Swallowfield Lower School

Weathercock Close, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8SR, Tel: 01908 582101

21st February 2022

To Parents/Carers,
Welcome back to the second half of the spring term – it is set to be a very busy one and we hope that we will be able to share some dates for your diary once Covid guidance continues to change. Our main theme this half term is the Traditional Tales. Please take a look at our overview of the themes that we will be learning about on the school website, which is found under the Reception section. If you have any artefacts/resources/books you feel would support our topic please do inform your child's class teacher.

Some useful reminders for you:

Uniform
Please remember to name all items of uniform and other belongings that come into school. This includes all items of PE kit which is worn on a Friday. If using a pen, this needs to be checked regularly as names wear off and iron on labels can sometimes become unstuck. Please ensure children do not bring in toys or other items from home, as these often get lost or damaged which can be upsetting. Children should now be continuing to wear their winter uniform. If you are unsure whether certain items fall into this category check with your child's class teacher or check the prospectus you have previously received.

Learning at Home
You will continue to find home learning tasks published on Google Classroom each half term. These cross curricular activities change every half-term according to the themes we will be covering. These activities are not essential – but will promote the children's learning and understanding outside of the classroom, as well as promoting discussion at home with yourselves. We would recommend completing one activity per week but it is not a requirement – we understand life at home can be busy too. Any completed homework should be submitted by turning in the work through Google Classroom. If you are having any difficulties with this we would always recommend googling your issue first – as it is a Google program there is lots of helpful advice if you search through Google as your primary place to go with any difficulties. We will of course also help you in any way we can to resolves any difficulties.

We will also continue to Ping to you on a Friday a selection of Keywords/letter sounds. We will share via Ping a personalised small group of trickier words that children cannot successfully use their phonic knowledge to read. The expectation will be that you support your child at home to recognise the words from sight rather than a weekly spelling activity. One way you could support your child to recognise the words is hiding each word on a sticky note around different rooms at home – once the word is found, can they then read the word from sight rather than segmenting into singular sounds. Your child will visit these words with an adult in class on a Thursday afternoon – if they are successful, new words will be sent home, and if they are still tricky the word will be repeated again for the following week. Initially we may encourage children to learn letter sounds rather than full words to support early phonics learning. The amount of words are variable so please feedback to us any worries or concerns. Each half-term the children will be re-tested on the keywords – so if words are repeated later on in the year it is because the children have not shown us they have not retained the recognition of a word at a later date, but please don't be alarmed, just relearn to ensure long term recognition.

This half-term we are restarting our home reading books that will be sent home weekly on a Friday. These books will give you an opportunity to further support your child's early reading skills at home. We would like you to encourage your child to access the text by decoding words that are 'phonically regular' ie words that

can be sounded out and blended successfully. The texts within each band will fluctuate in terms of difficulty so if the text is a little trickier we suggest supporting your children comprehension skills – using questions such as 'What do you think might happen next?' 'Can you tell me what happened in this story?' 'Who were the characters in the story we have read?' can support children's early understanding of the text.
You may find the following link useful to give you an insight into our phonics scheme:
https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/
Your child will bring home books from a range of early reading schemes but we teach Read Write Inc phonics scheme in school. You can also find introductory videos to each Set 1 sound on Google Classroom if your child is struggling to recognise a particular sound.

If your child enjoys time on an iPad, phone or tablet then we have access to two different apps which will support your child's learning. Both logins were shared with you in September via a letter and small bookmark but please do contact your child's class teacher if these have been misplaced.
-BugClub – a whole-school early reading programme which gives you access to a range of e-books differentiated to your child's current reading level.
-Numbots – a motivational maths practice programme that helps children achieve understanding, recall and fluency in early Maths skills.

The children receive drinks in the morning, either, milk or water. If you wish to change your child's choice of drink for morning break time please do just let us know at the door or in a quick email.

If you wish to contact your child's class teacher with any queries, questions or concerns please do drop an email to your child's class teacher:
YRG – a.galloway@swallowfieldlowerschool.co.uk
YRP – l.papworth@swallowfieldlowerschool.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

L Papworth	A Galloway	K Garratt	E Thomas
EY Lead	Reception Teacher	Reception Teacher	Reception Teacher