**Swans Link-Up – Autumn 2019**

Welcome back! I hope you are well rested and ready for a busy year!

Year 5 and 6 will continue to be taught separately for Literacy and Language lessons. I will be teaching Year 6 and Mr Smith will be teaching Year 5. Over the term both year groups will have the opportunity to study a range of fiction and non-fiction texts in depth.

In addition, both year groups will be taught English lessons together, with a focus on our topic – Extreme Earth. This half term our text focus is Shackleton’s Journey. After October half term, we will be reading Journey to the Centre of the Earth, and will be comparing this to the 2008 film.

We will continue to teach spelling using Read Write Inc. Swans will have three spelling sessions Monday – Wednesday, lasting 20 minutes each. Spelling words will be given for homework on a Wednesday. They will be tested the following Wednesday, allowing plenty of time for practice using the strategies taught at school.

This year we are incorporating ERIC – Everyone Reads In Class – daily for 15 minutes. During this time, I will be taking small guided reading groups, whilst Mrs Strong will be listening to individual readers.

In Maths, we will continue to follow the White Rose maths scheme, which enables children to practice fluency, reasoning and problem solving skills daily. This term we have a heavy focus on place value, the four operations and fractions. During our daily Morning Maths meetings, the children will continue to practice essential arithmetic skills. Your child will receive weekly multiplication tables homework, therefore, please ensure they are consistently practising these, as they are essential for all areas in mathematics.

In Science, we will be learning about Living Things and their Habitats. We will be learning about organisms, classifying plants, Carl Linnaeus and microorganisms. Over the term, the children will have the opportunity to venture out in to the local area to support their scientific enquiries. Additionally, they will have many opportunities to develop their working scientifically skills.

Our topic for this term is ‘Extreme Earth’.

In Geography, we will be investigating the Earth’s climate and areas of extreme temperature. We will also be learning about different forms of extreme weather, including earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes. During this topic, children will continue to use maps and atlases to locate countries affected by extreme weather.

We will continue to focus on our topic during Art lessons. This week we have explored and recreated Hokusai’s ‘Great Wave’, using 3D layering techniques. Over the next few weeks, we will continue to recreate his work using other forms of medium, such as pastel and watercolour. After half term, in Design and Technology, we will be exploring how buildings are designed to withstand the effects of earthquakes. The children will be designing and testing an earthquake proof building in small groups, to fit specific success criteria.

Mrs Clutton will be teaching the children on a Monday afternoon. During this time, she will be teaching the children RE and Computing on a 2-week rotation and PSHE weekly. Their RE question focus for the term is - What can stories and images of deities tell us about Hindu beliefs? In Computing, they will be learning about coding and online safety. This term in PSHE, our focus is Beginning and Belonging and Relationships.

Swan shave PE every Wednesday and Friday afternoon. Our outdoor topics for this term are tag ruby (until October half term) and hockey (from October half term). Our indoor topic is dance until Christmas. Children will need both indoors and outdoors kit in school so they can participate fully and safely. Outdoor kit needs to include appropriate clothing for cold weather (e.g. leggings/jogging bottoms, jumper and socks).

Each week we will have a short French session. During this time, children will be developing their ability to speak French through topics. This term we are focusing on healthy eating (Bon appetite, bonne sante) and I am the music man (Je suis le musicien).

Although not currently planned into our timetable, I am hoping to undertake some Forest Schools activities over the duration of the term, as the children enjoyed our brief introduction on transition morning. As and when this occurs, I will send an additional letter home, regarding clothing.

Homework

Topic – Topic homework will be set at the beginning of the term. Children may select a project to focus on over each half term. They may choose to focus their project on Extreme Earth, Living Things and their Habitats or alterative areas that we have focused on in class.

Reading – Your child should be taking their reading book home every night. Please make sure that you listen to them read and comment in their reading record. At school, children will be read to daily with our class book, however, it is just as important for children to listen to someone reading at home. This could also be recorded in their reading record.

Spellings and Times Tables – Spellings and times tables will be set and sent home on a Wednesday and tested the following Wednesday. Please make sure your child returns their homework books to school so that we are able to check their books and set new homework. I will send out a notification each week on Class Dojo detailing the children’s spellings and times tables focus that week.

If you wish to discuss or share any further information please do not hesitate to book an appointment with me through the school office or speak to me after school. Equally, if there are ever *any* concerns, questions or clarifications needed, I am only ever a phone call or email away.

Best wishes,

Miss R Baker

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