on a trolley near the door.

## **LUNCH TIME**

All infant aged children are entitled to a free hot school meal. A sample menu is provided at the back of this booklet so you can see the range of meals provided. The menu runs on a three week cycle and offers a meat and vegetarian and jacket potato option each day. Alternatively you can provide a packed lunch to send in with your child.



Year R children begin lunch ten minutes earlier than the rest of the school and are introduced to school lunch routines by the Year R staff and lunchtime supervisors, who keep a particularly watchful eye in the early months. A senior supervisor is employed to co-ordinate the lunch time arrangements and a senior members of staff are always on site.

If your child does not want a school dinner please provide a healthy packed lunch. As we have a number of children who suffer from severe allergies to nuts and eggs we ask that you **do not send food items containing nuts or whole eggs** (such as Scotch Egg, etc) Children having hot dinners are given a cup of water. If your child has a packed lunch they can have squash, juice, smoothie or their water bottle.

### **SNACK TIME**

As part of our Personal and Social Education we teach children about healthy eating and all the children in Years R, 1 and 2 are offered a piece of fruit as a mid-morning snack. Year R operate a snack café system where they can eat their snack when they are hungry. We ask you not to provide alternative snacks as this undermines our aim of promoting healthy eating and broadening the children's tastes.

Children need to bring a water bottle to school as they are encouraged to help themselves to drinks of water throughout the school day. As part of our healthy school policy, **we only allow water in the classroom. Please do not put juice or squash in their water bottles.**

Please refer to the milk letter if you would like to order milk for your child to have at snack time. Milk is free for each child until their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. The school uses the Coolmilk Scheme to offer parents the opportunity to purchase milk for their child, following their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. If you are interested in this scheme please contact the school office once your child reaches 5 years old.



### **LESSON TIME**

During the day the children work together as part of a Year R team, in individual class groups, in small groups and one to one with adults depending on the type of task and the needs of the child. The staff work closely together to teach all the children in the year group. The staff recognise that the children will be at different stages in their knowledge, understanding and development and the next steps for all children are shared across the year group to ensure that all children achieve their potential.



### **FINDING OUT ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS**

Whilst interacting with the children in their play, various assessments will be made which will enable us to plan a curriculum which supports the interests of the children and extends their learning.

We use Seesaw, an online learning journal, to post observations and photographs of the activities the children enjoy throughout the year. This is a great tool for you to talk to your child about the work they have been doing, as we know that many of them will tell you they have been absolutely doing nothing!

During your child's first half-term at school they spend time getting to know classmates, and the Year R staff as well as establishing routines and independence.

Halfway through the autumn term you will be offered a parents' evening appointment with the class teacher and teaching assistant. This appointment lasts approximately 10 minutes and

will be an opportunity to share your child's experience settling into life at school. You will also have the opportunity to meet again during the spring term. Finally, in the summer term you will be given a summative report of progress through the Foundation Stage.

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENT**

**Working together ensures the smooth transition we want for you and your child.**

- We operate an 'open door' policy. If you ever have a query or a worry, no matter how small, always ask! There will always be a member of the Year R team at the door in the morning and end of the day.
- We will keep in touch with you through letters, project overviews and seesaw messages.
- We will give you a glimpse of what your child does at school through Seesaw updates. This contains activities they have been doing.
- We would encourage you to let us know of any changes in home or family circumstances as these will often affect your child's behaviour and attitude in school. You can use the school email address [adminoffice@swanmore-pri.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@swanmore-pri.hants.sch.uk) to send us messages if you can't see us in person. With a busy daily schedule, we will endeavour to reply to e-mails within 24 - 48 hours. Please see the class teacher or go to the school office if you have an urgent matter to discuss.
- We will hold meetings early in the year to inform you about reading and phonics.

## **CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES**

**PLEASE CLEARLY MARK ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.**

We expect all children to wear our school uniform. We believe this is important because it helps foster a positive attitude to school life. It enables them to experience a sense of pride in belonging to the School and be comfortably dressed for a working environment.

### **GENERAL UNIFORM**

- School polo shirt (these are easier when dressing than long-sleeved button-through shirts).
- Dark grey trousers or shorts, skirt or pinafore dress which they can put on and fasten themselves. (elasticated waists are much easier than buttons and zips). Using the toilet independently is a priority so please consider getting dark grey tracksuit trousers.
- School sweatshirt or cardigan.
- Blue and white check or striped dress for the summer.
- Plain and sensible black footwear (no trainers please) which your child can put on and fasten (Velcro fastenings are best, please do not buy shoes with laces)



### **OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

We use our outside environment every day. Our Welly Walks are often very wet and muddy. Please provide named waterproof trousers (please no all-in-one waterproof outfits) and a pair of Wellies then your child can enjoy splashing around in puddles to their hearts content!

