



Class Newsletter

Swans - Summer Term 1, 2020

Dear Swans,

I hope you are all well, happy and have enough toilet roll to cope with Lockdown. I trust that you had a great Easter and didn't eat too much chocolate (unlike me!).

I expect you are all finding it a little strange to not know when, or if, we will be together back in school — I know that I am. I am also sure that you have all become experts at finding things on the internet which interest you, keep you active, help you learn and find out new things. I will give you some suggestions and ideas here of how you might continue to explore.

Our topic starting this half term would have been the Mayans — the ancient civilisation who lived in Mexico and Guatemala from 500BC to the 1500s. You should do a project on the Mayans from home, using the lined book you were given before Easter. Find out as much information as you can, organising it under sub-headings such as Food, Sport, Clothes, Religion and Family Life. Add anything else you find interesting. The Mayans are well known, amongst other things, for having a hot chocolate drink (how did they make it?), for praying and doing human sacrifices at the top of amazing stone temples in the jungle, having a very early calendar and writing system using symbols and for playing a kind of football game called pok-ta-pok where the loser would be killed. Try the BBC Bitesize website for starters — <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw>. Make sure you include plenty of artwork to liven up your writing — they had some beautiful stone carvings, temples and clothing patterns that you could reproduce. You could also have a debate with your family about whether human sacrifice was a good or bad thing! Have fun and find out some interesting facts to share with the class when we get back together.

For some Maths practice — finish any of the booklets that you haven't done already. Then, use the online links that you have been given such as White Rose (on the recent newsletter) or Classroom Secrets Kids that you all have a log-in for. Also, try to include Maths in some creative activities - work out quantities of ingredients while you are cooking, use your squared books to draw a coordinate grid and write the coordinates for a simple drawing, estimate the heights and lengths of things in the garden or when you go for a walk. There are more useful links overleaf.

For extra writing practice, use the Pobble 365 website for pictures and ideas to stimulate your writing. There are grammar practice activities on Classroom Secrets Kids and keep up that spelling practice on Spelling Frame.

Apart from all that, keep well, stay safe and keep your brains active! I look forward to seeing all the wonderful work you have done in your books when we are back in school. I will be in touch again soon. Have fun!

Mr Sharp

Here are some more useful weblinks - you may well have used these already, but if not, take a look!

- every day should start with Joe Wicks at 9am - see Youtube! Keep exercising
- www.worldofdavidwalliams.com
- www.jamieoliver.com/features/category/get-kids-cooking
- www.robbiddulph.com/draw-with-rob - step by step illustrations with the author
- www.stem.org.uk/home-learning - maths and science activities to try
- www.urbrainy.com - 5 free home study resources when you register
- www.nrich.maths.org/8921 - maths problem solving puzzles
- https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/289/KS2_Maths_Invaders - space invaders with maths practice. Also try other games on this site
- Amazon Audible are offering 1 free audiobook when you register - we have just finished listening to Matilda by Roald Dahl!
- www.thirdspacelearning.com/blog/fun-maths-games-activities-for-kids
- rspb.co.uk - has loads of information on how to identify birds, insects and other wildlife in your garden and in the countryside

Any others that you find that are useful or fun, share with each other!