



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School
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Swans Newsletter - Autumn Term 1, 2026

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer break and that your child is ready for some exciting and challenging learning in Year 6 this half term.

To start the year, our focus subjects will be **History** and **Design and Technology**. In **History** we will be learning about the ancient Central American civilisation of the Maya. We will look at their temples and debate the rights and wrongs of ritual sacrifices, their food by designing a Maya banquet, plus we will have a go at making a traditional Maya chocolate drink using cacao beans and chilli! In **Design and Technology** we will be learning the techniques of bread making, such as kneading and getting the dough to rise, building up to making savoury, flavoured bread rolls.

In **Maths** we will be looking at place value, rounding numbers, comparing and ordering numbers, negative number, addition and subtraction, multiples and factors, multiplication and division. It would be great if you can help support your child's learning by looking at the resources in these areas online at BBC Bitesize - KS2 Maths or on the White Rose App.

In **English** we will be thinking and writing about our lives so far in an autobiography. The class will have to decide what parts of their experiences should be included and which will have to be left out. We will then link our writing to the History topic and use the debate about ritual sacrifice as the basis for a piece of persuasive writing, taking the viewpoint of a Mayan villager. Will the children be for or against the ceremonies continuing?!

Our **Guided Reading** will explore various fiction and non-fiction texts and have already started reading 'Holes' by Louis Sachar as a class book. A reminder that children are expected to read at home daily, for around 20 minutes, **recording this in their Planners**, and parents should please **sign once a week** to confirm this. I would really appreciate your support with reinforcing this most beneficial habit - which helps with so many aspects of our learning. Happy reading.

Swans will have **Forest Schools** on a **Thursday morning** with Mrs Lloyd, so please make sure they have their old clothes, waterproofs and boots in school that day, with uniforms in a bag for later.

There will be 2 sets of **Home Learning** each week. Maths will go out on Tuesday and needs to be back in on Thursday; English/Topic will go out on Friday to be handed in the following Tuesday.

Spellings will go out on Friday and be tested the same day of the following week. Regular practice on Times Tables Rock Stars will be expected as well to boost the children's fluency.

If there are any questions about this or any other query relating to your child's learning, please don't hesitate to ask me. There will be a welcome/introduction session for parents on **Wednesday 16th September at 3pm**, when you would be welcome to come into class and hear more about how I teach in Swans.

Kind regards,

Sam Sharp

Great Whelnetham Church of England Primary School

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