



# Year 2 - Swallows



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school and welcome to Year 2!

I'm really happy to be getting back to the classroom and welcoming all the children into Swallows class. We are looking forward to having lots of fun this half term and our topic '**Muck, Mess and Mixtures**' is a great one to start with!

We're warning you; this is going to get messy! This half term, we'll have a messy morning to investigate mixtures, from paint and toothpaste to jelly and shaving foam. We'll enjoy the story of *George's Marvellous Medicine* and **write** recipes, leaflets, lists and stories of our own. We'll use our **science skills** to explore **everyday materials**, investigate soap products and understand why mixtures freeze and melt. We'll learn how to measure using scales, measuring jugs and cylinders accurately. We'll taste a wide variety of foods, learn about healthy eating and follow recipes to make some yummy treats including pizza and ice cream! Our **artwork** will also rely on our mixing skills. We will experiment with a variety of art and craft and natural materials to create layered and natural patterns inspired by artists such as Kurt Schwitters and Carl Warner. We are looking forward to painting with ice cubes, modelling clay into exciting shapes and using a variety of materials to make mixed media collages.

As well as our overarching topic above, we will also cover these areas:

- ◆ In Maths, we will be continuing to follow the White Rose Maths Scheme with a focus on place value, addition, and subtraction. We will continue to learn our multiplication tables, and the times tables focus in year 2 is x2, x3, x5, and x10. Please encourage your child to do a little every day, they can also find some engaging times tables songs on YouTube to help them learn them.
- ◆ In PE, we will be focusing on athletics and multi-skills and for obvious reasons, we will be spending as much of our PE time outdoors as possible. Therefore, please ensure that your child has a suitable PE kit in school every day; trainers in a plastic bag and tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt are advisable. We will send them home at the end of the week to be washed. Our PE days are Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- ◆ In Music, our focus will be on using their voices expressively, performing songs and raps linked to *George's Marvellous Medicine*. We will also be choosing and playing percussion and identifying rhythmic patterns.
- ◆ In RE we will be looking at How and why we celebrate significant times? What makes some celebrations sacred to believers?
- ◆ In ICT, we will be looking at coding and On-line safety using our Purple Mash Computing scheme.
- ◆ In PSHE, our focus is 'Being ME in our world'. We will think about our hopes and fears, rights and responsibilities and choices and consequences.
- ◆ Please ensure that your child reads daily. When you are hearing your child read, please ask them questions such as why the characters in their story did certain things, how the character may have felt, and what they could have done differently. When your child is reading a non-fiction text please talk to them about the way a non-fiction text is set out, asking how this can help them find information. Encourage them to use the index, contents page and glossary.
- ◆ Children will receive spellings on a Friday and will need to learn them for a spelling quiz the following week. We will also be using Rock Stars Tables to help children learn their times tables (more info to follow).
- ◆ Our whole school value for the first half term is 'Generosity' and we will be focusing on this through whole school worship times and in class on a daily basis.

We are really looking forward to an enjoyable and inspiring half term and rest assured, we will do everything we can to help your children settle back into school life with a smile on their faces!

Please feel free to catch me any time after school or make an appointment via the office, if you have any concerns or want to discuss anything throughout the term. I will be teaching Swallows on Monday -Thursday and Mrs Parkin will be with them on a Friday. We are always happy to discuss matters that are important to both you and your child.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lancaster and Mrs Parkin.

*Help your child prepare for their project 'Muck and mixtures can be messy and magical!' Why not make a variety of fun recipes to reveal how mixtures can come together and change? Trifle, gooey cookies and bread would all be good to try. You could also invent a new soft drink. Mix, shake and stir a range of fruit juices, cordials and sparkling water together and taste each one. Pick the best and give it a groovy name. Alternatively, try making different bubble mixtures to see which make the biggest bubbles!*