

Swallow Class – Spring 1

Welcome back!
Hope you have had a lovely Christmas break.

HOMEWORK:

Focus Children:

We will continue the Focus Children for last term on their '**Their Favourite Place**' so please send in any photos of your child's favourite place if you have not done so already.

This term the focus is '**Intriguing Animals.**' Please support your child to find information on their favourite animal and help them to gather facts they can share with the rest of the class. They can bring in photos, drawings, toys and facts about their animal. Perhaps they could talk about the natterjack Toad, whooper swan or great-crested newt found in this area. They can talk about any animal special to them or wild, intriguing and wonderful. We are learning about classifying animals as mammals, fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles and insects and deciding if they are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores. Please see the timetable for your child's Focus week.

Essential Homework:

Reading and spelling:

Please listen to your child read at least five times a week. Even if it is just three pages a night. The Reading Wizard will be visiting our class and if your child has read at home at least three times and had their reading diary signed, they will win team points and a prize!

Please also help them to read the common exception words on class pages on the school website. These can be printed off and worked through each week.

Please begin at Set 1 and then progress to Set 2. Choose 4-5 words each week and use them as flashcards for your child to read by sight. These words cannot be decoded easily and are very common in our language so if they learn to read them instantly it will help them to build their fluency. If they know 2/3 really well by the end of the week leave these out and replace with two more words. Every so often, revisit those previous words so they do not forget them.

You can play memory- matching games with them, hide them around the house or beat the timer on speed of reading them. Can your child put one of the words orally into a sentence?

Once your child can read them, choose 2-3 for them to practice spelling. This can be with coloured pens, using magnetic letters, in the bath with bath crayons, with paints, whatever you like. Try dictating a simple sentence with the word in or have your child create their own imaginative sentence. Have they remembered capital letter, finger spaces and full stops?

Maths Homework:

There are many maths activities for each year group on the school website for home learning. Please go to the Parents section and select Home Learning.

Topic:

We are completing our painting unit before moving on to drawing. We looked at a local artist: Lucy Rogers Smith. Please take your child to the Cartford Gallery to see some of her work and some of the other pictures/paintings they have displayed.



Where a love of learning grows
Growing in knowledge
Growing in faith
Growing in God's love

Philippians 4:13 **"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"**



Reading for Pleasure Book:

Every other Friday, your child will have opportunity to visit our school library to loan a book. This book is not to be read by your child but a book to be shared with your child. You can read it to them; they can join in phrases and talk about the events, pictures, story or information together. It is simply for enjoyment. The book will then need to be returned two weeks later for another book to be issued. Please also consider joining Garstang library for some new, exciting reads!

PE sessions may change throughout the year but currently we will have P.E. on a Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. Please send in P.E. kits and trainers for those days, remembering to have your child's name in all their clothes.

We plan to have a history trail around places of local historical interest this term so look out for details. Due to the weather, we were unable to visit Patty's Barn last term but plan to complete our geography fieldwork there this term too. Please look out for details. We will also have a visit from some owls and kestrels and a small turtle. A previous curator and Head of Animals at a zoo who worked with large primates in Borneo will be coming in to tell the children about her experiences.

A very exciting term ahead!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest regards,

Swallow Class Team ☺



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