



Dolphins Class Newsletter AUTUMN 1 Term 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you and your family had a wonderful and refreshing break. Our topic for this half term is **'Real or Fantasy: It's all Greek to me!'**. We have so many exciting lessons ahead of us. In History, we will be exploring Ancient Greece, learning about key figures, and how it has shaped the world we live in today. In Science, our focus will be on the fascinating topic of Evolution and Inheritance. In Design and Technology, we will be creating Greek sandals. Please see the attached sheet for more details of the learning objectives we will be covering this half term. Our Christian Value to explore this year in Dolphins class is 'Justice' and hopefully the children will be able to tell you more about it as the year goes on.

Parents Meeting

We would like to welcome you to a parent session on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 9am. We will be discussing what Dolphins Class will look like for this academic year as well as answering any questions you may have. We will be also discussing the new Maths challenge and provide updates. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

Home-School Records

Please continue to ensure that your child brings in their Home-School Record booklet to school every day. Please note, each child has their own log in and password for online learning in their home school record. If you have a message to pass onto us, please inform the office by phone or email and the message will get passed on to us.

PE kit & equipment

The children will have PE on **Wednesday and Friday** this half term. **Please make sure that your child comes to school in appropriate kit as PE may be outside, weather permitting and brings their school uniform in a bag in case of emergencies.** Although we have all stationary available in school, Dolphins class have the option to bring a small pencil case with pencil crayons. Please could I remind everyone that pencil cases should not be too big and need to fit easily into a tray.

We will not be using the waterproofs for every outdoor play at break and lunch this year so please ensure you child has a **waterproof coat in school each day**. If you wish to send in spare clothes for your child to keep on their peg, you are more than welcome to, but this should not be necessary as the children will have indoor play if the rain is torrential.

Reading

Please continue to encourage your child to record any reading they are doing at home in their Home School Record. Where possible, it would be great to listen to your child read and use the VIPERS question stems sheet to ensure good understanding. We are keeping a close eye on what texts the children are reading as we are trying to build a positive approach to sticking with a book to the end where possible.

Spellings & Big Maths

As usual, we will be giving each child spellings to learn at home for testing in school the following week- these can be found in the Home School Record and also on Spelling Shed. Spelling tests will be done every **FRIDAY in school**, on the sheets in the Home-School Record so please check here for your child's test. We will try to inform you if the test day changes.



Building fluency recalling key facts in Maths is vital to enabling confident & efficient Mathematicians. In your child's Home School Record, you will find a new sheet for practice of mental Maths Skills at home, which we hope will be a fun & easy way for children to build their skills and share some learning with you at home. Each week or fortnight, your child will have a different focus for recall of facts, in line with the expected skills for their age. Children should be encouraged to beat their

previous score for that focus on the 'White Rose Maths 1 Minute Maths' app which is available to download for free on most devices. The children will have a quiz each week in school where scores will be recorded on the HSR sheet. There is no target score, we would just like the children to improve on their score from previous tries to increase their fluency. We do not need you to record any scores in the HSR but children could record scores in their Homework book or a notebook if they wish to keep track. Please encourage your child to practice at home on WRM 1 Minute Maths App with the aim to improve their score each time they have a go.

You can also support your child in other ways if you wish by playing games/singing songs/calling facts to answer in the car etc. If your child does not have access to a device at home, they should contact school to support. In Dolphins class, children will have their quiz in school on a Monday each week. Please see the sheet in your child's HSR for details and dates.



In Maths lessons this half term we are focusing on:

- Number and place value
- Addition and subtraction
- Multiplication & Division

Please continue to practice times tables with your child as often as possible – they can still use Times Table Rockstars to do this.

Homework

You should now have a new homework grid which details a number of different homework tasks your child can choose from over the half term. We would like the children to complete the tasks by **Monday 13th October 2025**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please arrange to come and discuss them with us or email the office: admin@swinford.embracemat.org

We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to welcoming everyone back! 😊

Many thanks,
Mrs Carey, Miss Cooper and Mrs MacDonald