



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School
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Swans Newsletter – Spring Term 2, 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a crucial half term in Year 6. I hope everyone had a good break and are raring to go as we prepare ourselves for the assessments to come next term. I would really appreciate your efforts to try and ensure full attendance for all the children, except where unavoidable, so that they don't miss any of the important recapping that we will be doing.

This half term the 3 week blocks that I will teach to Year 6 are on **Geography** and **Music**. In **Geography** we are looking at Maps and a Local Area Study. The children will brush up on their map skills, learning about symbols and keys, 4 and 6 figure grid references, scale and measuring distances. We will also look at maps of Bury St Edmunds and how it has changed over the last 100 years, thinking about where land has changed in how it is being used and how transport has developed over the years. We will conduct a traffic survey in Bury town centre and write up the results.

In **Music** we will be focussing on the song 'You Got a Friend' by Carole King and will be using Charanga to help us sing and play along to the tune and other ballads similar to it.

In **Maths** we will be looking at some challenging areas including **ratio, shape, position and direction and algebra**, 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 be writing both formal and informal letters, to and from Charles Darwin, to link with our **Science** topic on **Evolution and Inheritance**, thinking how the style in which we write needs to suit the intended audience. We will look at his voyage on the HMS Beagle and how he worked out his theories from observing animals and plants in the Galapagos Islands, thinking about inherited characteristics, variation within a species and adaptation.

Our **Guided Reading** will explore various fiction and non-fiction texts and we will be continuing with our 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.

Early Birds Booster sessions will again take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8.30am.

Kind regards,

Mr Sharp

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