**Swans Link-Up – Spring 2020**

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

This term our topic is World War 2, which is always an exciting topic to teach and learn!

During our English lessons, we will be using texts linked to our topic. For the first half term, we will be focusing on the text, ‘Letters from the Lighthouse’ and ‘Goodnight Mister Tom’ after February half term. Both of these texts offer brilliant opportunities for quality writing. We will begin reading ‘Goodnight Mister Tom’ during our Guided Reading sessions – I could not put the book down over Christmas so I am sure the children will thoroughly enjoy it! Each week we will focus on two chapters over two sessions, where we will be developing our comphrension skills. We will be reading this text for the duration of the Spring term.

Each week the children will have three spelling sessions (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) lasting 30 minutes each. During this time, I will be teaching specific objectives from the Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 National Curriculum, to ensure children have a sound understanding of the spelling rules. Children will receive spelling homework on a Friday – these will consist of a selection of the statutory spellings and spellings that we have covered during the week. Spellings will be tested once a week.

This year we are incorporating ERIC – Everyone Reads In Class – daily for 10 minutes. During this time, Mrs Strong and myself will be listening to 1:1 readers, focusing on developing fluency.

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 fractions, percentages and decimals. 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 Light. This topic allows for many opportunities to investigate concepts practically. To name a few, we will explore how light can be reflected and change direction and investigate how shadows behave.

In our History and Geography lessons, we will be learning about World War 2. At the end of this term, the children will be going on a trip to Stibbington, where they will experience day in the life of an evacuee – see separate letter. In Art, we will be developing our drawing skills, by using different shades of pencils to create different tones and lines. We will then move on to focussing on a famous artist and creating our own paintings based on the same style. After February half term, we will be developing our cooking skills! We will be comparing modern and wartime recipes, before creating our own.

Mrs Clutton will be teaching the children on a Monday afternoon. During this time, she will be teaching the children RE and Music on a 2-week rotation and PSHE and Handwriting weekly. The children’s focus in RE this half term is - Who people say that I am? (Jesus explored through art). In Music, the class will be focussing on ‘The Fresh Prince of Bel Air’. During these lessons, they will have the opportunity to become familiar with a range of musical instruments. Over the course of the term, the children will cover the following topics in PSHE: working together, financial capability, managing risk and safety contexts.

Swans have PE every Wednesday and Friday afternoon. Our outdoor topics for this term are netball (until February half term) and outdoor and adventurous activities (from February half term). Our indoor topic is gymnastics until Easter. 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). Please ensure children have a water bottle at all times, and in particular for these days.

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 ‘en route pour l’ecole’ (on the way to school) and ‘scene de plage’ (beach scene).

Homework

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 Friday 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. If your child is struggling with their homework, please let either myself or Mrs Strong know on either Monday or Tuesday so that an adult can allocate time to support them in class.

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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