

Welcome to Swift Class



2020-21

Year 4

Teacher: Mr Paterson

*Challenge, Commit, Conquer,
Celebrate*

Hello Young Swift!

I hope you are all as excited as I am for the start of a new school year! I can't wait to welcome you all back to school in September and thought that this would be a good opportunity to outline what you can expect when we are all back together in the classroom. Obviously, school will look a little bit different to what we may have been used to at the start of this year, but we will all be able to learn together which is definitely the important thing! If you have any questions, please feel free to email me over at swift@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk and I will do my best to answer them.

Yours sincerely

Mr David Paterson

In Swift class

In the first week back to school, we will get together as a class and decide what 'being in Swift class' means for us. We might talk about how we listen to each other, what our learning will look like and how we are expected to be treated by others. We will talk about how we can help each other to be safe and happy in school and how we can have the best possible year imaginable!

Swift class's week at a glance	
Monday	Reading records checked. Mr Paterson's preparation time (AM)
Tuesday	Maths homework checked, PE session in the morning
Wednesday	Guided reading homework checked
Thursday	Dictations completed
Friday	PE session in the afternoon

This timetable outlines what general things will be happening over the course of the week. My preparation time is on Monday morning and Miss Evans will be teaching the class during this time.

The school rules are below, we will definitely be discussing these in detail and talk about how we can show these in class.



Mathematics

Websites to support learning at home

TT Rockstars - <https://trockstars.com/> - fluency of times tables

Numbots - <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro> - fluency of number facts and subitising (recognising numbers without counting them)

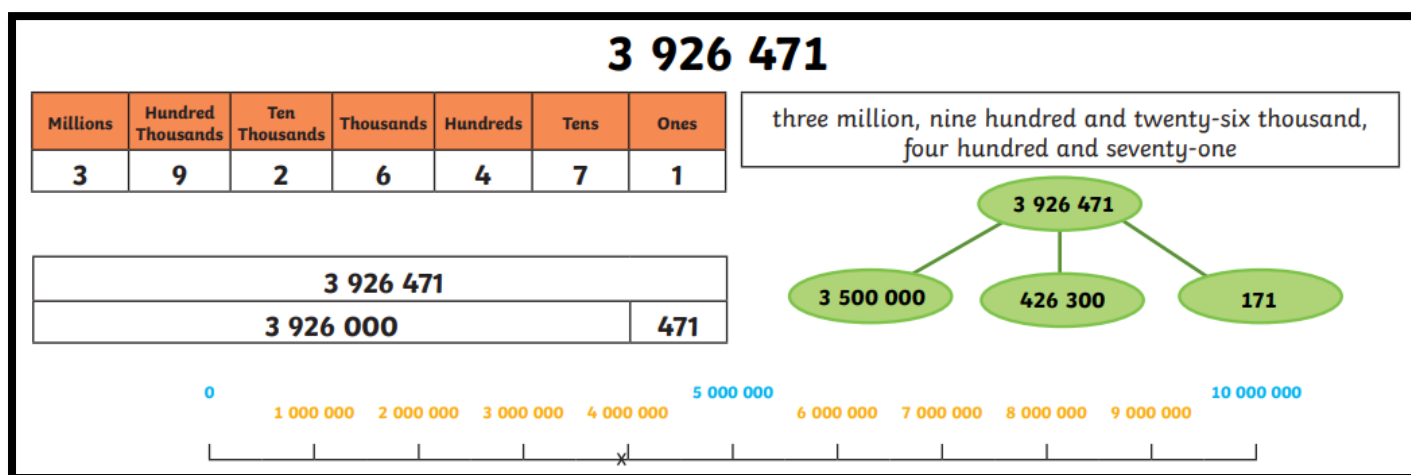
Hit the Button - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - fluency of number bonds, times tables and other number facts

Thinking Blocks - <https://www.mathplayground.com/thinkingblocks.html> - problem solving questions that can be modelled step by step – some of these problems get quite challenging!

