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Headteacher: Mrs Victoria Woods

## Swallow Class Newsletter – Summer term 2 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I want to say thank you to those parents who were able to attend the recent parent's evenings. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with you and sharing the wonderful learning the children have been doing in class.

I really hope you all manage to have a restful and safe half term break and are ready to face the term ahead. We have lots of exciting learning planned and there also some brilliant whole school events lined up. Make sure you keep checking the blog on the website with updates of what we've been up to.

### Curriculum – Creation

This term the whole school is doing an RE project entitled Creation. We will focus on the Christian creation story as recorded in the Bible (Genesis1:1-25) and how this leads Christian's to believe that God is the creator and to feel responsible for looking after the beautiful world around them.

To tie in with the theme of our wonderful world, we are going to be exploring landscape paintings as part of our learning in art. Children are going to begin by looking at lots of different examples of landscape painting from around the world and consider how it makes them feel and which they prefer and why. Children will then explore colour mixing before learning about how Monet uses colour in his landscape paintings to create different effects. Children will then use this understanding to help them compose their own landscape painting with a specific focus on using colour to convey different emotions.

In science, we are going to continue exploring the world around us specifically looking at animals that live in our world. Children will begin by exploring the classification of living things including recapping the seven life processes. Next, children will begin to understand and use classification keys to help them group and identify different living things. Then

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children will learn the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates. Finally, they will identify possible dangers to the local and wider wildlife and some things that can be done to help.

During this project, we are going to take inspiration from the book 'The Tin Forest' to help us with our learning in English. We are all going to start by exploring the main character and the journey he goes through in clearing up the rubbish around his little house and transforming it into a beautiful forest. The children will write in the role of the old man, producing diary entries identifying his wishes and also a postcard to him to pass on some advice.

In maths, children will be continuing to focus on developing their key skills. We are going to begin by revising fractions before moving on to looking at measure. We will be reading scales in different orientations and then we will be focusing on time including converting between analogue and digital and calculating lengths of time. After that we will be recapping shape with a focus identifying shapes and calculating the area and perimeter. Finally, we will be learning about position and direction.

In PSHE, will be covering the 'safer together' protective behaviors program aimed at supporting children to develop internal working models of resilience to support safer choices and actions. Through participating in specifically designed activities, children will learn that they have a right to feel safe, all the time and that they can talk to their trusted adults about anything.

We are going to continue swimming at Spiceball Leisure Centre every Wednesday afternoon for our PE learning this term. Lots of children have been achieving certificates for their learning and I hope there will be many more to take home. The children will also be developing their skills in athletics as we prepare for our whole school sports day later this term.

We do have some wonderful home learning tools that your children can explore;  
TT Rockstars <https://trockstars.com/>  
Purple Mash [www.purplemash.com](http://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 **Learning, Transforming, Growing.**

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
15 minutes extra break	Hot chocolate or ice cream	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.

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.

We think that it is extremely important that the children continue having the opportunity to use Google as a platform for learning so we will also be uploading the homework to Google Classroom every Friday. Children have been shown in school how to use this but please let us know if you are having any issues with this.

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## 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 your 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.

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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](mailto: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.

Kind Regards,

Teri Smith

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