

# Swavesey Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have all had a lovely Easter break and managed to enjoy some of the beautiful sunshine. We hope that the good weather will continue as we head into the summer term.

The children have settled in well; it is so rewarding seeing their smiling faces and eagerness to learn as well as watching them form strong relationships with their peers.

We are returning to school this term with our exciting history topic '**The Anglo Saxons.**' Our topic focus will be learning about life in Saxon times. We will be studying a variety of artefacts and will look at different sources of evidence to find out about how the Saxons used to live. We will also focus on developing and using map skills, exploring the local area and looking for evidence of Saxon life. Please see the attached overview for further information.

To deepen the children's understanding of this historical topic, we have arranged a school trip to **West Stow Anglo Saxon Village in Suffolk on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June.** It will be a fabulous opportunity to visit the only early Anglo-Saxon settlement reconstructed on the original excavated site. Children will investigate aspects of the buildings in the reconstructed Village and study the finds from the settlement, the cemetery and other local sites, with replicas to handle in the Anglo-Saxon Museum. We will require **additional adult helpers on the day**, so if you are free and able to assist us, please contact your child's class teacher to let them know. More information about the day will be emailed to you closer to the time.

English lessons will include work on narratives and we will be studying a fabulous Saxon story, '**Beowulf**' written by **Michael Morpurgo** to spark our imaginations. Other genres of text will include report writing, poetry, diary writing, kennings and riddles.

Daily reading at home is extremely beneficial to your child's learning across all subjects. Please continue reading with your child at home each day for at least 15 minutes, as this is making a great difference to their reading progress. Reading maybe sharing a story with each other, taking it in turns to read aloud focusing on expression and taking note of punctuation and developing comprehension skills. Always ask questions, checking your child's understanding of words and phrases. If you have a reluctant reader, let them choose what they would like to read, this could be a non-fiction book, magazine, comic or even the same book repeatedly. The aim is to make reading a pleasurable and enjoyable experience.

Maths will continue to be taught within class groups. This term we will be catching up on basic skills and knowledge and then we will focus on problem solving and mastery activities, applying the children's knowledge of the four number operations.



Arrangements for PE remain the same with children arriving in school wearing their PE kits for the day. All classes will take part in two outdoor sessions during the week - activities will include tennis, dynamo cricket and athletics. PE will take place on a Tuesday and Friday for Badgers and Kingfishers, and a letter has been sent home to parents in Swans detailing PE days as they are less consistent due to timetabling issues.

We would be grateful if you could encourage your child to complete their homework tasks - these include topic activities from the homework sheet, weekly spellings and times tables.

Your child should aim to practise spellings which are set weekly for a few minutes every day. Your child will be sent home with a Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check spelling sheet to practise at home. Spellings can also be found on Purple Mash. Kingfishers Class will be tested and have new spellings each Wednesday whilst Swans and Badgers classes will be tested and have spellings set each Friday.

In addition, please support your child in learning the Year 3 and 4, 109 statutory spellings. We continually revisit these to track progress. Your child will be tested during the middle of this half term and will have their final formal **109 test during our assessment week, week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> June**. Year 3 should aim to spell at least 50% of the words and Year 4, 80% of the words.

Children will continue to be tested weekly on their times tables. Kingfishers will be tested on Wednesdays and will be given new x tables to learn and Badgers and Swans will continue to be tested on Fridays and will be given new x tables to learn. Practice sheets are saved in your child's Purple Mash folder. Year 3 children should be able to recall their 2,3,4,5,6, 8 and 10x tables by the end of the year including the related division and Year 4s should be able to recall all x tables up to 12 x 12.

The week beginning **12<sup>th</sup> June will be our formal assessment week** in which we will assess our pupils' progress in English and maths. The results will also help us with our planning and help us target work in the future.

One of the assessments we will be administering is the government Multiplication Times Tables Check (MTC) to our Year 4 pupils. This test assesses their speed and accuracy of all their x tables knowledge up to 12 x 12. The test will be administered on an Ipad and will consist of 25 questions, with 6 seconds given per question. It is important that your child practises the timing and structure of the test. This can be done by logging into Purple Mash:

**Purple Mash, Mathematics, Times Tables, Multiplication, Launch, Assessment, Start Test**

or by clicking on the following links to find out more information:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/at-school/year-4-multiplication-tables-check/>

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

Daily, short bursts of x tables practice have proved to be really beneficial to our pupils in the past, helping them perform to the best of their ability in the MTC.

Once again, we would like to thank you for all your support and help. Please contact your child's class teacher if you have any problems or queries. We are looking forward to the term ahead.

Yours sincerely,  
The Year 3/4 Team