

Swallow Class
Autumn 1 Newsletter

Welcome back to school and welcome to Swallow Class. I hope that you all had a lovely restful summer holiday and were able to experience some sunshine somewhere.

The aim of this letter is to supply you with all the information ready for the start of this term and I will explain some of the changes in expectation so that we can all have a successful transition into Year 3/4. Please feel free to email any questions you have about this information to the school to be passed on to me. I am available at the beginning and end of most school days should you ever want to discuss this or any other issues.

As children arrive each day they will need to unpack their belongings onto their peg and enter the classroom with their reading book, reading record and water bottle. They will then have 10-15 minutes of silent independent reading during which time the register is taken and I am able to check in with individuals and ensure everyone has their own reading book.

The Reading Framework (2023), states that 're-reading a text gradually increases the number of words in it that they can read 'at a glance'. Fluency develops progressively as pupils are introduced to and re-read books that include new vocabulary and language structures; their familiarity with a text is critical to building fluency.' Therefore reading a text more than once is an excellent way to build reading fluency and comprehension. It is still vitally important that parents engage with the reading children are doing in year 3/4. The EEF states parental engagement has a positive impact of 4 months additional progress in a year when engaging with reading, so please ensure you continue to sign the reading record every time you hear or witness your child reading.

Homework + Spelling

At the beginning of each term children will receive a spelling list of rules and words they will learn each week. At the end of each week they sit a short informal test on the words from that week and a selection from the previous weeks. Swallow class have daily spelling lessons where they learn how to learn spelling rules and practise the week's rules. These lessons also build on handwriting skills.

This year homework in Swallow class is changing. At the beginning of the year each child will receive a maths and grammar workbook from the CGP to work on age related expectations in these areas. I am asking that every child completes 1 page in order from both books by FRIDAY and brings them to school to be checked and any mistakes/misconceptions/difficulties can be discussed.

Enquiry

This term's enquiry is science led and called "How can we feel the force?" It focuses on magnetism with children making a magnetic game demonstrating their understanding of forces. We will then begin a history driven topic called "How can we find out about people in the past?" through which the children will create personal history boxes to share with you as a museum exhibit. A date for which will be in term 2.

PE

PE days are Monday and Thursday for Swallow class. Children are expected to arrive in full PE kit on those days with a change of shoes should they wish to play on the field at break or lunch time.

If you have any questions about the information please come to speak to me after school, or we can arrange a convenient time and date for a longer meeting.

Kind regards
Mr A Bryant