



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School
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Swans - Summer Term 1, 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new half term – I trust you had a good Easter and enjoyed plenty of chocolate with your children. I am looking forward to the summer term and all the events and exciting activities that it will bring to us in Swans.

Our main topic this half term is called '**Rites and Rituals**', and is to do with the extraordinary, ancient Central American civilisation of the Maya. We will have the benefit of a series of 'Virtual Visits' by renowned archaeologist Dr Diane Davies, who will be adding to our learning with video presentations and activities about artefacts that she has brought back from the Guatemalan jungle, the Mayan calendar and their advanced number system. She will also be linking up with us for a live Q&A session, when the children will have the chance to ask her about anything they choose. We will also learn about Maya gods, temples, ceremonies and their gruesome human sacrifices to appease the gods!

In our **English** lessons the children will be writing and performing poems about a Maya banquet following some learning about the foods that they ate including maize, vanilla, lizards and chocolate. We will also be starting to rehearse for our **play**, which is called 'Time Lord' and will be performed publicly towards the end of the summer. Auditions have already been held and we look forward to confirming roles and getting started.

Of course, Year 6 will be focussed on SATs as well this half term, and we will be doing some revision and practice for those. SATs week starts on 9th May – a schedule of the tests will be sent out next week. Best of luck to our older children.

In **Art** we will be linking some of our learning to the Maya topic, making masks in a similar style to the ones used by them for ceremonies or for burial. We will also be starting a unit on Pop Art, looking at the work of Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol. In **Music** we will continue to have the exciting opportunity to learn to play the flute, with the help of Mr Blythe.

Our **P.E.** days will be Monday and Friday, so please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school on these days. They will also have lunchtime PE (trainers only) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. As before, there will be 2 sets of **Home Learning** each week. Maths will go out on Tuesday and needs to be back in on Thursday; English will go out on Friday and needs to be in the following Tuesday. **Spellings** will go out on Thursday and be tested the following week.

Kind regards,

Mr Sharp