



HAWK CLASS

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Dear parents,

Welcome back! We hope that you have had a wonderful summer break and that your children are ready for an exciting year ahead.

THE YEAR 5 AND 6 STAFF

Our teaching team remains unchanged, with Mrs Tilsley taking the class on Monday and Mr Riddington with the children for the rest of the week. We are delighted that Mrs Baxter and Mrs Choyce will also have time with the class to support children with their learning each morning.

NEW TO HAWKS?

Last term, we held a moving up session for the children so that they could learn more about the life in Hawk class. The main points were as follows:

- **COMING TO SCHOOL.** Children enter the school by the corridor doors closest to the main school gate.
- **PEGS.** These are now in the corridor outside Swallow Class.
- **START OF DAY.** Pupils will need to have their reading book in school and on their desk at the start of the day. They will have a daily reading session.
- **PENCIL CASES.** Pupil are allowed to bring in their own pencil cases. However, they do not need to do so as the school will provide the necessary materials to carry out the tasks set. Pencil cases must be small enough to fit into the child's tray and should not be a distraction during lessons.
- **BREAK AND LUNCH.** Break times this term will now be at the earlier time of 10:15. This will enable us to have daily spellings sessions in Hawk class after break.
- **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.** As the children are now mature, we encourage them to take up positions of responsibility to help the running of the school. Children will have the opportunity to stand for election as a house captain, vice-captain or school councillor. Positions as members of the library and worship team will also be available. In addition, Year 6 children will have a buddy in Wren class.

ENQUIRIES

Our first enquiry is called What Does The Earth Look Like From Space? As scientists, our pupils will learn about our solar system as well as the importance of the Sun and the Moon. They will also learn about the Space Race.

As artists, children will study the work of Vincent van Gogh and find out more about some of his most famous paintings, including the Starry Night. They will develop their own painting skills and create their own artwork linked to our space enquiry.

Our writing will also continue the space theme with our young authors writing sci-fi stories as well as a biography of Katherine Johnson, an instrumental figure in the Space Race.

HOMEWORK

We will be providing our pupils with homework books for English and Maths. They will be asked to do work from these books and bring them in – together with their home reading record - on Thursday morning.

In addition to the work in the homework books, we ask that children practise the following:

- **TIMES TABLES** – Being fluent in times tables facts is crucial in Hawk class. So much of what we learn requires a good knowledge of times table facts and **well over half the questions in the 2024 maths arithmetic paper required instant recall of times tables**. Regular practice at home is strongly recommended if multiplication facts are not secure. If your child is not fluent, regular daily practice is encouraged.
- **SPELLINGS**. We will continue to send home spelling sheets that will need to be practised at home each term.
- **READING**. Most children in Years 5 and 6 are able to read independently, but please do not leave them to it all the time! Research has shown that children who continue to have parental support with reading and comprehension can make better rates of progress. Please continue to read to your children as well: they will benefit from hearing stories that may be too challenging for them to read at present. Reading to them will also broaden their vocabulary.

TIME FOR READING

As is the case with the other classes in the school, we like to celebrate the reading that takes place at home. To do this we need your help. The children will all be given a reading record (an orange exercise book) in September which needs to be completed whenever they have a reading experience at home. This does not need to be a lengthy process for parents: all we need is a date and a signature to show that your child has been reading. For every date that is signed and dated by you, your child can add to our reading wallchart and be celebrated for achieving the termly target.

P.E.

We will be having swimming lessons this year at Yate pool. Children will need to bring their swimming clothes and towels to school on the following Wednesdays:

2nd OCTOBER

9th OCTOBER

16th OCTOBER

23rd OCTOBER

6th NOVEMBER

13th NOVEMBER

20th NOVEMBER

Swimming lessons will resume briefly after Christmas. On non-swimming weeks, we will have PE on Wednesdays as well as Thursdays, when the Future Stars coaches come to Hawkesbury.

SPELLINGS

We are introducing a new spelling scheme to our school, for pupils in Years 2 to 6, called Essential Spelling to help improve our delivery of this key element of English. The new scheme enables children to understand how to apply patterns, strategies and knowledge to other words. It also provides links to prior knowledge and tracks back to related objectives taught in previous years.

To help support learning at home, we will send lists containing five spellings for each rule covered during a term. Please note that some terms may contain more spellings than others.

SATS

We will keep you informed about next year's exams and will have a meeting as the year progresses.

CLOTHING

Please do not forget to label all of your child's clothes, checking for any faded names on labels as the year progresses. Some pupils in Year 5 and 6 are extremely responsible and meticulously tidy with their belongings when they reach the top of the school; others adopt the floordrobe approach! When an item of clothing does go missing, it can be hard to find if it is not clearly labelled.

YEAR 6 VISIT TO THE LIFE SKILLS CENTRE

The Year 6s will visit the Life Skills Centre on Tuesday 24th September. The Centre is an interactive safety education centre, built as a realistic village, which has been developed to teach people how to deal with potentially difficult or dangerous situations, whilst in a safe environment. They learn how to make emergency phone calls and about road safety guidance, drugs and medicine safety amongst other important life skills. More details will be sent out to Year 6 parents shortly.

GET IN TOUCH

If you have any queries, please get in touch. We are happy to contact you to discuss your child's learning at the end of the school day.

Mr Riddington and Mrs Tilsley.

HAWK CLASS - OUR CURRICULUM IN TERM 1

AUTHOR

Class book: Orion Lost by Alastair Chisholm

Sci-fi story – characterisation focus

Biography – Katherine Johnson

Explanation – How does day turn into night?

MATHEMATICIAN

Place Value

Addition and subtraction

THIS TERM'S ENQUIRY IS CALLED 'WHAT DOES THE EARTH LOOK LIKE FROM SPACE'

SCIENTIST

What have scientists taught us about space?

What other planets are in the Solar System?

How does the Earth, Sun and Moon move?

How does night and day take place?

ARTIST

Who was Vincent van Gogh and what was his style of art?

R.E.

What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?

JIGSAW

Being me in my world

MUSIC

Cello lessons

P.E.

Fitness (Future Stars)

Swimming

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Swimming lessons at Yate Pool (Wednesdays – dates are in the class newsletter)

Circus skills workshops (September 20th)

Year 6 Lifeskills Visit (September 24th)

Road Safety workshop (September 27th)

INSET DAY (September 30th)

Harvest Service (October 11th)

Outdoor Learning Day (October 21st)