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**Swallows Class Newsletter – Spring Term 1 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new term. We hope you enjoyed your Christmas holiday and are ready for another great term of learning.

**Curriculum – Secrets revealed.**

Our project for this term incorporates History, art, RE and PSHE. We begin this topic with an amazing trip to the Ashmolean Museum to look at their Egyptian collection and undertake a History Detectives session.

**English**

Our core text for this term is Cinderella of the Nile retold by the award-winning author Beverley Naidoo.

In this earliest-known version of Cinderella, a rosy-cheeked girl called Rhodopis is abducted by bandits from her home in Greece and enslaved in Egypt. Along the way she becomes friends with the storyteller Aesop and a host of playful animals. Her master gives her a pair of beautiful rose-red slippers, making three other servants jealous. But when Horus, the falcon, sweeps in to steal her slipper, Rhodopis has little idea that this act will lead her to the King of Egypt. The children will explore the text in a variety of ways and produce a number of written outcomes including recounts, letters and poetry.

**Maths**

We will start this term learning about shape, and then go onto explore number, position and direction, revisit addition and subtraction and finish with statistics. The children will be taught in groups and build on prior learning to improve their fluency and make use of models and images to support their learning.

As you already know, one of the Year 4 objectives is to be fluent in all the times tables (up to and including 12 x 12) and the related division facts by the end of the year. To achieve this, the children need to regularly practise at home and at school. We have added some games to our learning zone but rapid recall by learning facts together and then asking quick fire questions will really help. We ask the following types of question in school;

* How many 6s in 18?
* What is 7 x 6?
* What is the product of 6 and 10?
* 72 divided by 6?

**History**

The topic for this half term is Ancient Egypt. We will be focusing on the Egyptian creation story and undertaking an in depth study of Religious beliefs in this fascinating Ancient Civilisation. The children will explore the chronology of the period and understand that we can use a range of evidence, including primary sources seen during our trip to the Ashmolean, to learn about what was believed by people living in this period. The children will have the opportunity to research using books and online resources to gain knowledge which they will share with you at our 2020 Exhibition - Cabinets of Curiosity - a celebration of our learning in the form of a pop- up museum. More details to follow later in the term.

**Art**

The children will be experimenting with collage, drawing and clay to create portraits and amulets. The Ancient Egyptians had a very distinct style of drawing portraits and we will have the chance to use grids to draw to scale and explore the distinct styling of the period.

**PE**

We will continue to log our journeys to school and aim to walk at least three times a week to earn our WOW badges. On Wednesday Year 4 will be swimming - please see the separate letter for detail. On Thursdays, the children will be learning Tennis outside.

**Class rewards**

The children have already been working hard to earn house points and Swallow class have voted to choose their marble rewards;

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| 150 marbles | 300 marbles | 450 marbles | 600 marbles |
| Heads down thumbs up and apple pie game for 10 minutes | 20 minutes field time to play together. | Dress up day - theme to be agreed. | Class Party with games and treats. |

**Daily arrangements**

Swallow class line up with the rest of the school on the playground; the children are expected to be independent and carry their belongings into class themselves. The bell always rings at 8.50 and registration is completed straight away before Reading which starts promptly at 8.55.

At the end of the day Swallow will be dismissed from the Year 3/4 entrance of the main building once an adult has been seen to receive them. If children walk home alone, they need to let me know that they are leaving at the end of the day. If there are any changes to your usual routine please let us know in the morning. If things change unexpectedly during the day, please feel free to ring the office. Children who are not collected by 3:25 will be taken to the school office and will have to be signed out with a reason for late collection.

**Reading books**

Children will have a reading book which they have selected themselves. We recommend that the children regularly read at home as it is a great way to cover a wide range of authors and genres. It will also allow them to understand and use a wide range of vocabulary. They should aim to read on at least four occasions in any one week for a minimum of 10-15 minutes at a time.

**Homework**

Our Teaching and Learning policy states;

At St Mary’s we recognise that children learn best when school and family work in partnership to promote a child’s learning and progress. This partnership includes encouraging children to practise, develop and enrich the learning that takes place in school, outside of school. Homework should not be something which leads to arguments, tears or tantrums for either children or parents.

Our homework enables all pupils to make sure they have chance to practice and recall things like spellings and tables, to read regularly and also complete a weekly piece of work for Maths, English and their project.

Our homework books will be sent home every Friday and should be returned to school on the following Wednesday. Good pieces of homework and great effort will be rewarded through the school reward systems.

**PE Kit**

All pupils should have indoor and outdoor kit e.g. shorts, House coloured t-shirt and plimsolls for indoors and trainers for outdoor sessions. PE kits should be brought into school every Monday and taken home on a Friday to be washed for the following week.

Please note pupils are not permitted to take part in PE lessons whilst wearing earrings (unless they have been pierced within the last six weeks in which case they are permitted to tape them up until six weeks have passed.) **Staff are not permitted to assist pupils with the removal or insertion** of earrings. If pupils are not able to manage earrings independently they should not wear them to school on days when PE is timetabled to take place but remove them, with assistance, at home.

**Outdoor Learning Sessions**

Each class will be having an outdoor learning session every week. It is vital that children have appropriate clothing available in school which may include trousers/tracksuit bottoms, waterproof coat and wellingtons. Please send appropriate clothing in a named plastic bag. Once again it is advisable that the children keep these clothes in school for the duration of the week so should we wish to spend further time outside we can do so.

**Reminders**

* **Water Bottles – please make sure children have a water bottle with them every day (separate from any drink in their lunch box) as this allows them to access water as and when they require it. To improve the oral health of children, only water is permitted in class. If your child brings in a bottle filled with something other than water we will provide them with a cup so that they can access water during the day. In recent years, we have noticed that some children bring in squash and this attracts ants in the summer term. To avoid this, please help by only sending in water. If you child has a medical need that requires them to have a different drink, please include the details on your parental contact form and we follow this up with a Health Care Plan.**
* Snacks – Children may bring in a **healthy snack** for mid-morning break. Suitable choices include fruit, cheese, yogurt and vegetable sticks. Do let us know if your child has any food allergies or intolerances.
* Absence and sickness – please let the office know if your child is not attending because they are ill. Also please note that Health Protection Agency guidance states that children should not return to school for 48 hours after the last episode of either sickness or diarrhea.

Parentmail is also a convenient way to be kept up to date with school developments.  You can download the app on most android and iPhones.  Please speak to the office if you have any difficulty accessing Parentmail.

**Birthday books**

To support our tooth brushing work we have decided to move away from sweets to celebrate birthdays and instead, if you would like to, ask if you could donate a book that can be read by members of the class. This could be a picture book, information book, a collection of poems or a much loved story. If you need an idea for a book, please don’t hesitate to ask.

**Contact**

Should you need to contact me about any matters arising, you may email direct using the following address: s.digiorno@banburystmarysschool.co.uk

Please be aware that any messages sent may not be seen until later in the school day or after school as I may be busy classroom duties and teaching earlier in the day. In all cases I will endeavour to reply to you within 2 working days. Obviously if the matter is more urgent, for example about attendance or changes to the routine of collecting your child then you should contact the school office or speak to me at the start of the day.

Please remember that I am available after school (or before for more urgent problems) if there’s anything you would like to discuss.

Kind Regards,

Sarah Di Giorno