



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! We are delighted to be back and very much hope that you and your child are beginning to settle well into the new school routines. To ensure things run effectively this year I hope the following information is useful and will give you a better picture of how you can help your child to make the most of their time in Swan Class.

We have started this term by basing our work around the text "Here We Are" by Oliver Jeffers. This will be followed by our topic on 'Castles'. This theme will filter through many of our lessons as part of a creative curriculum devised to capture the children's imagination and to inspire their learning.

This term we will be learning to...

English

- form letters clearly using correct pencil grip and begin to join
- write simple sentences demarcated with capital letters and full stops
- use varied, appropriate vocabulary (selecting from word banks)
- use a variety of decoding strategies to read aloud with expression, taking account of simple punctuation
- identify and talk about the main events of a story
- begin to make predictions
- talk about the differences between fiction and non-fiction
- say the letters of the alphabet in order and begin to use alphabetically ordered texts
- follow, say and write simple instructions

Maths

- count to and across 100, forwards and backwards, beginning with 0 or 1, or from any given number.
- count in steps of 1, 2, 5 and 10.
- put numbers in order and position them on a number line
- identify one more and one less than a given number.
- read and interpret mathematical statements involving addition (+), subtraction (-) and equals (=) signs
- recognise and use language relating to dates, including days of the week, weeks, months and years.
- read and write numbers from 1 to 20 in numerals and words.
- name and describe the properties of 2D and 3D shapes
- compare, estimate and measure length.
- recognise and know the value of different denominations of coins and notes.

Science

- observe changes across the four seasons
- observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies
- identify and name a variety of everyday materials
- sort materials according to their properties
- make predictions and offer simple explanations when carrying out investigations
- record observations in simple charts and tables

Music

- explore different instruments, recognising if a sound is high-pitched or low-pitched.
- play tuned and untuned instruments in different ways to represent different emotions or feelings.
- use voices expressively and creatively by speaking chants.
- respond artistically to different music.

P.E.

- improve basic football skills (controlling a ball and kicking with appropriate power).
- build an awareness of the space around us.
- develop an understanding of the importance of working as part of a team.
- develop agility, balance, coordination and gross-motor skills.

RE

consider the question "Is everybody special?" - explore how and why people choose to belong to groups and religions
know about baptism

Art and Design Technology

know about the processes involved in pottery and create our own clay castle
sketch and paint portraits
use paper layering techniques to create 3D objects

PSHE

understand the importance of rules and working cooperatively in order to create a happy working environment.
understand how to develop strategies to deal with personal problems or worries at school in order that we keep safe.
understand the potential dangers in the home, around home and around school and how to keep safe from these dangers.

Computing

use computers and mobile devices safely when accessing the internet.
- e-safety discussions will cover keeping our personal details secret and also defining cyber-bullying.
use iPads to enhance learning in many curriculum areas.
explore the use of augmented reality to add interactive media to class displays.

History

identify and use information sources to find out about castles
know about the history of Windsor Castle

Geography

explore aerial views of everyday objects
use aerial photos to locate landmarks
draw simple maps

Reading

Your support with daily reading and discussion of texts at home really helps your children to progress in reading. Having read with your child please make a brief, positive comment in the reading diary.

Spelling stars

New spelling lists of high frequency words for this term will be issued next week. Please help your child to learn to spell these, checking on a weekly basis to ensure consistent accuracy. Why not encourage them to write the words in sentences or search for them in their reading books? A test will take place in school later in the term.

Maths

In each classroom the special charts showing times tables the children are learning are displayed. We begin with counting in steps of 2, 5, and 10 and progress to reciting tables and answering questions that are not in order. Regular practice at home will have an enormous impact.

Homework

Alongside daily reading, Key Stage One children will be set additional homework tasks on Google Classroom each Thursday, usually including a phonics activity which consolidates work covered in groups during the week. A short maths and English activity which supports the work covered in class over the week will usually be set too. We will be teaching the children to form their letters cursively in order to help them to achieve joined-up handwriting early in their writing. Homework should be completed in the homework exercise book and brought back on Tuesday.

P.E.

We will have our P.E. lessons on Monday and Tuesday mornings this term. On these days, please send your child to school wearing their kit. The school website has details of both indoor and outdoor kit. Please ensure your child always has a named water bottle in school.

If you wish to talk to me at any time about specific matters, please contact me through the office.

Thank you for your support.

Diana Nicol