Throughout the autumn and spring terms your child should have a coat in school. It is really helpful if they are able to put on and do up their own coat. In very cold weather a hat and gloves are often needed.

### **SAFETY IN THE SUN**

It is important that the children bring a named sun hat to school to wear during the hot weather. If you have a child who is particularly susceptible to sunburn please apply a high factor sun cream to your child's face, arms and legs before sending him/her to school.



## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE):**

For inside PE:

- blue shorts
- pale blue t-shirt

For outside PE:

- warm tracksuit trousers or jogging bottoms
- tracksuit top or fleece (very important in winter months!)
- plimsolls or trainers (velcro is best)

Please pack PE items in a drawstring bag (We do not have enough cloakroom space for rucksacks.) If it is a blue, school PE bag then a ribbon or small keyring will help to distinguish it from other children's bags. The PE Kit should be left in school as timetabling of activities can vary. It also provides a useful change of clothes.



In addition;

- spare socks and pants, in case of an accident (these can be kept in PE bag)
- coat, appropriate to the season
- warm hat and gloves in cold weather
- sunhat and sunscreen in hot weather

**ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.**

Lost property is kept in a cupboard in the hall.

## **JEWELLERY**

Children are not allowed to wear any jewellery apart from one pair of stud earrings. If your child cannot remove ear studs they must be able to cover them with sticking plasters or tape such as Micropore (not supplied in school) for PE lessons. Children should also not wear any make up, nail varnish or tattoos.

## **HAIR**

We recommend that long hair is tied up in a pony-tail or plait; this not only keeps it out of the way but helps to hinder the transference of headlice – a perennial problem! This is also a health and safety requirement for PE.

## **BOOKBAGS**

A school bookbag is available to carry library books, reading books and letters to and from school. Although keyrings and straps for bookbags are popular we have found that these make it very difficult for the children to fit their bookbags into their trays. We are therefore asking that these are **not** attached to their bookbags.



**Please do not carry water bottles in these bags** as we have sadly lost lots of books due to water damage. Children do not need any other school bag, rucksack or pencil case.

## **TOYS**

We ask that toys from home are not brought into school as they may get lost or broken.



## **MEDICAL CARE**

We have asked each of our families to complete and return to school a registration form on which any specific illnesses, allergies, etc are recorded. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure this information is kept up to date. It is essential to have a telephone number where a parent or guardian can be reached during the day should a medical emergency arise. We also ask for two other names and numbers for those occasions when parents cannot be contacted. If a child becomes unwell during the school day, we will do our best to make them comfortable and contact you (or your back-up) should the problem persist.



In the event of an accident in school, we will always administer basic first aid and make your child as comfortable as possible. Please only expect notes home for bumped heads or when Calpol or an Inhaler has been administered. Other medical treatment for cuts, bumps and grazes will only be recorded at school, a note will not go home. Should we feel that your child needs more medical attention than we can give, we will make every effort to contact you or your back up. If neither person is available, we will arrange to take the child to hospital, though rest assured this is a very rare occurrence!

**Please make sure that we are informed of any change of address and daytime telephone number.**

We do ask that all non-urgent medical appointments are arranged for outside of school hours. If a child is to be taken from school during the School day because of an urgent appointment with a doctor, dentist, etc, please let us know beforehand and they can be collected from the school reception.

Please do not bring your child to school when unwell since infections and illnesses can be quickly spread. We have a policy of 48 hours for diarrhoea and/or sickness before your child is allowed back to school. Some infectious illnesses require a minimum number of day's absence, eg chickenpox. If in doubt please seek advice from your G.P. or a Pharmacist.

## **MEDICINES IN SCHOOL**

It is only possible to administer prescribed medicines to a child in school if a consent form has been obtained and signed in advance by the parent. These forms are available at the school office or online from our website. Medicines must be brought in by the parent and delivered to the school office. Medicines must be in original containers, clearly labelled and accompanied by written instructions regarding dose and timing. We are able to administer Calpol for colds, headaches etc after obtaining permission from parents. Parents are able to complete and sign a form requesting that Calpol is administered on that day. This is available from the school office or from the website.



## **DIETARY REQUIREMENTS/FOOD ALLERGIES**

If your child has a food allergy or dietary requirement please could you use the following link to register this with our catering team before the end of June

<https://edwardsandward.co.uk/special-diets/>

Upon receipt of a doctor's note our caterers will plan an individual school menu that is suitable for them.

## **SCHOOL JARGON**

Re-entering the world of education, this time as the parent, can be a mystifying experience! Please ask if what we tell you does not make sense. Here is an explanation of some of our frequently used terms.



