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Swallow Class Newsletter – Autumn Term 2 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome back! I hope you managed to have a restful half term break.

We will begin the term with our SCiB (Safeguarding Children in Banbury) week which will be focussing on substance abuse. This involves children recapping their early warning signs and thinking about scenarios where they might feel them. We will then look at decisions and consequences and whether the consequences of a decision are worth the risk. Finally we will learn the risks associated with alcohol and cigarettes before reevaluating our trusted adults.

Curriculum – Amazon

Our project for this term incorporates geography and science.

To build on our knowledge and understanding in geography from last term, we will be locating the Amazon on a map of the world and looking at the countries it spans. We will use the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn to help us explain why we get rainforests and then explore their climate. We will also use maps to help us see how the Amazon rainforest has changed over time and link this to deforestation.

Throughout this topic we will be using the book 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry which looks at the issue of deforestation from the perspective of the animals who call the rainforest their home. Our final written outcome will be a persuasive letter where children will set out the main arguments against deforestation.

In Science, we will be exploring the different types of plants found in the Amazon rainforest and looking at how they are different based on the different layers of the rainforest that they are found. We will then look at how the plants have adapted to the climate. Finally, we will look at the life cycles of plants and have a look at the different ways that seeds are dispersed.

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This term we will launch Commando Joe's. This is a new programme to replace SkillForce that develops character. The new scheme focuses on the following characteristics;

Which Character traits have you shown today? Tick the boxes

 R <input type="checkbox"/> ROMEO RESILIENCE	 E <input type="checkbox"/> EDDIE EMPATHY	 S <input type="checkbox"/> SOPHIE SELF-AWARENESS	 P <input type="checkbox"/> PARVEEN POSITIVITY	 E <input type="checkbox"/> ELLIOTT EXCELLENCE	 C <input type="checkbox"/> CHARLIE COMMUNICATION	 T <input type="checkbox"/> TANISHA TEAMWORK
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<input type="checkbox"/>	R Resilience
<input type="checkbox"/>	E Empathy
<input type="checkbox"/>	S Self-awareness
<input type="checkbox"/>	P Positivity
<input type="checkbox"/>	E Excellence
<input type="checkbox"/>	C Communication
<input type="checkbox"/>	T Teamwork



You will hear the children talk about missions and there will be a new award for commandos who are trying hard to show these characteristics. The focus of our missions this term is the British explorer who was the first person to walk the length of the Amazon River.

More details about our curriculum can be found on the Cog document which will be displayed on the website.

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We do have some wonderful home learning tools that your children can explore;

TT Rockstars <https://trockstars.com/>

Purple Mash www.purplemash.com

Each child has an individual account and has their own password. Please keep the password safe and if you do not remember them please ask your class teacher.

On our class pages, there is a list of useful links to support learning and a section called 'Remote Learning.' This is where we support children who are learning at home either because of a bubble, school, local or national lockdown. These resources are uploaded each week. If we go into lockdown, the children are expected to work at home and produce work for us to look at when we reopen.

Class rewards

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

150 marbles	300 marbles	450 marbles	600 marbles
5 songs on Alexa	30 minutes of game time in the classroom	1 hour of play together on the field	Film time!

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.

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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 Tuesday. 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 a regular outdoor learning session. 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.**

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- 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.

Contact

Should you need to contact me about any matters arising, you may email direct using the following address:

t.smith@banburystmarysschool.co.uk

Please be aware that any messages sent may not be seen until later in the school day or after school as we may be busy doing classroom duties and teaching earlier in the day. In all cases we 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.

We continue to welcome opportunities of working with you this year and helping your children learn, transform and grow. We will be running an online course

Kind Regards,

Teri Smith

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