

Welcome to Swallow class (Year 1 & 2)!

We are so excited to be welcoming you to Swallow class.

The teacher in your classroom is Miss Sarah Wragg and Mrs. Susan Brayfield and Mrs. Gill Foy are here to support your learning too. Mrs. Lesley Webster will be the teacher on a Thursday afternoon.

We are excited to be working with you and your children this year and have planned a curriculum which we hope your children will love and will really inspire them to achieve the best they can while becoming kind and responsible members of our school Christian community. We are really looking forward to getting to know the families of our Swallows and we welcome you saying hello at the school gates.

Our first Topic is **The Great Fire of London** but we are keeping this a secret from the children for now as they learn the skills of a historian as they conduct their own historical enquiry to work out the events from the past from our little visitor 'Ratty' who will be travelling to us in his time machine from 1666! He will be bringing pictures of paintings, diaries and artefacts from the past. We will be reading books and taking part in interactive role-play using drama, singing and music. We will use this theme to explore **art and design**: mixing primary colours to produce secondary colours and looking at a variety of painting and drawing skills and techniques as well as some of the work from the masters such as, Klee, Louthembourg, Picasso, Cezanne and Goldsworthy. The children will learn about how we find out about the past and the differences between the past and how we live today. In December the children will be taking part in an online workshop about The Great Fire of London with The National Archives who will be guiding the children around historical enquiry using evidence.

We have already had a few flames hic-cupped around our classroom by our little visitor Baby Zog, a baby dragon trying to learn how to breathe fire. We have been **reading** the fabulous story 'Zog' and the children will be **writing** their own dragon stories, **writing** instructions to help Baby Zog learn some dragon skills, **writing** a poster and a recount of some of the events of the Great Fire of London. Other books we will be sharing include: George and the Dragon, The Great Fire of London and A Hibernation Story. We will be sharing a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books, clips and comics with your children as we absolutely love learning to read and reading to learn.

Each day starts with our class registration, where we choose dinners and say hello. Then we have a phonics session before our English lesson. We have whole class reading sessions where we read and discuss the story and take part in interactive learning focusing on the skills of reading comprehension. We love **reading** at Cockerham School. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of sharing books together and talking about stories. We have a story/non-fiction/poetry session every day and it is always a brilliant time to ask questions and share ideas. Your child will already have brought their reading book home. We want your child to enjoy reading and to become a confident fluent reader. The books we send home should be just behind the sounds they are working on in class so that they have chance to consolidate their learning and are reading at 90% fluency and only sounding out a few of the words. This will help them feel successful and to enjoy their reading so they want to do it more. If your child's book is too hard or easy then please write a note in their Reading Record and we will listen to them read.

We encourage your child to read each book 3 times in order to develop fluency, "smooth reading" and confidence and to give them a chance to discuss the story, make predictions, summarise what



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Growing in knowledge

Growing in faith

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Philippians 4:13 **"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"**



happened in the text and to talk about the characters and their actions and feelings. **Please write in your child's blue reading record book each time you practise reading at home.** We aim to change your child's reading book at least twice a week (if they have read it 2/3 times) as we get into a routine.

In **science**, we are learning the skills of a scientist as we identify leaves to name common trees and wild and garden flowers. The children have already been investigating the leaves in our school grounds and classifying them to find out which trees we have in school. They have come up with some interesting questions to investigate as scientists so will be testing, observing, measuring, recording and reporting. We will be learning about plant growth as we grow our own!

In **maths**, we will be learning about place value in our number system and developing number sense so we can use numbers confidently and fluently. The children will have their own wallets containing 10 x 1 pence pieces to spend on resources in our challenge areas on some afternoons. They will 'spend' these on resources such as, pipe cleaners, play dough, feathers, etc. to design and make their own arts, crafts and constructions. This will help the children to understand money and as they progress to using a variety of coins through the year, they will understand giving and checking change.

Our challenge areas include a reading area, maths area, writing, construction, science, art and design, computing and small world. They have been carefully planned to engage the children and to give them opportunity to put their learning into practice in creative ways and to give opportunity for us to support their own ideas. This is an exciting development for our classroom and we will look to enhance this as the year progresses.

PE sessions may change throughout the year but currently we will have P.E. on a Monday afternoon and Wednesday morning. Please send in P.E. kits and trainers for those days, remembering to have your child's name in all their clothes.

Please send in an individual **water bottle** each day, but you don't need to send a snack as we have fruit available in the classroom. Please only send in healthy snacks.

We have **worship** every day. This is led by Mrs Hutchins, Reverend Gary, staff from school or sometimes our child-led worship team. This is a lovely time for us all to sing, pray, learn about our Christian values, local and global events and to share ideas and reflect. Sometimes worship is in the hall with the whole school or sometimes it is in our class groups. We have a prayer at lunch time and always end the school day with our End of Day Prayer;

"Hands together, softly so, little eyes shut tight. Father just before we go, hear our prayers tonight. We are all your children here, this is what we pray. Keep us when the dark is near, and through every day. Amen."

Please say hello on the school yard and be patient with me as I learn your faces to hand your children over safely at the end of the day. **If the person collecting your child is different than who usually collects/drops off, then please email or telephone the school office to make staff aware. Your child will not be handed to an adult unless we are informed.** If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, then please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be more than happy to help. You can email s.wragg@cockerham.lancs.sch.uk and we will make every



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effort to respond as quickly as possible. If it is urgent, please contact the school office as we may not get a chance to look at emails throughout the school day.

We will be holding our '**Meet the Teacher**' evening on **Tuesday 13th September at 6pm** where we will discuss the curriculum and expectations. The evening will last 15-20 minutes and give you the opportunity to ask any questions. During the evening, we will discuss our 'Focus Children' which we are trialing for Autumn 1 term in Swallows Class. I will send a letter out regarding this too, next week.

Thank you so much for sending the children to school looking so smart. They have been really proud of their uniforms, bags and drinks bottles.

We hope you all have had a fantastic summer holiday and are ready for the exciting times that lay ahead.

Swallow Class Team 😊



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