At the end of year 4, all pupils will be expected to know all of their timestable facts up to 12×12 . I cannot give enough emphasis as to how important this will be for pupils moving forward, not just in primary school but also in secondary. If pupils learn their timestable facts they will be able to tackle other areas of the key stage 2 maths curriculum with ease. Timestable knowledge will be formally assessed near the end of the year and pupils will have no more than 6 seconds to read and respond to timestable questions (so no time to count on fingers I'm afraid!). If you ever get stuck for things to do at home, logging on to TTRockstars and practising your timestable will be the thing to do!

Below are some relevant examples from our calculation policy that show how we will teach other areas of the year 4 maths curriculum.

Place value



Written calculations

Pupils will revise how to add and subtract 3 digit numbers as well as begin to learn formal multiplication and division.

Draw representations using pv grid.

Use place value counters to show how we are finding groups of a number. We are multiplying by 4 so we need 4 rows

Fill each row with 126

Add up each col, making any exchanges needed

Children can continue to be supported by place value counters at the stage of multiplication. This initially done where there is no regrouping. $321 \times 2 = 642$

Hundreds	Tens	Ones
3	2	1
6	4	2

It is important at this stage that they always multiply the ones first.

The corresponding long multiplication is modelled alongside

Begin with divisions that divide equally with no remainder.

$$\begin{array}{r} 218 \\ 3 \overline{) 654} \end{array}$$

Move onto divisions with a remainder.

$$\begin{array}{r} 86 \text{ r } 2 \\ 3 \overline{) 432} \end{array}$$

Finally move into decimal places to divide the total accurately.

$$\begin{array}{r} 14.6 \\ 35 \overline{) 511.0} \end{array}$$

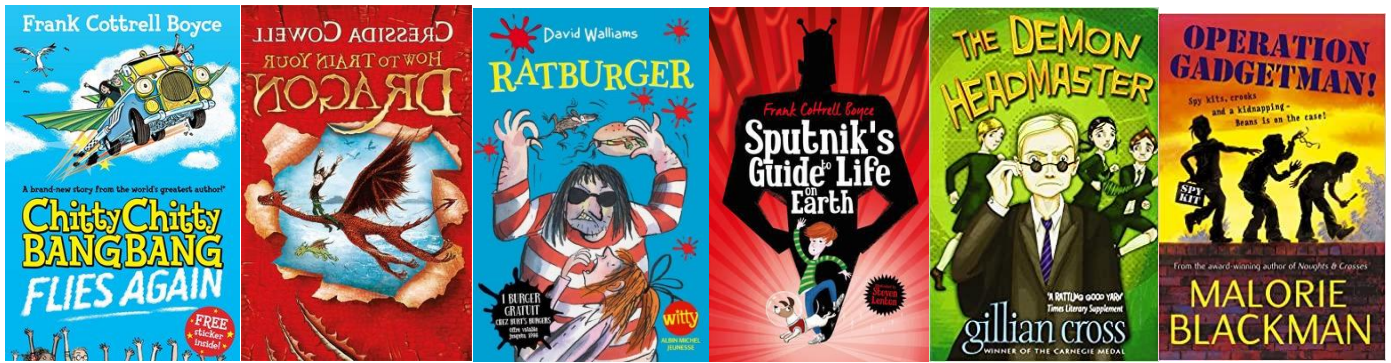
$$\begin{array}{r} 0663 \text{ r } 5 \\ 8 \overline{) 53029} \end{array}$$

Reading

Anyone that knows me will know that my Kindle is always no more than a meter away from me at all times. I love reading and always ensure that I spend at least half an hour each day reading a book (though this often is at the low end of the time scale!). Some of my favourite authors are Terry Pratchett, Neil Gaiman, Isaac Asimov and Arthur C Clarke – plus lots of other science fiction and fantasy writers. I love reading about strange places and times – anything that is far removed from our current reality!

