



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School
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Swans Newsletter – Spring Term 1, 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new half term in Swans and I hope you all enjoyed some valuable time with your friends and families over the festive period.

This half term the 3 week blocks that I will teach to Year 6 are on **History** and **Art**. In **History** we are looking at Gender Equality. We will revisit our work from last year on the Suffragettes and the fight that this brave and principled group had to get 'Votes for Women'. We will then think about how this movement inspired others, bringing our History right up to date – from Women's Lib to Girl Power to closing the gender pay gap.

In **Art** we will be focussing on Picasso and Cubism. The children will play with perspective and face composition, making a collage from magazines. They will also reproduce a famous Picasso painting before creating their own portraits of a classmate – but like you have never seen them before, after giving them the 'Picasso' treatment!

In **Maths** we will be looking at some challenging areas including **ratio, algebra and decimals**, continuing with our very successful and popular White Rose workbooks. Support from home would be greatly appreciated with times tables, using Hit the Button or the BBC Supermovers songs.

In **English** we will write poems using 'Kennings' phrases based on the character of a friend or family member. Later, we will be thinking about diaries from the viewpoint of a Suffragette protester travelling to a rally in Bury St Edmunds, using all that History knowledge to inspire great writing.

Our **Guided Reading** will explore various fiction and non-fiction texts and we will be starting a new class book – 'Hatchet' by Gary Paulsen – which is about a boy surviving alone in the Canadian wilderness. A reminder that children are expected to read at home daily, for around 20 minutes, **recording this in their Planners**, and parents should please **sign once a week** to confirm this. I would really appreciate your support with reinforcing this most beneficial habit - which helps with so many aspects of our learning. Happy reading.

Our **P.E.** lessons will be on Tuesday morning this half term – we have the chance to do gymnastics with Mrs Palframan to learn some new skills. Swans will continue to have extra lunchtime PE on Wednesday and Friday, so please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school on these days. There will be 2 sets of **Home Learning** each week. Maths will go out on Tuesday and needs to be back in on Friday; English/Topic will go out on Thursday to be handed in the following Tuesday. **Spellings** will go out on Friday and be tested the following week.

Early Birds Booster sessions will take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8.30am, in the week beginning 9th January, and continue for the rest of the half term.

Kind regards,

Mr Sharp