

Benwick Primary School



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Swans Link Up - Spring 2018

Happy New Year! Welcome to the Spring Term at Benwick Primary School. I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break. We have a very exciting term ahead, and I am certain that the children will thoroughly enjoy their topic of 'Mayan Mystery'. All subject areas are linked to the topic.

Our topic of 'Mayan Mystery' will include the children learning about the ancient Maya civilisation, looking at how the Maya were ruled, and comparing and contrasting some ancient Maya laws with those in Anglo-Saxon Britain. They will also investigate some ancient Maya religious beliefs and practices, and compare the burial rites of the ancient Maya to those of the Anglo-Saxons.

In Science, the children will be focusing on electricity and circuits. They will create circuits, including recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram. The children will create their own scientific investigations, and will relate observations and findings to scientific knowledge and understanding. They will present their results in a variety of ways, including tables and line graphs, and using this to identify patterns in their data.

During Design Technology, the children will be given the opportunity to design and make their own Mayan pyramid. They will investigate different types of materials and components, focusing on how to strengthen, stiffen and reinforce the structure of their design.

PE

Swans will have gymnastics lessons every Tuesday afternoon (**INDOOR PE KIT will be required**), and they will participate in netball sessions every Thursday afternoon (**OUTDOOR PE KIT will be required**).

Please ensure your child has their full P.E. kit in school, so that they can participate fully and safely in an essential part of our curriculum. **Remember, outdoor kit needs to include appropriate clothing.**

Homework

Homework will be given out each Friday, and is expected to be handed in on the following Tuesday. The content of this homework will be topic based, focusing on objectives which will be covered during the *Mayan Mystery* lessons.

Times Tables - It is essential that your child continues to practice their times tables, as they will be tested on a weekly basis.

Reading - Your child should be taking their reading book home **every night**. Year 5 & 6 children are expected to be much more independent readers, however it is just as important at this age for them to have somebody to read to on occasion. Don't forget, you can log on to Accelerated Reader to find out how well your child is performing in the comprehension quizzes.

It is important that year 5/6 children complete homework as independently as possible. If they are struggling, please support them, and make a note on their sheet to let us know that they have needed assistance.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or queries you might have about our learning.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Wakefield and Mrs Wood