

Swallow Class Newsletter

This newsletter will tell you all about the routines and systems of Swallow class. If you have any questions please do come and speak to me after school, or if you would like a longer meeting please come and organise a convenient time and date.

Communication

I will keep you informed of any concerns I have and report to you anything you need to know about your child's behaviour and learning- good or bad. Please keep me informed of any changes at home which may affect their learning. I will use the texting service to keep you up to date and be available before or after school to chat about anything you may need to discuss. Please feel free to pop in and let me know informally how your child is finding their new class- it's always nice to put faces to names before the first parents' evening.

Groupings and tables

Children will work in different groups for different lessons. For Guided reading, maths and English lessons, children will work with other children of a similar ability. Children will also be a member of a topic group. Topic groups are changed each term, they give children the opportunity to work with a wider range of children and encourage them to support each other in different ways.

PE and Games kits

PE will take place on a Tuesday afternoon and on a Friday morning. Children should wear correct school kit ideally brought in on a Monday and taken home on a Friday. All kit should be named clearly and kept in a clearly named kit bag.

Children will need an indoor PE kit:

- house t-shirt,
- black or blue shorts/joggers and
- daps/trainers.

Children will also need an outdoor Games kit:

- house t-shirt,
- blue Hawkesbury sweatshirt,
- Blue/black jogging bottoms and
- trainers.

Mathletics

At the beginning of October your child will start to use Mathletics as part of their Maths learning program at school. Mathletics is the world's most used education website! It is the next generation in learning, helping students enjoy maths and improve results. This means that your child will also have take-home access to Mathletics. We will be providing you with more information and your child's log on details later this term.

Loo breaks

Year 3 and 4 children should use the junior toilets in the junior corridor, unless they are desperate and need to use the nearby infant toilets in our corridor. Children may use the toilet when they need to as long as there is no one else already there. They write their name on a chart so I know who is there. Children are encouraged to go to the loo at playtime and lunchtime rather than during the start of the next lesson.

Reading books

In the juniors children are taught reading skills during group guided reading lessons and are heard read individually less often than in the infants. Please continue to listen to your child reading at home individually. Even confident readers benefit from this, as well as having time being read to and having time reading independently. Throughout the year please encourage your child to take increasing responsibility for changing their reading books themselves when they need to (we will help them learn how to do this). We have invested a lot of money in books over the years and extended the reading scheme to cover all year groups and abilities. Your child will have a reading book from the band they are currently at. However, they will also be encouraged, especially as they become more confident, to choose from a range of other books in the Bookery, junior corridor and from the class reading corner. We regularly discuss books and children share their favourites enthusiastically, making recommendations to each other.

Guided reading sessions are adult led and for small groups focusing on developing skills in different areas of reading. These include: reading strategies including decoding; understanding the text; using inference skills (reading between the lines); identifying how texts are organised and presented; writers' use of language; contexts of writing and the effect on the reader.

Homework and spelling

Swallow class will get homework **every Thursday** and should hand it in on the **following Wednesday**. The format of homework will be changing-an update to follow shortly. Children in year 3 and 4 should spend 30 minutes on their homework each week. It is helpful if children can talk to someone at home when they are doing their homework. A routine of working somewhere quiet, using a pencil and sitting at a table is always a good idea. Homework can also be completed using a computer if you like. I will mark homework which is handed in on time and give it back on Thursdays with the next piece of homework. Homework will be based on English, maths, topic work or something I have noticed children need extra practise in. Please don't worry about homework; ask if it is unclear or interpret it however you like. Children are also expected to read for 10 minutes every night to an adult and practice their monopoly maths target and spelling list several times during the week. Spelling lists are given out termly and are stuck into homework books. Their final termly spelling test scores will be stuck in at the end of each small term so that you can monitor your child's spelling progress.

I hope that your child enjoys being in Swallow class and I look forward to meeting you.

Thanks, Mr England