### **EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (Age 0 – 5 years)**

This is the first stage of formal education. It begins when a child first starts at a Pre-school or Nursery and covers the period until the end of their Reception Year (known as Year R).

### **KEY STAGE 1 (or KSI) (Age 5 – 7 years)**

This stage covers two academic years and is the first compulsory stage of education. On leaving Year R, children spend a year in Year 1 (Y1) and another in Year 2 (Y2).

### **INFANTS**

This is a collective name for Year R, Year 1 and Year 2.

### **KEY STAGE 2 (or KS2) (Age 7 – 11 years)**

KS2 covers four academic years Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 and is the last phase of Primary Education. Key Stage 3 begins at Secondary School.

### **JUNIORS**

This is the same as KS2.

### **PRIMARY SCHOOL**

This is a school that has children from Year R (aged 4) to Year 6 (aged 11)



### **EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE PROFILE (EYFSP)**

Throughout the first year at school (Year R/YR) a series of assessments and observations are carried out by the class teacher and teaching assistant. These provide information about each child's personal, social, emotional, physical and intellectual development and are used to plan activities and experiences to ensure continued progress during their first year at school.

### **EARLY LEARNING GOALS (ELG)**

If children achieve the expected level in each area of the curriculum they are judged to have achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD). At the end of Year R the children are assessed using 17 Early Learning Goals ELGs. This is the standard that children are expected to achieve by the end of Year R. There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes in early years settings. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas, the *prime* areas, are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These are:

- Communication & Language (including ELGs: Listening; Attention, Understanding & Speaking)
- Physical Development (including ELGs: Gross Motor Skills; and Fine Motor Skills)
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (including ELGs: Self-Regulation; Managing Self; and Building Relationships)

There are also four *specific* areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied:

- Literacy (including ELGs: Comprehension, Word Reading, and Writing)
- Mathematics (including ELGs: Number, and Numerical Patterns)
- Understanding the World (including ELGs: Past & Present, People, Culture & Communities, and The National World)
- Expressive Arts and Design (including ELGs: Creating with Materials, and Being Imaginative & Expressive)

## PLAYING AND LEARNING

Most learning is play-based, following the interests of the children. The environment and resources are carefully planned to ensure learning takes place when they are playing. Children initiate their own activities and adults play alongside the children, enhancing and adding challenge to their play. We also have directed or adult led activities each day. Our children have free flow across both classrooms and outside.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE LEARNING

These characteristics reflect how your child learns through building on their own interests, motivations and strategies for playful learning. There are three strands – playing and exploring, active learning, creative and critical thinking.



## KEY PERSON

A Key Person is a named member of staff within the Year R Team who will help your child become familiar with our classroom settings and routines and to feel confident and settled within it. They will develop a genuine bond with your child and with you, the child's parents, by offering a settled and close relationship. We have a 'paired and shared' Key Person approach which means that, although the children have a named Key Person (either teacher or teaching assistant) the other adult in the class, and in the year group, will also get to know every child and every child will know both them. This means that if a Key Person is not in school (through illness or out on a course) then your child will still feel secure and happy with the remaining adults. Our Key Person groups are named after native woodland animals. The Year R staff strive to;

- Establish a trusting relationship with parents/carers
- Develop good 2-way communications with parents to exchange information about the child by being available at the beginning and the end of the school day.
- Establish an affectionate and reliable close relationship with the child to ensure that the child feels special.
- Be informed about family background and home circumstances in order to better understand the child and support the family.
- Develop knowledge of the child's needs and interests.

## HOUSE GROUPS

Our school house groups are different colours - Red, Blue, Yellow and Green. Children are awarded house points and these are collected towards the weekly house cup presentation. Children work in house groups for occasions such as Sports Day. We introduce our house groups to Year R in the Spring term. If your child has a sibling in school already, they will be put in the same house group.





## SEESAW – ONLINE LEARNING JOURNAL

As we observe your child at play and work with them on directed activities we take photographs and make observations. We use this information to identify and support the next steps in their learning. We also use it as a tool to inform parents about the learning that has taken place in class.



## BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Soon after entry to school teachers in Year R are required to carry out a series of “baseline” assessments to find out about the children’s language, literacy and number knowledge at the start of their schooling. This takes about 20 minutes and is administered by their teacher.

## READING PARTNERS

Children across the school are paired with another class for reading activities. Year R children will be introduced to an older child in a Year 3 class. These “Junior Partners” regularly share books with the younger child, which is enjoyable for both children and can also enrich the reading experience. In addition this partnership fosters a sense of responsibility and a caring attitude amongst the older children and provides the younger children with a friendly face and a helper at lunchtimes and play times. They will have a new Reading partner (in Year 4) when they move up to Year 1.

