COVINGHAM PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Covingham Connect

Our School Community Newsletter

FEATURE

CARE at Covingham

What a start to the year! Our classrooms have been buzzing with curiosity, and it has been a joy to watch the children throw themselves into their learning.

Our newest stars in Reception have settled in beautifully. They are already finding their way around, making friends and showing us how brave and independent they can be.

Across the school, our new routines are making a real difference. Walk down any corridor and you'll see calm, focused classrooms where children know what's expected and feel ready to learn. That's down to the children's hard work, support at home and our dedicated staff working together.



Coming up

Dates for your diary

NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER
5th	**10th & 12th**	**18th**	**30th**	**4th**	**9th**
Open Day for new starters 2027	Parents Evenings	Flu Vaccinations	Choir Christmas Concert	Friends Christmas Table Top Service	Christmas Dinner Day

Now that our recent visit from some familiar (and not entirely unexpected!) visitors is behind us, we can turn our attention to the next big event in the calendar… Christmas! The countdown is officially on…

The festive season is almost here, and excitement is already building in classrooms across the school! The next few weeks are always some of the busiest (and most magical) of the year.

Some classes will be holding their own festive treats, such as Christmas parties. Your child's class teacher will share the details on Class Dojo in good time, so keep an eye out for updates.

01793 525465 · admin@covinghampark.bluekitetust.org
https://www.cpps.swindon.sch.uk

Around school



YEAR 5

Trip to Butser Ancient Farm

Year 5 swapped the classroom for the ancient past on their recent trip to Butser Ancient Farm in Hampshire! Butser is an open-air museum where archaeologists have rebuilt homes from the Stone Age right through to Saxon times, so our pupils could see for themselves how people really lived. The children stepped inside the Iron Age roundhouses and the Saxon hall, made Bronze Age jewellery, and came back bursting with questions and stories. It was a brilliant way to bring our learning to life, and their curiosity was a credit to the school. A big thank you to the staff and parent helpers who made the day possible.

KS2

Mr Peet – Football Ref

I'm delighted to share that our Site Manager, Mr Peet, has kindly agreed to take on the role of our dedicated KS2 lunchtime football referee!
We are certainly a football-mad school, so it's fantastic that Mr Peet is willing to give up some of his lunchtime to support the children's games. His presence will help ensure that everyone is playing safely, following our football rules and, most importantly, enjoying the game in the right spirit.
A big thank you to Mr Peet for stepping up and helping to make lunchtimes even better for our children!

(Sadly, Mr Peet is also a very committed Arsenal fan, but he has assured me that this will not bias his lunchtime officiating in any way. Rest assured, this will be closely monitored…)





KS1

Diwali Celebrations

In Year 1 and 2, the children have kicked off their new topic, *Festival of Light*, with a fantastic immersive experience exploring Diwali. Kamala, from our friends at Keytime, visited the classes to share her knowledge of this important Hindu festival, explaining its traditions, significance and how it is celebrated by communities around the world. A wonderful opportunity for the children to bring their learning to life!

YEAR 6

Residential Trip to PGL



Year 6 have returned from an unforgettable residential at PGL Liddington, and what an adventure it was! Set among lakes and woodland, the centre gave our pupils the chance to try things many had never done before. There were nervous smiles at the top of the abseiling tower and the giant swing, and huge cheers as children zoomed down the zip wire. Teams worked together to build rafts (some more seaworthy than others!) and showed real focus and skill on canoeing lake. In the evenings, the fun carried on with a campfire and a disco that had everyone on their feet.

Just as impressive as the activities was the way our children conducted themselves. Staff at the centre commented on their politeness and teamwork, and we couldn't have been prouder. They encouraged each other, faced their fears and looked after one another all week: Covingham values in action. A huge thank you to the staff who gave up their time to make this trip possible.

SCHOOL PREMISES

Flooring Project and General Improvements

Our long-term programme of premises development continues to make great progress, with some significant improvements taking place over the summer and during the first term.

The KS2 flooring project is now complete, and many of our classrooms have also benefited from new carpets and furniture, helping to create welcoming and inspiring learning environments for our children.

We have also successfully secured a grant to redevelop the former KS1 ICT suite. This space will be transformed into a multi-purpose immersive learning environment, giving children exciting opportunities to bring their topics to life and deepen their learning through memorable experiences.

There is plenty more to look forward to as we continue to invest in our school environment!

SAFEGUARDING

Children's images on website and social media

Keeping children safe is at the heart of everything we do. With the rapid development of AI, there are growing concerns about publicly available photographs of children being copied, manipulated and misused. Organisations including the UK Safer Internet Centre, Internet Watch Foundation and National Crime Agency have highlighted the risks.

In response to this evolving safeguarding landscape, schools are being encouraged to avoid publishing identifiable images of children online, wherever possible.

Following careful consideration and consultation with The Blue Kite Trust and its Safeguarding Consultant, we have decided to remove existing photographs where children's faces are clearly identifiable from our school website and Facebook page. This process is underway.

