



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

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a great Easter and enjoyed some spring weather and valuable time together. Welcome back to another exciting and important half term in Year 6. I would again appreciate your support to try and ensure full attendance for all the children, except where unavoidable, so that they don't miss any of the important revision and preparation that we will be doing.

We will of course be recapping key areas of the curriculum in Maths and Grammar as well as sharpening up our speed-reading and question answering strategies in Reading. However, on top of this there are lots of exciting and interesting learning and fun activities to be looking forward to

This half term the 3 week blocks that I will teach to Year 6 are on **DT** and **PSHE**. In DT we have already started to look at batik techniques for textile design and will soon be using these to make our own dyed cotton cushion covers inspired by the indigenous wildlife of Java, the home of batik. We will use some new equipment that the school has invested in to heat wax and apply it to the fabric with traditional craft tools. Once the designs have been applied and dyed, the fabric will then be sewn into the finished cushion cover, which the children will be able to bring home.

The **PSHE** this half term is centred on Sex and Relationships Education – a separate letter with details of these sessions will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

In **English** we will practice character and setting description based on a short film clip about a New York barber's shop to practice our use of rich, imaginative language. We will also again be entering the Character Creations competition that we had so much success in last year.

Our **Guided Reading**, on top of SATs preparation will explore our new class book – 'The Girl of Ink and Stars' by Kiran Millwood Hargrave – about a girl living on a mysterious and exotic island who goes on a quest to discover the truth about her family and her home. Regular reading of high quality, age appropriate books in the run up to SATs will still be very beneficial to your child – please quiz them about what they read, asking about the plot, the characters and what they think is going to happen next. Happy reading.

Our **P.E.** lessons will now be on Friday afternoons this half term with a cricket coaching organisation coming in to teach the whole school skills with bat and ball. 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. **Swimming** lessons will begin on Wednesday afternoons after SATs.

Early Birds Booster sessions will take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8.30am, just up until the SATs. I will also send another letter out soon with details of the schedule for SATs week from 9th-12 May

Kind regards,

Mr Sharp