

Swift Class



2023-24

Year 4

Teacher: Mr Cassidy

Challenge, Commit, Conquer, and Celebrate

Hello Young Swift!

I hope you are all as excited as I am about the start of a new school year! I can't wait to welcome you all back to school in September and thought that this would be a good opportunity to outline what you can expect when we are all back together in the classroom. Hopefully, after two rather peculiar years of school, things should become more normal in September, giving children the opportunity to experience more exciting activities to aid their progression! If you have any questions, please feel free to email me over at swift@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk and I will do my best to answer them.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Ryan Cassidy



In our class

In Swift class, we know the importance of following the **school rules** so that we can maximise our learning and be considerate to others in the class. We know that we need to **communicate** with each other clearly; always be enthusiastic and **try our best**; take **responsibility** for our learning and behaviour; and **reflect** on our mistakes and success so we can continue to learn from them. Some of these are quite challenging (even for adults) so we will make sure we work together to help learn strategies to achieve them.



Maths

What will I learn in year 4?

We will start to become more secure in a range of areas of maths and this will include, but is not limited to, the following areas:

- **Place value** – Recognising the place value of each digit in a three digit number, reading and writing numbers up to 1000 in numerals and words, finding 10 and 100 more or less, counting in 50s.
- **Addition and subtraction** Add and subtract numbers with up to three digits using formal written methods.
- **Multiplication and division** – Fluent with 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 & 10 times tables, writing and calculating multiplication and division statements using mental and then written methods.
- **Fractions** – Comparing and ordering unit fractions; adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator.
- **Measurement** – Measuring, comparing, adding and subtracting lengths, mass, volume and capacity; measuring the perimeter of shapes.
- **Geometry** – Identifying right angles; identifying horizontal and vertical lines and pairs of perpendicular and parallel lines.

What can I do with my parents to support my maths?

If there is one thing that you will need to know in Swift class, it is your times tables! Don't try to learn them all at once but focus on a times table and when you have worked out that one, move onto the next.

Websites to support learning at home

TT rockstars - <https://trockstars.com/> - fluency of times tables

Numbots - <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro> - fluency of number facts and subitising (recognising numbers without counting them)

Hit the Button - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - fluency of number bonds, times tables and other number facts

Thinking Blocks - <https://www.mathplayground.com/thinkingblocks.html> - problem solving questions that can be modelled step by step – some of these problems get quite challenging!

Will I have to do maths at home?

The short answer is 'yes!' All the time if possible – adding up prices in the shop and weighing ingredients for cooking are just some of the useful activities for building confidence with number.

In addition to this, you will have maths homework to complete weekly – this will all be explained at the beginning of September.

Where can I find out more information to help me and my parents?

Check out the Swift webpage for any resources linked to the areas that we currently learning in all subjects. If there is something that you would like support with that isn't on there, please contact me!



Key Instant Recall Facts – KIRFs!

These are maths facts that children should be able to recall instantly! This will greatly help them with their fluency and confidence.

We will have a new focus each half term.



Key Instant Recall Facts Year 4 KIRF Card – Autumn 1



This half term, your children are working towards achieving their individual KIRF targets, indicated below. The ultimate aim is for your child to be able to recall these facts **instantly!**

To recall the 6x table and related division facts

By the end of this half term, children should be able to recall the 6x table and the related division facts. The aim is for them to do this confidently and **instantly**.

Six Times Tables

$$0 \times 6 = 0$$

$$1 \times 6 = 6$$

$$2 \times 6 = 12$$

$$3 \times 6 = 18$$

$$4 \times 6 = 24$$

$$5 \times 6 = 30$$

$$6 \times 6 = 36$$

$$7 \times 6 = 42$$

$$8 \times 6 = 48$$

$$9 \times 6 = 54$$

$$10 \times 6 = 60$$

$$11 \times 6 = 66$$

$$12 \times 6 = 72$$

$$6 \div 6 = 1$$

$$12 \div 6 = 2$$

$$18 \div 6 = 3$$

$$24 \div 6 = 4$$

$$30 \div 6 = 5$$

$$36 \div 6 = 6$$

$$42 \div 6 = 7$$

$$48 \div 6 = 8$$

$$54 \div 6 = 9$$

$$60 \div 6 = 10$$

$$66 \div 6 = 11$$

$$72 \div 6 = 12$$

Play number ping pong!

Start off saying 'ping', child replies with 'pong'. Repeat and then convert to tables facts i.e. say 6 and they 36 or 10 and they say 60.

SNAP game

What about creating a game using number cards? Perhaps a game of SNAP or matching pairs.

Hit the Button

This game is an online app, free to use and great fun. Scan the QR code

Don't forget to use TT rockstars. On Jamming, you can pick just to practise the 6 times table.



KEY VOCABULARY and QUESTIONS

fact multiplication divide multiply multiple

What is 7 **multiplied** by 6?

How do you know a number is a **multiple** of 6?

What is 72 **divided** by 6?

Top Tips

The secret to success is practising **little** and **often**. Use time wisely. Can you practise these KIRFs while walking to school or during a car journey? You don't need to practise them all at one: perhaps you could have a fact of the day. Building confidence in mathematics is crucial so be pleased with their efforts and always encourage with praise. If you would like more ideas, please speak to your child's teacher.



