

Swavesey Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

17th September 2021

Welcome to Year 3 and 4! We hope that you have had a wonderful summer and have enjoyed some good weather and have managed to spend some valuable time with your family and friends.

We are delighted to say that the children have settled back into school life quickly. It has been a pleasure returning to more 'normal' school routines and procedures after what has been a very difficult year. It was lovely seeing parents in person at our 'welcome to Year 3 and 4 meeting' last Wednesday!

This term our topic is history based and is called '**From Cavemen to Celts.**' We will build up our understanding of life in prehistoric times, dating back to the Stone Age, moving forward through to the Bronze and then Iron Age by looking at different sources of evidence. We will explore the lives of late hunter gatherers and focus upon how skills and technology advanced over periods of time developing into the formation of small farming communities which became self-sufficient. If you have any knowledge or expertise about this prehistoric era we would love to hear from you.

We have planned a day visit to **Hinchingbrooke Country Park, Huntingdon**, to develop our thinking about survival skills and enhance our learning of this exciting topic area. We have booked to visit the country park **on Thursday 14th October 2021**. More information about this trip will be sent out in a separate letter. We will be requiring parent helpers to join us on the trip to help supervise the children, so please save the date if you are available.

In English we will explore a variety of genres which will include adventure stories, instructional writing, poetry and recount writing. All children will read on a weekly basis, either as part of a group, or individually with their class teacher. The focus for this will be comprehension skills, fluency and expression.

Children will be working within their own classes for maths and will work alongside children of a similar ability. Initially maths lessons will focus on number and calculations and later in the term we will be learning about the properties of shapes, data handling, measures and further developing our number skills.

We really value your help with your child's homework. We expect all children to read daily for about 20 minutes. Please take time to hear them read and also ask questions about the text. Pupils will also be given weekly spellings to learn and x tables to practise for weekly tests. In addition to this, children are also expected to be learning the attached 109 spelling test from the National Curriculum – some of these words are very tricky and your child may need a lot of support in learning these. Our termly Homework Projects (see attachment) promote independence and curiosity and encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own learning.

It is essential that the children wear the correct clothes for P.E. PE is timetabled on Tuesday and Friday for all three classes. We request that children arrive in school and wear their PE

kits on these days to avoid getting changed in classrooms. This system worked very well last year and provided the children with additional time for physical exercise.

During the first half of the year, Year 4 children will have the opportunity to go swimming on a **Thursday morning** at the indoor recreation centre in St Ives in order to achieve their 25m swimming certificate. You will be notified of the details of this nearer the time.

We look forward to meeting you all at Parents' Evenings before half term. If you have any concerns before then, please contact your child's class teacher via the school office email.

The Year 3/4 Team.