



**Great Whelnetham CE Primary School**  
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### **Swans Newsletter** - Autumn Term 1, 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer break and that your child is ready for some exciting and challenging learning this half term.

Our **main topic** is called 'Poles Apart' and will involve learning about some great British explorers like Scott and Shackleton, and the 'race to the Poles' in the early 20th century. We will study in detail the journey of Shackleton, on the HMS Endurance, to the South Pole and the extraordinary courage and determination shown by the crew.

In **Maths** we will be looking at place value, rounding numbers, comparing and ordering numbers, negative number, addition and subtraction, multiples and factors, multiplication and division. It would be great if you can help support your child's learning by looking at the resources in these areas online at BBC Bitesize - KS2 Maths.

In **English** we will write a biography of Ernest Shackleton after conducting some research about his life and adventures. We will also be writing formal letters to apply for a Spy job with MI6! In October there will be a class trip to Cambridge which will be a fun packed day in 2 parts - first a visit to the Polar Museum and a bespoke workshop, and then to Spy Missions for some fun in cracking a futuristic case. More details about the trip will follow soon in a separate letter.

In **Art** we will be looking at the work of Japanese artist Hokusai and creating our own prints in the style of his famous Great Wave/ Views of Mount Fuji series. Our **Guided Reading** will explore various fiction and non-fiction texts and we will read 'Wonder' by RJ Palacio as a class book. In **Music** we will have the exciting opportunity to learn to play the flute, with the help of a trained instructor (instruments will be provided by the school).

Our **P.E.** lessons will be on Tuesday and Thursday, with extra lunchtime PE on Wednesday and Friday, so please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school on these days. Children should come in wearing school uniform and will change ready for PE. There will be 2 sets of **Home Learning** each week. Maths will go out on Tuesday and needs to be back in on Thursday; English/Topic will go out on Friday to be handed in the following Tuesday.

**Spellings** will go out on Friday and be tested the following week. The lists on stickers in Reading Planners will link to Spelling Frame ([spellingframe.co.uk](http://spellingframe.co.uk)) so please help your child to access this very useful website every week to use the games and activities to practice their spellings list.

Year 5 and 6 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.

Kind regards,

Mr Sharp

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