



Swans Newsletter – Term 2

Welcome back Swans Class!

We hope you had a fun half term with lots of adventures!

This term our topic is Fairy Tales. We will be exploring lots of stories and learning to retell some key ones. We will also explore Kings and Queens and where they might live.

Now that the leaves on the trees are turning, we can go on an autumn walk and see how our local environment is changing.

Literacy

We will continue to explore stories in our Talk through Stories sessions and we will be starting Drawing Club this term! We will be drawing pictures from stories and writing special codes to make crazy things happen!

We will continue to have our daily RWI sessions, writing letters and blending sounds to make words. The children will be placed into fluid groups based on their understanding so far so we can fully support their individual development.

Please continue to support your child's letter formation and blending at home as well as reading lots of stories.

Maths

This term we will continue to practise lots of subitising. We will also begin to use the language 'part' and 'whole' and understand numbers 1-5 in depth. We will begin to look at ways to represent numbers up to 10.

You can support your child at home to subitise (see numbers to 5 without counting). You could do this with chocolate buttons, coloured pencils, by showing you a number of fingers on one hand. Also look for numbers out and about, supporting your child to recognise numerals to 10. You can also download the 1 minute maths White Rose app.

Physical Development

We will continue to develop our core and shoulder strength to support us to sit on the carpet and write. We will continue to complete lots of fine motor activities to help strengthen our hands.

Our PE lessons will be on a **Monday**. We are doing gymnastics this term lead by TeamTheme, our external sports company. Please make sure your child has a full PE kit in school, with no jewellery and hair tied back. Earrings must either be removed for PE days or tape supplied to cover them.

Any opportunities you are able to support your child to be active and take risks (e.g. climbing a tree) are all fantastic for their physical and emotional development.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will continue to support the children to learn to self-regulate and take responsibility for themselves around the classroom. We will be looking more closely at our school value of compassion and how the children can be compassionate towards others. We will also be looking at how we are valuable, unique individuals.

You can support your child by continuing to encourage them to dress themselves, practise doing buttons and turning clothing the correct way around.

Expressive Arts and Design

This term we will be junk modelling castles that the children design in line with our fairy tales topic. We will also have opportunities for the children to choose to make firework artwork and poppies for Remembrance Day. We will also be making our own Gingerbread men later in the term.

Understanding the World

This term we will be looking at Kings and Queens and where they might live. We will also be thinking about a good place for the Three Little Pigs to build their houses and testing materials ourselves to see which makes the best house. We will be thinking about what happens to substances when we heat them (cook our gingerbread) and observing what happens when we melt chocolate and butter. We will be exploring some Old Testament Stories as part of our RE learning, then continuing to understand the Christian story of Jesus' birth.



Communication and Language

Communication and language development runs through everything we do. We support the children to develop their listening and attention skills, understanding and speaking skills. We talk about what happens in a story, retell stories, share things that the children have done outside of school and ask questions. We sprinkle new and exciting language over everything we do, particularly during child-initiated play (explore time).

You can support your child at home by doing similar. Use phrases such as, 'I can see you're pushing your button through the hole', 'I wonder what might happen when we mix the egg into the flour', 'I wonder why the mouse tells the fox he is having lunch with a Gruffalo', 'I wonder who you were kind to at school today'.

Important...

- Please make sure your child has a **named water bottle** containing water in school every day.
- With the weather getting colder, please ensure your child has a **named coat** in school every day. It is helpful for them to know where to find their name in their clothing.
- Please ensure that all scarves, hats and gloves are also **named**.
- The children often take their shoes off in the outdoor area and put on wellies, therefore please can we ask that the children's shoes are easily identifiable to them either with their name or a sticker of some sort.
- Please ensure that long **hair is tied back** each day and that children **don't wear jewellery** for their own safety.
- Please encourage your child to **leave toys at home**. They are welcome to bring their Egerton bear into school.
- Snacks should be healthy – a sensible portion size of crackers, a piece of fruit or vegetable, a cereal bar, breadsticks.
- Children should not be bringing backpacks to school, unless discussed with Mrs Gilbert.
- If you have any questions, queries or problems, you are welcome to chat at the end of the school day once we have dismissed all children or make an appointment via the school office. You can also now drop us an email at swans@egerton.kent.sch.uk