

# 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 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 'The Romans and Anglo-Saxons.' We have already started to learn lots about this topic and many children are really interested and inspired. We will be covering Roman myths and legends and report writing. We will learn about volcanoes and mountains and write explanation texts. In Science we will learn about rocks and soils. In Art we will learn about mosaics and pottery. In Maths we will learn about Roman Numerals and area and perimeter of Roman buildings and gardens.

## PE and Games kits

PE will continue to take place on a Monday and a Thursday. 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:

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

Children will also need an outdoor Games kit:

- 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!

## Spelling Lists

A termly spelling menu will be given which is focused around spelling rules for this term and individual spelling mistakes your child has made in their writing. The date of the test will be Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Groupings and tables**

Children will continue working 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. These groups are based on teacher judgement and places are carefully considered. Other classes in the school have this structure of seating, as do our local secondary schools.

### **Homework**

Swallow class will be receiving another homework jigsaw. 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 practice 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.

### **Trip**

We will be going on a trip to Bristol Library this term to see how libraries work and take part in some reading based activities. More details to follow.

Mr England