

Swavesey Primary School

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Dear Parents of Year 3 and 4 children,

We hope that you all managed to have a lovely Christmas and spend some time with your family and friends during the festive period. We would like to wish you all happy and healthy 2024!

The children have returned to school full of spirit and enthusiasm for their learning and there is a lovely bubble of excitement within the phase as we practise our **'Cavemen to Celts' school production** which will be performed in the school hall on **the afternoon of Wednesday 17th January and the evening of Thursday 18th January**. We are sure it will be a wonderful show for you to watch so please make sure that you have ordered your tickets. We would like to thank you in advance for the time you have spent helping your child learn their lines and for their magnificent costumes!

Our topic this term is geography and science based and is called 'Earth Matters!' The children will be using maps and atlases to explore the world and will be identifying physical and human features and comparing the similarities and differences between regions. Science experiments will promote thinking and investigative skills and will encourage pupils to develop their observational skills, make predictions and carry out a fair test, evaluating and drawing conclusions from their findings. We will also be exploring the theme of **'Time' during British Science Week in March**. Please see the attached overview for more information about what we will be studying in different subject areas this term.

Our Reading Spine Books this term are **The Iron Man by Ted Hughes** and **Hansel and Gretel by Anthony Browne** and **The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Rauf**. These books have been selected carefully to inspire Year 3 and 4 children and promote reading for pleasure, making links with other stories and developing vocabulary acquisition. It has been clear in the past that focusing in depth in a text, has enabled our pupils to produce high quality pieces of written work too.

Attached is a **homework choice sheet** loosely based around the topic. Please take time to look through the options with your child and encourage them to **choose one activity** that they are interested in. We would like to see one piece of detailed high quality piece work (like a mini project) rather than lots of little pieces of work.

Please continue to help your child with at **least 15 minutes of daily reading** – sometimes this may be listening to them read and asking questions, other times it maybe you reading aloud to them and asking questions about the text. Remember that even for our most proficient readers, reading aloud and sharing texts together is an important life skill. Try to get a balance of activities but most importantly try make it a pleasurable experience for everybody!

In addition to this, **weekly spellings and x tables** will continue to be set on Purple Mash each week. Please encourage and help your child learn these – 10 minutes of each every day should help them retain the new spelling pattern or X table. Year 4 pupils will have statutory X tables test in the summer term, testing them on all of their X tables up to 12 x 12 – they will only be given 6 seconds per question. All pupils will be tested on the statutory 109 spellings for Y3 and 4 at the end of this term and in the summer term where Year 3 pupils will aim to spell 50% or more and Year 4 pupils 80% or more to meet the expected standard for their year group.

We look forward to catching up with you in February for parents' evening but if you have any questions or queries please contact your child's class teacher via the school office email.

Thank you so much for all your support so far this year.

The Year 3 and 4 Teaching Team