Notices from our partners in the community



Are you team Santa or Rudolph?

6th December 2026

LYDIARD PARK

3K & 5K FUN RUN

All finishers receive a celebratory Christmas themed medal.

Registration opens from 9:30am and event starts at 11am.

www.register.enthuse.com/ps/event/SantavsRudolphRun2026

Scan the QR code to sign up

Sign up at: www. register.enthuse.com/ps/event/SantavsRudolphRun2026

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Swindon SEND Families Voice

Swindon SEND Families Voice are the parent carer forum for Swindon. We provide support and signposting to parents and carers of Children or Young People with SEND and additional needs aged from 0-25 (with or without a diagnosis).

SEND Meeting Support Service:
sendmeetingservice.ssfv@outlook.com

SEND Sharing Service:
sendsharingservice.ssfv@outlook.com

The SEND Room:
Find us on Facebook search: SEND Room Swindon
https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheSENDRoom/

Branches Support Group:
Follow our main Facebook Page for event posters and information:
https://www.facebook.com/SwindonSENDfamiliesvoice/

SEND Social Club:
sendsocialclub.ssfv@outlook.com

SEND Stay and Play:
sendstayandplay.ssfv@outlook.com

Reshaping Conversations:
https://reshapingconversations.com/

Listening Service Phoneline:
To speak to a member of the team please call;
07486 873 405

Main Email:
swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com

Website:
https://swindonsendfamiliesvoice.org.uk/



















To join our mailing list please scan the QR code

Our Service Offer To Swindon Families

Swindon SEND Families Voice

COMMUNITY

- SEND Sharing Service- Our lending library which allows families access to SEND related books, sensory toys, practical physiotherapy tools, SEND pushchairs and much more. For a yearly fee of just £3 families can access a whole library of useful and fun items! We also offer a free collection and delivery service for items borrowed. The SEND Sharing service has proven itself to be an invaluable SEND Community resource.
- SEND Information Packs- Each year we create information packs for Reception age Children who are identified as having additional needs (no diagnosis required) by their Educational/Childcare setting to help Parents and Carers navigate this time of transition. We reach out to schools, nurseries and home educators to help provide information with a personal touch. A gift from our family to yours.
- The SEND Room- Bringing Parents together through our online Facebook Community of over 2,500 parents and carers of children and young people with SEND in Swindon.

CONNECTION

- Breakfast Catch Ups- Parent Carers tell us that one of the best forms of support they access is solid, strong connections to other SEND Families going through similar lived experiences. No child with SEND is ever the same, but parent carers often find common ground. Our regular half-termly Breakfast catch up is an opportunity for carers to chat, socialise and come together for a couple of hours of good company.
- Coffee Mornings, Stay and Play and Social Club Sessions- We support Families through our regular Coffee Mornings at Local Primary and Secondary Schools, Nurseries and through connecting with Local Community groups and projects that support families. We also run Stay and Play sessions for children under 5 and a Social Club for young people aged 13 - 25. These services provide a more informal and relaxed approach that allows parents to access face to face support whilst connecting with other SEND families.

SUPPORT

- Phoneline- Our phoneline is available to parents and carers who might need a listening ear, an extra boost of courage or some much needed emotional support for those tricky days. As parents of SEND children ourselves we understand how difficult the journey can be. One of our experienced team members is there to give parents and carers their time and support.
- Branches- Our support group Branches runs on a monthly basis and alternates between evenings and the day time. We have guest speakers such as professionals who can provide important up-to-date information about local SEND services and experts in various SEND related topics such as Challenging Behaviour, Autism, Anxiety, Toileting and Sex and Relationships for SEND Teens. The group also allows parents and carers to connect with each other and with The SEND Families Voice Representatives.
- Meeting Support Service- We are able to provide in person support at meetings to local SEND Families. Meetings such as Team Around the Child (TAC), Community Paediatrics appointments, School Attendance Meetings etc. At each meeting we will type up a set of notes and offer genuine emotional support, as we know from personal experience that these meetings can be overwhelming.

VOICES

- Strategic Meetings and Co-production- One of Swindon SEND Families Voice key roles behind the scenes is championing parent carers voices through the co-production that we take part in everyday with our strategic partners. These include Social Care, Health, Libraries, Community Groups and Projects, Education and other Council Departments such as the Travel team. Through this collaborative working we can spread and share important information. We work hard to improve the lived experiences of SEND families in Swindon by sharing their views and experiences with key stakeholders to effect positive change. We attend on average anywhere between 50 and 70 meetings a month making sure that SEND is always at the heart of planning and development of these vital public services and that parent carer voices are always heard.
- Reshaping Conversations- is our ongoing project looking to influence and improve the language of professionals and the wider public when talking to or about children and young people with SEND. We want to make Swindon (and the world!) a much more inclusive environment that allows SEND families to feel valued. We have teamed up with other local SEND groups to put together a website, booklet, video and training module. Our training module has now been taken up by Swindon Borough Council and local Health Services and has been used as mandatory training. We aim to keep the project going and keep reshaping even more conversations.