

# Swallow Class Newsletter

Happy New Year! Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. Swallow Class have had a great start to the year and have come into school fresh-faced and eager to learn. This newsletter will update you about the routines and systems in Swallow class and this term's topic and curriculum coverage. If you have any questions please do come and ask at any time before or after school, or if you would like a longer meeting please come and organise a convenient time and date.

## Topic

This term's topic is 'Amazing Animals.' We have already started to learn lots about this topic and many children are really interested and inspired. We will be learning how to develop a character through story writing linked to 'The Jungle Book'. Additionally, we will learn about different animals and birds following a trip and write a report. More information coming soon! In Science we will learn about animals, living things and habitats. In Geography we will learn about extreme climates and other specific geographical locations. In Maths we will learn about fractions, decimals, written methods and different measures.

## PE and Games kits

PE will continue to take place on a Tuesday and a Friday. 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.

## Time for Reading

Please continue to listen to your child reading at home and please remember to sign the reading record so that your child can receive their rewards. Children have really enjoyed receiving dojos, prizes and certificates for their reading. It has proven a popular scheme and it has shown that children who complete their reading are making great progress. I'd like to see as many of our class as possible in Celebration service receiving a certificate!

## **Mathletics**

It is great to see so many members of the class engaging with Mathletics. However, there are still a few children who haven't completed any activities. Please do, as this is a great way for your child to consolidate learning that has taken place in class. As we cover more areas of Maths, more activities will be available for your child to complete.

## **Spelling Lists**

As of this term in school, we will be using a new spelling scheme called 'No-Nonsense Spelling' from Year 2 to Year 6. The scheme is fully aligned with the new curriculum and is being widely used amongst our local schools. We are hoping this will have a positive impact on Spelling across the school. Termly spelling lists will continue to be given which are focused around spelling rules for this term. The date of the test will be Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Homework and spelling**

Swallow class will be receiving another homework jigsaw following our new format. Both the Maths and English tasks should be completed each term. Children are also expected to read for 10 minutes 5 x a week to an adult and practise their monopoly maths target and spelling list several times during the week. The other jigsaw pieces can be completed in the order of your child's choice. The aim is for one piece per 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 Fridays. Please don't worry about homework and ask if it is unclear.

## **Loo breaks**

Children are able to use the toilets at any time during the day but are encouraged to wait until break and lunch times or at transition times from one lesson to another. This is because it wastes learning time and distracts children from their focus and concentration.

Mr England