



Swans Newsletter – Term 4

This term our topic is **Toys**. We will be exploring old and new toys, including similarities and differences between toys today and toys from the Victorian era. We will also learn the history of Teddy Bears and looking at Mrs Gilbert's Stieff Bear.

This term holds World Book Day, Science Week, International Women's Day and our preparations for Easter. It is set to be a busy term.

Snack Reminders:

We'd like to take the opportunity to remind you that the following are appropriate snacks:

Fruit, vegetables, a cereal bar, plain rice cake, plain breadsticks, plain crackers

Inappropriate snacks include:

Cakes, pastries, biscuits, chocolate or sweets, processed fruit bars (e.g. Fruit Winders, yoghurt/chocolate coated fruit), savoury snacks (e.g. crisps, salted/sweetened nuts), processed cheese (e.g. Cheese Strings and Dairylea Dunkers).

Children may be asked to put inappropriate snacks back into their bags.

Thank you for your support in providing your child with a healthy snack.

Literacy & Reading

We will continue to develop our love of reading, comprehension, vocabulary and writing stamina this term through lots of stories including, Elmer, Nature's Toy Box, On Sudden Hill and Five Minutes Peace. We will be writing phrases and short sentences both within our phonics lessons and literacy sessions.

This term your child will either bring home Red reading books, Ditty sheets and/or a Sound Blending book. We will send home video links to certain sounds to practise too.

Red reading books – some children will bring home the red ditty book that they have been reading in class, plus a 'book bag book'. Your child will be unfamiliar with the book bag book, but it contains the same sounds they have been practising in school. Red ditty books will be changed approximately every 3 days.

Ditty sheets – some children will bring home the ditty sheet that we have been reading in school. Ditty sheets will be sent home every day or every other day.

Sound blending books – Your child may also have a sound blending book to practise blending sounds into words.

We would appreciate if you could now begin to record what you are reading with your child in their red reading record books. Reading with your child every day, or practising sounds, for just 10 minutes can greatly improve their reading ability.

Please ensure reading records and reading books are in school every day to allow us to change these when necessary.

Miss Cosgrove leaves us on Friday 7th February. The adults and children will all be sorry to see her leave. She has been a wonderful asset to our team!

Miss Davis will be joining the Swans team after half term. She has lots of experience with a variety of year groups in school, including reception.



What will we be learning about this term?

Physical Development – Our PE lessons will be on a **Thursday**. We will be doing a variety of activities lead by Teamtheme's Coach Chris. 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.**

Communication and Language – This runs through all that we do all day, every day!

Mathematics – We will continue to deepen the children's concept images of number. A great way to do this is to drop a selection of up to 10 objects onto a tray and asking your child what they notice. They may say 'I can see a 2 and a 2 and a 3 and a 1. A 2 and a 3 together makes 5. 5 and a 2 together makes 7. 7 and 1 more makes 8.' Developing images around numbers and speedy subitising as this point in your child's mathematical journey, is crucial to their later learning of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Expressive Arts and Design – This term we will exploring mechanisms and toys that we can push or pull. We will be exploring colours in nature and doing observational drawings of daffodils and spring flowers in nature.

RE – This term we are looking at Salvation – the Easter story and why this is significant for Christians.

Understanding the world – We will be looking at similarities and differences between old and new toys. We will be exploring push and pull forces. We will be looking at how boats float and creating our own boats.

Important...

- Please make sure your child has a **named water bottle** containing water in school every day.
- 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 **hair that is longer than shoulder length 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.
- 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 drop us an email at swans@egerton.kent.sch.uk