I would strongly encourage everyone to read as much as possible, especially over the summer holidays and to find books that they love to read. Below, you will find some images of some of the stories that we will be using and reading over the coming year. Hopefully this will give you a good idea of the reading level that will be expected in year 4 and the kind of vocabulary that they will need to have access to.

Our reading expectation is that pupils will read at home every day, preferably with another adult if possible as reading aloud is a great way to ensure that children understand what they are reading. Pupils that don't get the chance to read at home over the course of a week will be able to join reading club in school that takes place for the first 10 minutes of lunch time each day. This will allow them to enjoy a book each day and make great progress with their reading.



Writing

Writing is a great opportunity to be creative and to explore our imaginations. Over the course of the year we will be writing for a variety of different purposes and explore many kinds of text types (non-chronological reports, narratives, letter writing etc). I know that we are going to love and be proud of the work that we are going to be doing this year!

Great presentation is so important in order to show off all the great writing we will be doing. In order for pupils to achieve year 4 expectations, they will need to write in flowing cursive and ensure that they are neat and tidy in their presentation. Examples of this can be found on the school website and in the handwriting policy.

Spelling

Spelling is another area that we will focus a great deal on over the course of the year as pupils will need to spell at a year 4 level in order to meet year 4 expectations in writing. To help with this, pupils will be taught different spelling rules and also have the opportunity to practise these rules in school. Our 'dictation' lists will be sent home for pupils to practise each week and will be tested each Thursday to help pupils memorise key year 3 / 4 words to be able to use in their writing. Children will need to make sure that they practise these lists each week so that they can progress through the lists!

We will be continuing to use Spelling Shed (<https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb/>) and will give out usernames and passwords at the start of the year.

Year 3 / 4 Dictations

<u>List 1</u> mention naughty breath probably arrive	<u>List 2</u> answer often opposite surprise ordinary	<u>List 3</u> weight various women surprise ordinary	<u>List 4</u> favourite February forward through hearts	<u>List 5</u> heard peculiar although strange famous
<u>List 6</u> guide century position group enough	<u>List 7</u> believe grammar increase important interest	<u>List 8</u> perhaps thought strength eight suppose	<u>List 9</u> extreme experiment strength medicine special	<u>List 10</u> notice separate promise occasion remember
<u>List 11</u> fruit experience caught potatoes guard	<u>List 12</u> breathe complete circle learn sentence	<u>List 13</u> disappear accident build centre calendar	<u>List 14</u> minute island natural difficult imagine	<u>List 15</u> reign recent early history appear
<u>List 16</u> describe exercise purpose continue library	<u>List 17</u> actual eight bicycle consider address	<u>List 18</u> knowledge quarter though particular possess	<u>List 19</u> pressure material height occasionally business	<u>List 20</u>

Foundation Subjects

We will have the opportunity to explore lots of different subjects in the afternoons each day, from RE to Science and I am looking forward to sharing with you some of the topics that we will be looking at next year. Each term we will have an overarching topic that we will be able to look at in depth, including a project involving the local history of the Forest of Dean.

Each term we will give out a POWer project homework task that has a variety of challenges for pupils themed around the topic. These are optional tasks for pupils to complete that can enhance their understanding of the topic and will be celebrated in class at the end of each term.

PE

Our PE sessions are on Tuesday morning and Friday afternoon and pupils will be expected to bring in their kits to use each week. Without appropriate kit, pupils may not be able to join in with PE sessions so it is vital that they come prepared ready to join in. PE is a vital part of the curriculum and I want for all of Swift pupils to be able to enjoy it each week. Kit information can be found on the school website.

Forest School and the allotment

At some stage in the year, Swift class will have the opportunity to enjoy Forest School and use the allotment. Pupils will need to bring appropriate wet weather gear and footwear in order to full participate in activities. Forest School will happen in almost all weather conditions so long as it is safe to do so therefore pupils must be prepared for anything! More guidance will follow in a letter when Swift class have the chance to join in with Forest School activities and will definitely be something to look forward to!