Welcome to Swaledale Class!



Mrs Goadby

Key Stage 2: Years 3 and 4

2019-20





I would like to welcome you to Swaledale Class for the next academic year. It is nice to welcome some children back into the class again as Year 4s and to welcome all of the Year 3 children who have moved from Cotswold this year and some new children to the school.

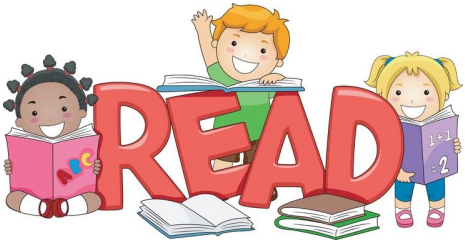
We will be working very hard with your children over the next year and encouraging them to achieve the best they possibly can both in terms of the curriculum and in their personal development.

I will be teaching full time in Swaledale and Mrs Reece will be working alongside me to support children's learning.

I have put this little booklet together to hopefully provide much of the information that you will need. There are a few changes from last year! Let me know if you find it useful (or not) and if I need to add anything next time.

Mrs Goadby

Reading



Reading is key to succeeding as they say! Some children are already competent readers, others are developing their skills. Our aim is to foster a love of reading with all children, whatever their ability or interests. We will endeavour to hear your child read in school at least once a week, usually as part of a guided group, which provides children with the opportunity to discuss a text with their peers. I know some parents would prefer 1;1 reading, but please remember that there are 33 children at the moment, so if we were to hear them individually for 10 minutes each per week, this would equate to $5^1/_2$ hours a week (a school day!) There may be times when your child isn't heard at all or some children may need extra reading sessions. We keep a record of when children read and who to, so we will try to ensure they are heard as often as possible. During a reading session, we listen to the children read and discuss features of the text and ask them questions about their book. It really is not just about fluency and the ability to decode words, but much more about the understanding of the text that we look at and the technical side of reading too. We may also look at spelling patterns and punctuation in the text too.



We all have our own likes and dislikes, so if you find your child is stuck with a really long book that they are not enjoying, please let us know via their

diary and we will get them to swap it.

Please bear with us during these first weeks as we get to know the appropriate reading level for each child. Also, please do not compare your child to another child in class. Let them progress at their own rate! It is not a race to get through the different reading levels and this can sometimes have a negative effect on their learning and enjoyment of reading. You may find your child stays on one level for quite a long time as they deepen their reading skills, especially as the books they read get longer.

Children are responsible for changing their books once they have read them and written it in their diaries. They can change their books as soon as they've finished them—they just need to ask Mrs Reece, who will check they have been read and ask the children to go and choose a new book.

How you can help at home:



* Hear your child read as often as possible at home. We reward children who have read at least 3 times a week at home; successful children read everyday. Please ensure that you let us know by signing their diaries. They can write it in themselves, but you need to sign to agree with their reading. Reading can include things they've been reading at home and doesn't always have to be their school reading book.

* Don't restrict them to just reading stories! Let them choose from a variety of genres including non-fiction and poetry. Comics and magazines are great for reluctant readers.

* Let them see you reading! Recipes, instruction books, newspapers, signposts, menus etc. Ask them to help you.

* Share a book. Children of all ages enjoy being read to. Make it a regular part of your routine. It's also a great way for children to access books that may be a bit too tricky to read on their own and gives them an opportunity to see how you read, using punctuation, expression and enthusiasm! It also exposes them to a higher level of vocabulary.

* A trip to the library is great as you can see which type of books they are drawn to and it doesn't cost a penny!



* A list of things you can ask your child about their book is stuck in their diary. <u>Discussing the book is just as important as hearing them read</u>.

* Lastly, but most important of all, <u>make sure they don't see reading as a chore, but as something enjoyable.</u>

Writing

Our English lessons combine reading, writing and speaking and

listening. Your child will be given regular handwriting lessons to develop correct letter formation and to develop a joined handwriting style.

