

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.

Topic

Our topic this term is 'Bristol and Brunel'.

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 Monday afternoon and on a Thursday afternoon. Children should wear correct school kit ideally brought in on a Monday and taken home on a Friday. All kit should be named 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

Mathletics are currently updating the system moving children to their new year groups. Once this is done, I will be able to allocate activities for your child to complete.

Loo breaks

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 KS2, children are taught reading skills during group Guided Reading lessons and are heard read individually less often than in KS1. 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. After your child has read, record the date and a comment in their reading diary. This will then be able to count towards the 'Time 4 Reading' certificates for this term. Please encourage your child to take increasing responsibility for choosing their reading books themselves when they need to (we will help them learn how to do this). 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

Please could you ensure that homework is given in by Thursday each week.

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 15 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.

I hope that your child enjoys being in Swallow class and I look forward to meeting those of you I haven't already.

Thanks, Mr England