

## **Welcome to Swifts, Year 5!**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first half of the autumn term, and I hope you have all had a fantastic summer break. I look forward to hearing about what the children have been up to.



### **Topic**

To commemorate the centenary of the First World War, our first topic will be Fallen Fields. For this topic, we will be reading *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo in English, studying maps of Europe in Geography, learning all about the war in History and using textiles in Art and Design. In addition to this, we will be studying online safety in ICT and describing human development in Science. Puberty will be briefly covered in science, looking at the main changes that occur in both boys and girls.

### **PE**

Children will be having PE on Tuesday mornings. Please ensure that your child brings a full PE kit to school each week, consisting of black or red shorts, white t-shirt and plimsolls or trainers. In cold weather, children can wear jogging bottoms and jumpers (preferably in black). Please can children remove earrings for PE sessions, or provide plasters or tape along with a permission slip if they cannot be removed.

### **British Values, RE and PSHE**

British Values is something that we address every day in school life and we will continue to do so. A different British Value is addressed each month. This half term we will be looking at inspirational people in today's world during RE lessons. The first topic in PSHE this term is Death and Grief – please do not hesitate to see me if you have any questions regarding the planning.

### **Homework**

Children are encouraged to read with parents at home every day, and we will continue to collect stamps to reward the children for this. Reading can be anything from their school reading book to a recipe, shopping list or a section of a magazine.

Spellings will be given out to children on a Monday and will be testing on Monday the following week. Children have opportunities to learn their meaning and practise in class but are encouraged to practise them at home, too. The age-related National Curriculum spellings are in the back of their spelling books (which they will bring home).

Maths homework will be given out every Friday, to be returned on the following Wednesday. Also, it would be extremely beneficial to practise times tables as often as possible. There are lots of free, online games and apps available!

Some home learning ideas for our topic are (try and do at least one, or more if you'd like!):

- Find out when poppy-wearing began. Explain to a parent or carer why the poppy was chosen as the symbol of remembrance.
- Make a scrapbook to present information about famous figures of the war including people such as Wilfred Owen, Walter Tull, Edith Cavell and Sergeant Stubby.
- Watch footage of the annual Remembrance Day service held at the Cenotaph in London. Describe how it makes you feel. Write a prayer or reflective poem that could be said at the service.
- Find out about the Women's Land Army. Who were they and what did they do? Make a fact file about the information you find.
- Write a book review of the novel *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo. Share your views and opinions on the book with your class.
- Design a war memorial and make it in 3D. Consider where you could place it in your local area.

**Please can children bring their reading records into school each week – this is important for us to reward them for reading at home as well as them sticking in their new spellings and guided reading learning objectives. Thank you!**

### **Uniform**

Please remember to send your child to school in full school uniform each day.

### **Key dates**

11.09.18	Power Up Theatre
19.09.18	Vegetable competition
24.09.18	Recycling week
27.09.18	Sponsored walk
	Film night
02.10.18	Time travelling day at St James' Church
25.10.18	Halloween disco
26.10.18	INSET day

I hope that this provides you with the information you need about your child's learning this half term. If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to arrange an appointment.

I'm positive that we will have an excellent start to year five! 😊

Kind regards,

Miss Hodgkin and Mrs Scrimshaw