When we talk about their writing however, we are not just talking about their handwriting skills. The children will be taught a variety of skills which will improve all aspects of writing from content, text structure, spelling, punctuation and grammar. The children will be taught the correct terminology for different grammatical features, some of which you may not have heard since your school days! The new curriculum puts more emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG).

Over the course of the year, we will be looking at a range of texts and the children will have regular writing sessions, including extended writing sessions, where they apply the skills they have learnt into some independent writing.

How you can help at home:

* Encourage children to hold their pencil correctly.
* Let them type onto a computer or an iPad. Sometimes a child who finds handwriting difficult produces amazing pieces of writing like this.
* Ask them to write your shopping list 

or a note.

Spelling

Probably one of the things that we get asked about most at

Parents' Evening is spellings!

We will be sending home spelling lists every week, with spellings linked to the spelling rules we are learning and from the Y3 and Y4 word list. Year 4 are expected to learn them all and Y3, aim for 5 words from the list each week.

To help with learning their spellings, children will have a spelling book with a practise sheet and some ideas for learning their spellings. Children who complete tasks at home will be rewarded with housepoints.

How you can help at home:

* A list of Y3/4 spellings is stuck into your child's diary. This is useful to work on at home.
* I have also stuck Y2 words in as some children might need to work on these a little more first.
* There are some great apps available such as Squeebles, for learning spellings.
* Don't expect every word to be spelt correctly, but help your child to check their work and correct spellings that you would expect them to spell correctly.

Maths

We will have a daily maths lesson and the curriculum gives us a much greater focus on developing and deepening number skills. It is not always about



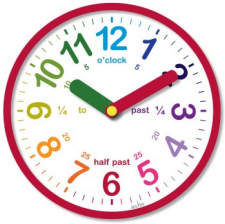
using the biggest numbers, but about having a sound grasp of those basic number skills. Our daily maths lessons will include mental maths and we aim to make maths as practical and as fun as we can, while helping your child develop the recording of their maths too. The three main areas we teach are fluency, problem solving and reasoning.

If your child is achieving well, rather than moving on to the following year group's work we will encourage more in-depth and investigative work to allow a greater mastery and understanding of concepts and ideas. In fact, this is now the case with all areas of the curriculum.

How you can help at home:

* Number Bonds! Practise number bonds with your child (up to 200). Rapid recall of these numbers, eg 5 + 9 = 14, so 50+90 =140, helps children significantly. A great way to pass a few minutes of a car journey! Let them test you too!

* Times Tables—once secure with multiplication & division facts for 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables, Year 3 children will move onto 3, 4 and 8; Year 4 will cover all tables up to 12 x 12. Try the Hit the Button game which you can find online. Year 4 will be sitting a computer based national test in June this year, so games such as this would be highly beneficial. Children will be tested weekly.



* Encourage your child to help pay for items at a shop to give them practical

experience of using money—it's almost becoming a thing of the past as we pay for our goods using a card or online, so often comes up as an area children struggle with.

* Help them with learning to tell the time on an analogue clock to the nearest 5 minutes and on 12 and 24 hour digital clocks. PLEASE!!
* Don't sit with a load of maths books and make them frightened of numbers! Get them doing practical stuff which is all mathematical such as measuring, weighing etc. They'll have much more fun and learn much more.

PE

Our PE day this year will be on Wednesday. Children should come to school in their PE kits on Wednesday with their Sheepy hoodies. Please ensure that your child still has 2 pairs of shoes in school on PE day. They can wear their school shoes in school.



Swimming

All Year 3 and Year 4 children will have a weekly swimming lesson on a Thursday morning. The children will go by coach to Kingsbury Swimming Pool. Children should come to school in their school uniform , but should NOT wear swimming kits underneath uniform for hygiene reasons. Try to ensure they can easily dress themselves quickly; tights are always tricky for the girls after swimming, so you may wish to

consider sending them in trousers on cooler days, if you feel it will speed your child up.

