

Newsletter Autumn Term 2024 – Swift and Swallow Classes

We would like to welcome you to a new school year at Fairfields! We are really happy to have you all back after the summer break.

For this term we will be adopting a transition period between the Early Years Foundation Stage and the National Curriculum. We will be using the topic of 'Castles' to link all relevant subject areas. The children will be taking part in lots of fun and creative learning. This theme will also run through our English and maths work where possible. We will be visiting Mountfitchet Castle in October for a fun and exciting trip! We will be asking for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of this trip, further information will be provided nearer the time. During the second half of the autumn term our topic will be 'China' which will include a workshop where the children will have the chance to experience the culture of China through music. A letter will be sent out nearer the time regarding dates and pricing, the PTFA will subsidise part of the workshop.

In the second half of this term the children will be bringing home weekly spellings to be tested the following week. We would appreciate it if you would help your children to learn these spellings using the 'LOOK – SAY – COVER – WRITE – CHECK' method. The children will have two books, one for their new spellings and one to complete their tests, please do not write in these books at home. Please ensure that both the books are in your child's book bag every day.

Please hear your child read daily. It is just as important to discuss the book as it is to read it; there is a page at the back of each reading book with comprehension questions that you could ask your child as you read together. Please sign your child's reading record every day in order for us to know that your child is reading regularly at home.

Please make sure all items of clothing are **clearly labelled in a permanent pen /name tag**. This will ensure that any lost items will easily find their way back to their rightful owner. We would also like you to provide your child with a named water bottle each day. Please ensure that your child's shoes are relatively easy to put on and take off so that time is not wasted – please no shoe laces if they are unable to tie them themselves. From the beginning of September, all children will be required to have a tracksuit and trainers as we will be outside for most of our PE lessons. The children will be having their PE lessons each week with Mr Z and should come to school dressed in their PE kits on Tuesdays.

Please note that it is a strict school policy that **no jewellery**, including earrings are permitted whatsoever.

As we are not fully aware of family faces at present, we would appreciate your help at home time. The children will be let out one by one and will not be allowed to leave the building unless the teacher is positive that there is an adult there for them. Please help us by being forthcoming as you reach the door. We would be grateful if you would ensure that the class teacher is made aware if your child is to be picked up by anyone other than the regular person. This could be by a very brief note passed to the teacher in the morning or a phone call to the school if circumstances change during the course of the day.

There will be a Year 1 Parents' Meeting on Wednesday 18th September at 2:45pm. This is an opportunity to find out all about Year 1.

Thank you for your help and co-operation. We look forward to meeting you all!

Miss Page & Miss Bates

Year 1 Class Teachers