## PHONICS

We use a scheme called Read Write Inc. Phonics to teach children the sounds that letters (or clusters of letters) make. This helps the children to read and write. All children in Year R and Year 1 have a half hour phonics lesson every morning; and Years 2 – 6 use the RWInc Spelling Program.



## PHONICS SCREEN

In the summer term in Year 1 the children are required to do a National test to assess their phonics capability.

## THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

This document guarantees your child’s entitlement to educational provision and lays down what should be taught in schools from Y1 (ages 5/6) to Y11 (ages 15/16).

## SATs

Standard Assessment Tests are conducted at the end of Key Stage 2 in order to measure an individual pupil’s levels of attainment and progress in English, Mathematics and Science. These tests take place in Y6.

## PUPIL PREMIUM

If you are receiving Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance or Income related Employment and Support Allowance your child may be supported in school with pupil premium finding.

At Swanmore we use this money to ensure that children from families who need financial support have access to the same opportunities as their peers, such as help with school trips, music tuition and additional classroom support. If you think your child may be eligible for Pupil Premium funding please ask in the school office.

## FOSPS

Friends of Swanmore Primary School is a marvellous group of parents who help to raise money for the school and enrich the children’s experience of being at Swanmore Primary School. From Saturday morning football and netball clubs, the Summer Fair, Fireworks Night, presents from Father Christmas, Film Nights and School Discos; not to mention Quiz Nights for the adults. FOSPS are always on the look-out for new recruits and it is a great way for new parents to feel part of the school community.



## YOU WILL NEED – SCHOOL KIT CHECKLIST

### GENERAL UNIFORM

- School polo shirt (these are easier when dressing than long-sleeved button-through shirts).
- Dark grey trousers or shorts, skirt or pinafore dress which they can put on and fasten themselves. (elasticated waists are much easier than buttons and zips - consider getting dark grey tracksuit trousers.)
- School sweatshirt or cardigan.
- Blue and white check or striped dress for the summer.
- Plain and sensible black footwear which your child can put on and fasten (velcro not laces and not trainers please.)



### PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE):

- A drawstring PE bag (not a rucksacks.)
- Spare socks and pants, in case of an accident (these can be kept in PE bag)

For inside PE:

- blue shorts
- pale blue t-shirt

For outside PE:

- warm tracksuit trousers or jogging bottoms
- tracksuit top or fleece (very important in winter months!)
- plimsolls or trainers (velcro is best)



### WELLY WALKS AND MESSY ACTIVITIES



- Waterproof trousers (not all-in-one suits please)
- Wellies

### SEASONAL

- coat, appropriate to the season
- warm hat and gloves in cold weather
- sunhat and sunscreen in hot weather

### IN ADDITION

- Bookbag
- Water bottle
- Lunchbox if not having school dinners



**ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.**

## YEAR R SCHOOL INDUCTION DATES CHECKLIST FOR YOUR DIARIES

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June** Year R Parents induction meeting 7pm

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June** School Readiness information meeting for preschool parents 6pm

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June** Swanmore Preschool & Greenery Stay and play



**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June** Drop-In Storytime 2.50-3.10pm

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June** Songs & Rhymes 1.30-2.15pm green group 2.30-3.15pm pink group

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June** Songs & Rhymes 9.15-10.00am yellow group 10.15-11.00am orange group

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June** Drop-In Storytime 2.50-3.10pm

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June** Swanmore Preschool Stay and play

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June** Swanmore Preschool & Greenery Stay and play

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June** Songs and Rhymes 9.15-10.00am green group 10.15-11.00am pink group

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June** Drop-In Storytime 2.50-3.10pm

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June** Songs and Rhymes 1.30-2.15pm yellow group 2.30-3.15pm orange group

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July** Parents bring children from other preschools stay and play 10.30-11.15am

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** Drop-In Storytime 2.50-3.10pm

**2<sup>nd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> July** Teachers on Nursery visits

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July** Drop-In Storytime 2.50-3.10pm

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> September** Teachers and TAs on Home Visits

**10<sup>th</sup> September – 13<sup>th</sup> September** Induction (part time) week

**Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> September** Full time (or those selecting part time option)

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September** Year R Family Picnic at 5pm



### **AND FINALLY . . .**

We appreciate that there is a lot to take in when your child starts school. Rest assured we are always here to answer your questions and hopefully put you at ease.

We will cover a lot of this information again at our Parents' Induction Meeting on the evening of Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm where there will be an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and discuss any questions you may have.

A warm welcome to Swanmore Primary School and very much look forward to seeing you at our transition events in the Summer Term and meeting you and your child very soon.