Please ensure your child has a snack to eat before we leave and we will be back for lunch. We will have a maths lesson in the afternoon on a Thursday as we miss this for swimming.

Music

This year, we will be having whole class ensemble music lessons on a Friday afternoon. These lessons will be taught by Leicestershire Music Service and an external teacher, Miss Gray, will be coming in to teach the children (and me!) how to play the ukulele. This will hopefully end with a performance at De Montfort Hall in Leicester in the summer term. More details about these music lessons will follow.



Homework

Homework will be given out each Friday and is expected to be handed in on the following Wednesday. Children will receive one piece of English homework and one piece of Maths homework. The homework will be linked to something we have been doing in class. This homework should not take more than 30 minutes and it is expected to be handed in on time. I appreciate that from time to time, they may struggle to complete it on time, so just drop us a note in their diary and ask your child to show us.

Children will self-mark their homework for the majority of pieces of work, so they can see where they have gone wrong or hopefully, how well they have done! Please support your child with their homework and give them help if they need it—but don't do it for them!

In addition to these pieces of homework, it is expected that children should:

- Practise and learn any spellings they have been given.
- Read 3x per week and record it in their diary.
- Practise their times tables.

This however, does not mean sitting down for hours everyday to complete this! Times tables can be practised in the car or on an iPad. Homework can be completed at after school club if they are there. Reading can be part of your bedtime routine. We don't set homework for the fun of it...it is to help your child learn.



Snacks and Drinks



* It is essential that children have a drinks bottle each day. All that learning and having fun can be thirsty work! Please label it!
* Remember to send your child a snack for morning break. The fruit is only provided for Key Stage 1, so the children will not have access to this and need a snack provided from home. As we promote healthy eating, we prefer it to be a healthy snack. No sweets please, but a biscuit or similar is acceptable. We don't want them to be feeling hungry!

A few other things to remember!

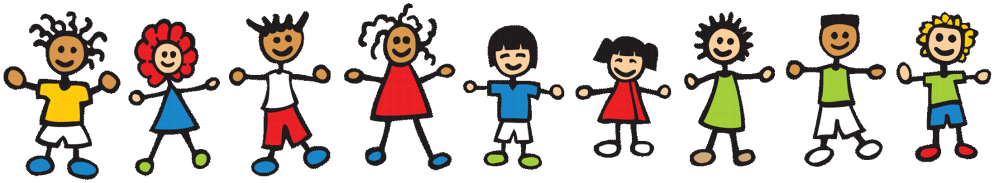
* Key Stage 2 are expected to come into school on their own in the morning where they can hang their things on their pegs in Swaledale cloakroom, ensure they have their school shoes on and put their drinks bottle into the tray in the classroom. There will then be a morning activity for them to get on with in the classroom.
* Ensure they are on time to school! Lateness can be stressful for children and can have a negative effect on their learning in the day. The gate opens at 8.40am and we take the register at 8.50am.
* Remind them whether they are having sandwiches or hot dinners, so they can let us know when we do the register. Remember, they can choose their dinner (Red, Green or Yellow) in Key Stage 2, so help them choose at home while they get used to the menu choices.
* **Clearly label all of their clothes, shoes, drinks bottles etc with their name. It makes it easier for them (and us)!**
* Ensure your child always has 2 pairs of shoes at school. School shoes for inside and trainers for playtime and PE. On PE days they can wear their school shoes inside. This is especially important to help us keep our classroom clean and tidy! Outdoor shoes can be placed in their shoe drawer in their cloakroom. Please bear in mind that Velcro trainers and shoes are much easier for children if they can't tie laces!

Finally, I would just like to say again that Mrs Reece and I are looking forward to teaching your child this year. We really do want the children to be happy and we really do want them to achieve the best they possibly can.

If you have any concerns, please write us a note in their diaries, speak to us at the end of the day or make an appointment if it is something that requires a little more time.

