Egerton Church of England Primary School

Together, we inspire, nurture and thrive.

Swans Newsletter – Autumn Term 2

WELCOME

We hope you've all enjoyed a wonderful break! This term is always packed with activity and excitement, and there will be plenty of engaging new learning opportunities to explore! As we move into the colder winter months, please remember to send your child in with a coat every day. We'll continue to make the most of outdoor learning whenever we can.

Mrs Thompson and Mrs Spencer.

Reading books

Research shows that practice, practice and more practice is the best way to become a fluent reader. This includes reading and rereading the same text multiple times until it becomes effortless for the child. To support your child, please ensure they have their phonics reading books and red record book in school every day, and please listen to them read their book at home daily.



Spelling and Grammar

To support our children to become better spellers, last year, we invested as a school in 'Spelling Shed'. Alongside learning to read and spell in our phonics and writing lessons, we will have different spelling words and patterns to focus on in class each week. In addition, I will set games for the children to play at home as a fun way of practicing. A sticker with their login details will be found inside their red reading record book. The games are quick and fun, and it will be great to see the impact regular practice can have on their spelling knowledge. Login frequently to play the games and we will celebrate their progress in class.

Spelling Shed

This term's topic – 'Remember, Remember'



History leads the topic this term, as we will be finding out about World War 1, where it took place and what life was like for soldiers in the trenches. Having learnt about poppies through art last term, we will now consider the link between poppies and Remembrance.

In addition, we will be using sewing and other joining techniques to make our own glove puppets through our DT project, carrying out investigations about suitability of materials in Science and creating music using instruments and our voices for performing. Finally, we will be putting our singing voices to full use in the KS1 Christmas Concert!

RE



This term, we are focusing on a universal topic (one which incorporates the ideas and thinking from many perspectives, both religious and non-religious). We will consider the big question '**How should we care for others and why does it matter?**'

Important…





Please send your child in with a **named water bottle** every day, along with a **coat** – we cannot always predict the rain! Gloves, hats and scarves for cold weather also need to be named. Fresh, healthy snacks are provided each day by school for break. Alternatively, you can provide fruit or vegetables from home, yogurt or a cereal bar. No nut products and no sweets or chocolates, please.

PE days this term: Tuesday and Thursday

How to contact me

If you have any worries and would like to speak to me, please contact the school by phone or email, or you can email me directly swans@egerton.kent.sch.uk and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you, Mrs Thompson

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Home learning activities for Term 2

- **Daily reading** - Please listen to your child **read** their phonics book for 5 - 10 minutes **every day**.
- Please also **read to your child daily** (this could be at bedtime or whenever it fits in with your routine)
- Practice reading and spelling **the year 1 and 2 common exception word** list (see below)
- Spelling games on '**Spelling Shed**' set weekly

Reading for pleasure – great ideas for gifts!

Here is a link to a list of great books for year 2 readers: [Best Books for Year 2: Recommended Booklist for Ages 6-7 (booksfortopics.com)]



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Useful websites:

[1-minute maths app | White Rose Maths (whiteroseeducation.com)]

[Maths - Topmarks Search]

[Most Popular Free Maths Games - Mathsframe]

[ictgames || html5 Home Page]

Year 1 and 2 Common Exception Words

Year 1

the	they	one
a	be	once
do	he	ask
to	me	friend
today	she	school
of	we	put
said	no	push
says	go	pull
are	so	full
were	by	house
was	my	our
is	here	
his	there	
has	where	
I	love	
you	come	
your	some	

Year 2

door	gold	plant	clothes
floor	hold	path	busy
poor	told	bath	people
because	every	hour	water
find	great	move	again
kind	break	prove	half
mind	steak	improve	money
behind	pretty	sure	Mr
child	beautiful	sugar	Mrs
children	after	eye	parents
wild	fast	could	Christmas
climb	last	should	everybody
most	past	would	even
only	father	who	
both	class	whole	
old	grass	any	
cold	pass	many	

twinkl www.twinkl.co.uk

Screen time research

Research shows excessive (over 2 hours a day/evening) screen time can negatively impact children's social-emotional development, language skills, and physical health, with links to anxiety, depression, aggression, and obesity.

Conversely, limited educational screen use can have benefits. The type of screen content matters, as gaming is associated with higher risks than educational content.

Risks of excessive screen time

Social and emotional problems: Increased screen time is linked to higher rates of anxiety, depression, aggression, and hyperactivity.
Developmental delays: Excessive use can interfere with language development and negatively affect executive functions like emotional control and focus.
Physical health issues: Excessive screen time is associated with an increased risk of obesity due to sedentary behaviour and unhealthy eating habits while viewing, and can contribute to sleep disorders.
***A* vicious cycle**: Children with existing socioemotional problems may turn to screens as a coping mechanism, potentially creating a cycle of increased use and worsening problems.

Moderating factors and positive strategies

Content matters: Gaming, especially certain types of games, is linked to higher risks compared to educational or recreational screen use.

Parental involvement: Set clear screen time limits and boundaries.

Engage with children's screen activities, such as co-viewing, to help them understand the content and model good screen habits yourself.

Age-specific guidance: Older children can benefit from limited, educational use, but the balance with other activities is still crucial.