

Stanton Drew Primary School

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**The Federation of**

**Bishop Sutton and Stanton Drew Primary Schools**

**Swallow Class Newsletter**

**Terms 1 and 2 2020-2021**

 A warm welcome to all of those in Swallow class this year. I am so excited to be back in the classroom teaching all of you. I hope that you are all looking forward to the year ahead as much as I am.

**Swallows’ teaching staff:**

Mrs Thomas is the teaching assistant in Swallow class this year, and will be supporting us for part of the morning every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Mrs Whitcher will be teaching art and R.E on a Thursday afternoon.

**Equipment**

Please can all children have the following in school every day:

* Reading book and reading record
* Water bottle
* Coat (whatever the weather please!)
* Wellies/ other shoes that are suitable for playing on the field (these cannot be their school shoes)
* Jumper- due to Coronavirus we always have to have the classroom windows and door open for ventilation, this means that the classroom can get chilly on cooler days.

Children cannot bring pencil cases into school at this time as I have provided every child with their own pencil cases and stationery to use in lessons. The pencil cases will be a great help to them for completing any homework that they have.

**P.E**

Children need to come to school in their P.E kits every Tuesday. As the children will be spending the whole day in their P.E kit, they need to have enough layers to keep them warm. P.E will always be taking place outside, and so suitable footwear and warm clothing is essential. On other days, we will be taking the opportunity to fit other physical exercise into our day such as the daily mile, games and yoga sessions. They do not need their P.E kit for this.

**Homework**

**Reading**

It is essential that your child reads for at least 10 minutes every evening. As a school, we request that children read a minimum amount of five times a week and that this is recorded in their reading diaries and signed by an adult. Reading diaries will be arriving soon, in the meantime it is important that your child is still reading.

**Times tables**

Each week, we will complete the 144 club challenge. Children will need to practise their times tables every week for this. They should know what areas they need to focus on in order to beat their personal best! Children should ideally be going on Times table Rockstars at least three times a week, as this is a great way for them to ensure they are fluent with their tables. Please let me know if your child has forgotten their login and I can provide you with this.

**Spellings**

Your child will have spellings sent home on Friday every week. They should practise these spellings for 10 minutes every evening trying to focus on the pattern. On Friday, I will then place these words into dictated sentences for them to have a go at.

**Learning Log**

 Every child has their own Learning Log; this is for them to make notes on any work that they have completed at home in order to extend their learning. This homework will not start for a few weeks until after the children have adjusted to being back in school. More details about this will be sent home when I set them their first task.

**The Curriculum**

 In maths, we will start the year by looking at place value. By Christmas, we will have covered; place value, addition and subtraction, statistics, multiplication and division and finally area and perimeter. We are using a ‘mastery’ approach to ensure that children are fluent in their knowledge and application. Any mental maths practice you can do at home will help them embed those key skills and enable them to become more fluent. In English, we are going to focus our work around the book ‘Here We Are’ by Oliver Jeffers. We will then move on to writing setting descriptions and character descriptions.

 In science, we will be looking at evolution during the first half of the term. We will explore terms such as inheritance and adaptation. After October half term, we will begin to look at light.

 In Geography, we are studying the Amazon up until October half term. We will focus on where the Amazon is located, key characteristics of rainforests, who lives in the rainforest, and why it is shrinking. After half term, we will be focusing on The Benin Kingdom in history.

 If you have any questions or queries then please send an email to the school office and I will get back to you. Alternatively, you can leave a message with the member of staff at the gate, or message me on Dojo.

Thank you,

Katie Nash