We're looking forward to a fabulous year ahead!

The Swaledale Team



PARENT'S GUIDE TO A GROWTH MINDSET

Big Life Journal

Your brain is like a muscle. When you learn, your brain grows.
The feeling of it being hard is the feeling of your brain growing!

PRAISE FOR:

EFFORT
STRATEGIES
PROGRESS
HARD WORK
PERSISTENCE
RISING TO A CHALLENGE
LEARNING FROM A MISTAKE

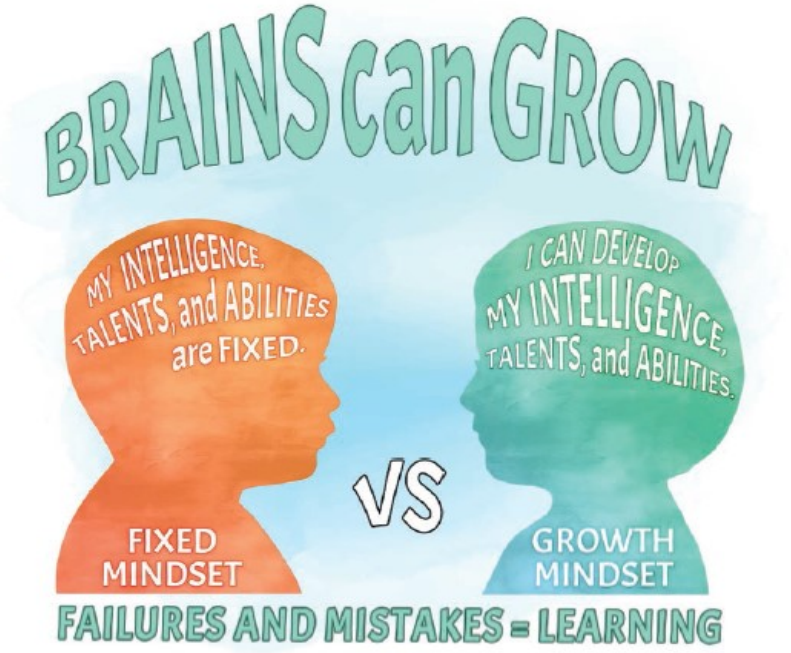
NOT FOR

TALENT
BEING SMART
BORN GIFTED
FIXED ABILITIES
NOT MAKING MISTAKES

THE POWER OF "YET"

SAY

"YOU CAN'T DO IT **YET**."
"YOU DON'T KNOW IT **YET**."
"IF YOU LEARN AND PRACTICE, YOU WILL!"



SAY

"MISTAKES HELP YOU IMPROVE."
"YOU CAN LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES."
"LET'S SEE WHAT OTHER STRATEGIES YOU CAN TRY."

RECOGNIZE YOUR OWN MINDSET

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR OWN THINKING AND THE MESSAGES YOU SEND WITH YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS.



ASK

"WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY THAT MADE YOU THINK HARD?"

"WHAT NEW STRATEGIES DID YOU TRY?"

"WHAT MISTAKE DID YOU MAKE THAT TAUGHT YOU SOMETHING?"

"WHAT DID YOU TRY THAT WAS HARD TODAY?"

Swaledale Class

Checklist of things needed each day

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			 	
☐ Spelling	☐ Reading Book & Diary	☐ Wear PE kit	☐ Swimming Kit	☐ Ukulele
☐ Reading Books & Diary	☐ Water bottle & snack	☐ Reading Books & Diary	☐ Times Tables	☐ Reading Book & Diary
☐ Water bottle & snack	☐ Outdoor shoes	☐ Water bottle & snack	☐ Reading Book & Diary	☐ Water bottle & snack
☐ Outdoor shoes	☐ Coat	☐ Outdoor shoes	☐ Water bottle & snack	☐ Outdoor shoes
☐ Coat		☐ Coat	☐ Outdoor shoes	☐ Coat
			☐ Coat	