Reading

I cannot stress how important I believe reading to be. I love reading and always ensure that I read at least two books per term (sometimes even more)! Some of my favourite authors who are year four appropriate are: David Walliams, Cressida Cowell, Roald Dahl, Jeff Kinney, R.J Palacio, Robin Stevens and many more.

Which books will I read this year in Swift Class?

That's a secret but I have been lucky enough to get my hands on our first text for September and I am sure you are going to love it!

Which colour band will I be reading?

By the end of Year 4 children should have reached **dark blue** book band. If you commit to reading every day then you will absolutely be able to reach this target.

Will I have to do reading homework?

You will need to aim to complete a reading activity daily for a minimum of 10 minutes – this could be listening to an audio book; reading to a parent/sibling/teddy bear/cat; reading to yourself; filming yourself reading; using read theory or recommending a book to others. You will be asked to write your home reading in to your reading record at least 5 times a week and this will be checked on a Monday morning. Because I am so passionate about reading, I will find opportunities to support you with your reading at lunchtime if you are unable to complete your daily 10 minutes at home.

In addition, you will have a group guided reading novel. You will have set pages to read each week as well as tasks to complete on the book and on a Wednesday afternoon you will meet together to discuss what is happening- your very own book club!

Writing

My friend says that in Swift class you have to join your handwriting all the time. Is it true?

Yes! All pupils will be expected to write in legible, cursive and joined handwriting at all times.



Why not practise by sending a postcard or letter to your family or friends? I am sure that they would love to hear what you are getting up to over your summer holidays.

Spelling

Will I have a spelling test?

Yes! Some spellings do not follow specific rules but require us to spend time learning how to spell them. In KS2, we call these our **dictations**. In class, you will be tested weekly on a word list. Once you have achieved 5/5 on each list, we encourage you to move on to start learning the next one! To achieve this, I will support you with strategies but just like with learning your times tables, the best thing is to practise...and practise...and practise!

Spelling Dictations Lists - Y4

List 1 subscribe subtitles submit television telephone	List 2 stomach ache chemist chaos chronic	List 3 countless merciless supervise superglue autopilot	list 4 loveliness deadliness ungrateful deceitful vengeful
List 5 attention station conversation intention discussion	List 6 sent scent flowers flour beautiful	List 7 parents allowed aloud whether weather	List 8 lazily greedily happily noisily speedily
List 9 separately discontinued surprisingly breathing experimental	List 10 disbelieve believable unbelievable thoughtful thoughtless	List 11 importance importantly questioning questionable interesting	List 12 occasionally disappearance purposeful consideration particularly
List 13 arrival extraordinary favoured experimental imagination	List 14 breath breathe occasion forward exercise	List 15 appear possess opposite grammar difficult	List 16 eight ate through threw reign ruined

Year 4

Can you give me any tips to help practise?

Here are some strategies you can try:

- Log on to Spelling Shed (<https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb/>) You will be given a spelling shed login in September.
- Pyramid words
- Rainbow writing using different coloured pens
- Making up 'silly' sentences using the words

t o t a l l y

- Draw around the word to show the shape
- Set a timer and write the word as many times as you can in the time limit. You only score a point for the correct ones!
- Look, say, cover, write, check

Other areas of learning

What will you do if I need some extra help with my learning?

Within the class, there will be people who have different starting points in different subjects. We will use a mixture of pre-teaching the day before, breaking things down into small steps, interventions and challenges to make sure that everyone is learning.

Over the year, you may be invited to a morning group with a small group of your friends from 8am. We will do some targeted work together and then enjoy a chocolate biscuit before everyone else gets to school. Personal invitations will be sent out to those who will benefit from the focus on particular day during a particular term and groups will change over the year.

Will I learning anything that isn't maths and English?

Of course! We are going to learn lots more about a whole range of subjects this year. In history we will be learning about the Stone Age, Iron Age and (my personal favourite) the Romans! In geography we will be focussing on regions of the UK, mountains and rivers. In science we will learn about animals (including humans), states of matter and plants. There will also be computing, RE, PSHE, music, French, art and DT to keep us busy!

Can I find out more information at home?

I am always keen to hear about anything you have learnt at home – particularly if you have found out more about something we have looked at in class. In addition, you will be given POWER project sheets. These are optional tasks that can be completed at home with your family. I am sure they are looking forward to sharing all of your learning with you.

Will I get to learn outside?

We hope so – come rain or shine! We will have two PE sessions a week. You will be expected to take responsibility for making sure you have your PE kit in school on these days. If you are unsure of what to include in your PE kit, I will attach the list below:

The Physical Education kit is:

Plain white or pale blue T-shirt (pupils must change their t-shirt for PE)

Black or navy shorts

Black plimsolls (daps)

Dark trainers (for outside wear)

Navy, grey or black tracksuit for cold weather

If you have earrings, you must bring your own tape to cover them during PE sessions.

We will have opportunities to take part in Forest School sessions and work on the allotment over the year. A timetable will be shared with parents with the days, times and clothing required.

What should we do if we have questions for you?

Just get in touch! Email is best (Swift@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk) and I will do my best to answer any questions.

That's it for now but please get in touch if there is anything I can help you with to reassure you that we are going to have the most wonderful year together in Swift class.