HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you have had a restful Christmas break and a lovely time with your families. Thank you again from all the adults in Swallows for our kind and generous gifts and cards we received at the end of the term, we were really touched by these.

I am really proud of Swallows and what they achieved in the Autumn Term and look forward to all the new learning in 2019!

This term sees the start of a new, exciting topic; ‘Pioneers and Places’ and we also begin preparations towards our end of Key Stage assessments (SATs). Your support at home is invaluable and really makes a difference to your child’s confidence and progress in class. I look forward to seeing you soon at Parent Consultation evenings this term to discuss your child’s progress further.

Please do keep in touch with events at school by referring to the Friday Flyer and school website in the first instance.

Thank you for your continued support and please do contact me if you have any concerns.

Ms. Kirsty Ruthven

Confirmed dates so far:
Tuesday 22nd January- Swallows to Florence Nightingale Museum
Friday 1st February- KS1 Movie Night (PTA)
Friday 15th February- EE Challenge Day
Friday 1st March- Year 2 to William Morris gallery
Friday 22nd March- KS1 Disco (PTA)

Support from home

- Please continue to read on a daily basis with your child and record comments in their red reading book. This is still so important! In Year 2, inference and comprehension skills are vital. Ask your child questions about the text and why the author has chosen the language that they have used. Challenge them to predict the endings of stories or to imagine what a particular character might be feeling.

- Spellings. Spellings will be sent home on a Wednesday. Please support your child with learning their spellings as there will be a spelling test every Monday. The spellings homework will be linked more to our topic work and learning in phonics that week. The phonics homework in the reverse will now be a grammar-based task.

- Maths. This is set on a Wednesday will now almost always be based on Mathletics to revise concepts we have covered in class that week. If you would like to support your child with further challenge, we would suggest that you support them to learn their times tables (2s, 5s, and 10s in particular). We will continue with maths challenges this term but they not be every week, depending on our learning that week, please keep an eye out for them and help your child with any mistakes they may have made.
**TOPIC WORK**

Our topic for this term is, ‘Pioneer and Places’. We will link lots of curriculum subjects into this topic but will be looking at pioneers in medicine, such as Florence Nightingale and Edith Cavell, in particular. Our visit to the Florence Nightingale Museum will bring this topic alive for the children, especially as they get to meet Florence herself! To link with our EE Challenge Day based around the moon, we will also look at pioneers in space exploration. In Science, we will explore healthy eating and learning about hygiene. We will continue to exercise and keep healthy in P.E. and complete a dance topic and outdoor work around games and athletics. We will be looking at local places of interest, namely Merton Abbey Mills, where pioneering designer, William Morris, set up his workshops. There will be lots of exciting art projects to complete based on his work. In Computing, children will get their first taste of coding by using the programme ‘Scratch’.

**ENGLISH**

Children have produced some wonderful pieces of extended writing on the Autumn Term and we will build on these with clear writing targets to focus on. We will work on;

- forming consistently neat handwriting
- correctly spelling of the KS1 high frequency words and the Years 1 and 2 common exception words.
- using punctuation consistently and effectively (capital letters, full stops, commas, exclamation marks and question marks)
- joining our ideas using conjunctions e.g. but, and, or.
- continue to use exciting vocabulary to make our writing exciting to the reader.

**Maths**

We will start the term by focusing on multiplication (‘lots of’) and division (‘sharing’ or ‘groups of’), using a variety of models and practical apparatus to support children with concepts. We will then move onto a variety of work around measures.

Throughout our maths work we will consolidate our work around place value and addition and subtraction. Problem solving and reasoning threads through every topic and lesson and we will always find ways in which children can apply what they have learnt in Maths.

Learning times tables at home is very helpful and supports fluency at school. Starting with 2s, 5s, 10s is best and then moving onto 3s and 4s.

**P.E.**

**Tuesday** - indoor session

**Wednesday** - outdoor session

Please ensure you child is prepared with a full kit at school.

**Non-fiction:** Non-chronological reports and formal letter writing

**Fiction:** An author study of Jill Murphy

We will also explore poetry this term, it will be a focus of our reading sessions in class. We will also compile our own anthologies of poetry.