SWISS GARDENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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3rd September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome to Early Years at Swiss Gardens Primary School. The first steps on your child's school journey have begun!

The Early Years Team are looking forward to getting to know you and your child.

John Bond Class
Miss Earl will be teaching the children Monday-Thursday.
Mr Johnson will be teaching the children all day on a Friday, whilst Miss Earl has her Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) and ECT (Early Career Teacher) time.
Miss Sturgeon is John Bond Class Teaching Assistant and will be in class supporting children every day.

Julia Donaldson Class
Miss Finley will be the Julia Donaldson class teacher.
Mrs Phillippo will be teaching the children on a Friday morning, whilst Miss Finley has her Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time.
Miss Wozniak is Julia Donaldson Class Teaching Assistant and will be in class supporting children every day.

PPA is statutory time for all teachers to plan and prepare.

This Term's Topics:

We have many exciting things planned for this term. Our first topic is **Marvellous Me!** followed by **Once Upon a Rhyme**. You can find more about our learning this half term by looking at our topic web.

The second half term's topic is **Celebrations!** We will explore different celebrations and festivals around the world. We will be organising a nativity show for parents and carers - watch this space!

Phonics and Reading:

Children will be introduced to our Phonics scheme - **'Song of Sounds'** to learn and secure their letter sounds, letter blends and early letter formation. The children will bring home a book to support recognising and blending sounds matched to their individual reading ability. Please read daily with your child and record reads in their **reading record**. These will be coming home in your child's bookbag in the coming weeks, once we have assessed the children's reading skills.

Each week, the children will have a half an hour slot visiting our vibrant school library, where they will get the opportunity to select and sign out a book to bring home for the week.

We will be inviting you all to a parent phonics meeting later this term, where we will discuss all things phonics and reading! Dates will be confirmed soon.

PE

Our PE day is on a Wednesday. The children must arrive in their PE kits on this day with ear tape on if they have their ears pierced and long hair tied up. **Please ensure all PE kit is clearly labelled**.

Rewards:

In Reception, your child will be able to earn rewards in many different forms, for example verbal praise, stickers, house points, class Pots of Gold which build up to an end of half term class treat and weekly Golden Time on a Friday.

On a Friday, we will choose a Star of the Week. Our Star of the Week will take home our class cuddly toy for the weekend, along with the toy's diary and a book by our class author. Families are encouraged to enjoy the book together and help their child add something to the diary. This could be drawings, writing or photographs. Please return the bag, toy, diary and book on a Monday.

We will also be awarding a celebration certificate to a child in each class each week for something special they have achieved. When the children are more settled into school life, we will attend the whole school celebration assembly which is held on a Friday.

Any Other Business:

• Please ensure coats come into school as the weather changes.
• Please ensure your child brings in a water bottle daily.
• Break time snacks - children in Key Stage 1 and Early Years are entitled to a free piece of fruit or veg provided by the NHS. If your child doesn't like the daily offer or would like to

bring their own snack in, please feel free, but only pure fruit or veg or pieces of cheese. Nothing laden with sugar! Chocolate bars and breakfast bars are not permitted.
PLEASE REMEMBER, WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL, THEREFORE NO SNACKS OR LUNCHBOXES SHOULD CONTAIN NUTS.

If you have any questions or queries, please email the office and we will get back to you within two working days. We have an 'open door policy' and are happy to talk at the end of the school day on the gate.

We look forward to an exciting school year ahead.

Yours sincerely,
The Early Years Team
Miss Finley, Miss Earl and Mr Johnson – Class Teachers
Miss Wozniak and Miss Sturgeon – Teaching Assistants