



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School
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Swans Newsletter - Autumn Term 1, 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer break and that your child is ready for some exciting and challenging learning in Year 6 this half term.

To start the year, our focus subjects will be **History** and **Design and Technology**. In **History** we will be learning about the ancient Central American civilisation of the Maya. We will look at their temples and debate the rights and wrongs of ritual sacrifices, their food by designing a Maya banquet, and we will be joined on video link by renowned Maya archaeologist Dr. Diane Davies. In **Design and Technology** we will be learning the techniques of bread making, building up to making savoury, flavoured bread.

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 persuasive speech based on the TV programme 'Room 101'. The children will have to write to try and persuade an audience that their pet hate should be banished from the world forever! We will also be developing our knowledge of Mayan foods by writing poems about the dishes and atmosphere at a festival banquet.

Our **Guided Reading** will explore various fiction and non-fiction texts and we will start reading 'Wonder' by RJ Palacio as a class book. 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 Monday this half term and we are very lucky to have Ipswich Town coaching staff coming in to deliver this. We will also have the option of extra lunchtime PE on Monday and Friday, so please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school on these days. 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 same day of the following week. Spelling Shed games will be available for practice as last year.

If there are any questions about this or any other query relating to your child's learning, please don't hesitate to ask me. There will be a welcome/introduction session for parents on Thursday 19th September, when you would be welcome to come into class and hear more about how I teach in Swans.

Kind regards,

Sam Sharp

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