

Swavesey Primary School

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Dear Parents of children in Otters, Squirrels and Foxes,

We hope that you have had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed some quality family time. The school year has started positively, and it has been wonderful seeing the children move into their new classes with confidence. Their enthusiasm for learning and positive attitude towards new experiences has been a pleasure to see, and they should be proud of themselves.

The Autumn term is always a busy and exciting time. We have lots of wonderful events and activities planned, including book fairs, interactive curriculum days and, of course, our annual Christmas celebrations. Our priority is for your child to learn whilst having fun, exploring new ideas and developing their skills alongside their friends.

This term, our topic is 'Let's Go on a Journey'. Through this exciting unit, the children will learn about transport over time and explore different places around our world. We will make links across the curriculum and encourage the children to develop their curiosity about the past, the present and the wider world. Further information about our curriculum and learning this term can be found in the Parent Information Session slides, which are available on the school website.

Maths lessons will take place every day within your child's classroom, with a focus on developing strong number skills, problem-solving strategies and mathematical reasoning. Weekly maths homework and key number facts to practise will be shared through Purple Mash to help reinforce learning from the classroom.

Children will also be tested weekly on spellings, which will follow spelling patterns and rules being taught through phonics and spelling lessons. These spellings will be shared through Purple Mash, and we kindly ask that you support your child in practising them regularly at home.

Reading is a key priority throughout the school. Daily reading opportunities will support children in developing fluency, expression and comprehension skills. Each child will bring a reading book home weekly, and we ask that these books are returned to school every **Monday** so that they can be changed and monitored. We strongly encourage you to hear your child read every day, even if only for a short period. Reading regularly with an adult has a significant impact on children's confidence, vocabulary development and overall progress in learning.

Children in Year 1 will also take part in our new **Flooded Reading** programme three times each week. During these sessions, children will work in small groups to develop decoding, fluency and comprehension skills with a range of adults from across the school. This will provide additional opportunities to build confidence and foster a love of reading.



During Wednesday afternoon PPA time, the Year 1 and 2 teachers work closely together to assess pupils' progress and plan lessons. This helps to ensure consistency across the classes and allows professional discussions to take place about the children's learning and development. During this time, the children are taught by our PPA cover teachers. **Miss MacAuley teaches Computing**, whilst **Mrs Turian teaches PE**.

Homework will be set through Purple Mash and may include spelling activities, maths activities and information about what has been covered in class that week. In addition, children will receive a termly homework book linked to our unit of work. This provides a range of optional activities for children to complete and share with their classmates throughout the term.

Our Year 1 and 2 classes are:

- **Otters** – Mrs Seaden and Mrs Faiers
- **Foxes** – Mrs Cowburn and Mrs Kellam
- **Squirrels** – Miss Butler
- **Hedgehogs** – Miss Lawton

PE sessions will take place on the following days:

- **Foxes** – Tuesday and Wednesday
- **Otters** – Tuesday and Wednesday
- **Squirrels** – Monday and Tuesday
- **Hedgehogs** – Thursday and Friday

Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE days.

A few additional reminders:

- Please send your child to school each day with a named water bottle containing water only.
- Fruit is provided for all children in Key Stage 1, although children may also bring an additional healthy snack of fruit or vegetables.
- Please do not send personal items such as toys, fidget toys or personal stationery into school.
- We recommend that children bring a waterproof coat every day so that they are prepared for the changing weather.

We are looking forward to the term ahead and to working with your child as they continue on their educational journey. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Kind regards,

The Year 1 and 2 Team

