



**Great Whelnetham CE Primary School**  
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## Swans Newsletter – Spring Term 1, 2024

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 focus our learning 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 the famous paintings of L.S. Lowry. The children will learn about his distinctive style and how his work is firmly rooted in the industrial, urban landscape where he grew up. Then we will try to capture his style of painting human figures in a crowd, from a photograph of the class. We will look at perspective and using a vanishing point to help us recreate urban scenes. We'll even listen to the song about him, for those old enough to remember that!

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 the White Rose App, 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 Hyde Park, 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 Wednesday afternoons this half term. Swans will also 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.

**Early Birds Booster** sessions will take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8.30am, starting this week, and continue for the rest of the half term.

Kind regards,

Mr Sharp

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