



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School
Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0UA
(01284) 386203
Executive Head Teacher – Mr Marc Gilbert
Head of School – Miss Nicky Tyler
office@greatwhelnethamprimary.org.uk
Website: www.greatwhelnethamprimary.co.uk

Swans Newsletter – Spring Term 1, 2026

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to a new half term in Swans and I hope you all enjoyed some valuable time with your friends and families over the festive period.

This half term the 3-week blocks that I will teach to Year 6 are on **History** and **Art**. In **History** we are looking at Gender Equality. We will focus our learning on the Suffragettes and the fight that this brave and principled group went through to get 'Votes for Women'. We will then think about how this movement inspired others, bringing our History right up to date – from Women's Lib to Girl Power to closing the gender pay gap.

In **Art** we will be focussing on the famous paintings of Pablo Picasso. The children will learn about his life, his distinctive style, his role in the origins of Cubism, the hidden images within some of his paintings and how he played around with abstract images, particularly with faces. The class will do collages to practice and then create their own abstract image of a face in the style of Picasso.

In **Maths** we will be looking at some challenging areas including **ratio, algebra and decimals**, continuing with our very successful and popular White Rose workbooks. Support from home would be greatly appreciated with times tables and general revision, using the White Rose App, Hit the Button or the BBC Supermovers songs.

We will link our **English** writing to the learning in **Science** this half term, where we will be looking at Evolution and Inheritance and the voyage Charles Darwin took on the HMS Beagle. We will practice styles of writing with formal and informal letters, and will also write a recount of his exciting discoveries on the Galapagos Islands.

Our **Guided Reading** will explore various fiction and non-fiction texts and we have already started a new class book – 'Skellig' by David Almond. 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.

Our **P.E.** lessons will be on Monday afternoons this half term with coach Jordan, starting with gymnastics. Swans will also continue to have extra lunchtime PE sessions, so please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school on these days.

Early Birds Booster sessions will take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8.30am, starting in the week beginning 12th January, and continue for the rest of the half term. I would ask you to make sure your child is in school and ready to work for 8.30am, as for these short extra sessions, the first part will be crucial to get the most benefit from our revision.

Kind regards,

Mr Sharp