

Swavesey Primary School

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Friday 15th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 3 and 4! We hope that you have had a great summer enjoying the sunshine (and the rain!) 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 and sensibly. It has been a pleasure returning to school seeing the pupils' smiley faces as they greet their friends and their readiness to return to learning. It was also lovely seeing parents in person at our 'welcome to Year 3 and 4 meeting' last Tuesday!

This term our topic is history based and is called '**From Cavemen to Celts.**' We will build up our understanding of life during these times by looking at different sources of evidence. We will explore the periods from long ago, firstly focusing on life during the Stone Age, moving through to the Bronze Age and the Iron Age.

We are planning a visit to either Wandlebury Country Park and have just received confirmation. **Badgers and Kingfishers will visit on Monday 9th October** and **Swans on Thursday 12th October**. The day visit should enrich the children's learning of our topic area and give the children hands on experience of lighting fires and exploring the outdoors. Further information, and a request for parent helpers, will be sent out in a separate a letter.

All children will be performing in a year 3.4 production early in the new year. Our 'Cavemen to Celts' performances will be held on the **afternoon of Wednesday 17th January** and the **evening of Thursday 18th January**. Please save the date in your diaries.

In English we will explore a variety of genres which will include story writing, non-chronological reports and poetry. 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 15 - 20 minutes. Please take time to hear them read and 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. which is timetabled primarily on **Monday and Tuesday** for Swans and **Tuesday and Wednesday** for Kingfishers and Badgers.



Children should 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. Occasionally, PE days may alter, so if this is the case, we will notify you.

During the Autumn term, top-up Year 4 swimmers (those that have not yet mastered swimming 25m) will have the opportunity to go swimming on a **Tuesday afternoon** at the indoor recreation centre in St Ives. Year 3 children will swim later in the year and will be notified by Mrs Turian closer to the time.

We look forward to meeting you all at Parents' Evenings the week 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.

