



We would like to start this week's newsletter by clarifying the homework that children are being set throughout the school. We appreciate that homework can be a contentious issue and each year we have some parents who feel the children are receiving too little and others who feel they are being given too much.

There is a wealth of research to indicate that one of the most important tasks a child can do is to read daily, so supplementing what we do at school with reading at home is vital. Please remember our extra rewards for this, which are outlined below. All children also have access to Doodlemaths and regular practice on maths tasks like the ones they set, is also proven to help children make good progress. Rehearsing spellings help children to become familiar with key words and patterns, although we try to be a little more flexible with this which is why spelling sheets offer different ideas for the children to learn them. Finally the oldest children in the school do receive a little more homework, with additional English and maths activities, to aid their learning in school and prepare them for the increased homework they will receive at their next school.

Kingfishers

Daily reading, Numbots, daily writing worksheet related to the sound they have learnt (Mon-Thu). Some additional intervention work as and when necessary,

Starlings

Daily reading, weekly Number Sense activity, Numbots, Doodlemaths and weekly spellings

Goldfinches

Daily reading, weekly Number Sense activity, Doodlemaths, Times Tables Rockstars and weekly spellings

Swallows

Daily reading, Doodlemaths, Times Tables Rockstars, weekly spellings, weekly Maths or English related task

Also, as mentioned above, please don't forget that when your child has read on 25 separate days at home (recorded in their reading records), they will receive a book for reaching our Bronze award. To reach Silver (and another book) they will need 75 reads, Gold will need 150 reads in total and Platinum, 250. This has been reset this year, so if your child starts reading daily now they should be able to reach our Platinum standard before the end of the school year. Good luck!

Next week we will be holding our Harvest Festival on Wednesday morning at St. Giles' Church in the village. Similar to last year, we will split this service with the Kingfishers and Starlings at 9:20am and the Goldfinches and Swallows at 10:10am. The children have been asked to bring in donations of food for the Somer Valley Foodbank, please see [here](#) the list of items they need the most. We look forward to seeing many of you there to listen (and join in with!) some harvest songs. The Tower Room Cafe will be open in the church for parents to enjoy a cuppa before/between/after the services.

Don't forget that we have vacancies for both a midday supervisor and for a Parent Governor should you wish to come and join our team in one of these roles. Please contact the school office for further information.



News from the Classrooms



This week in Robins we've been reading 'We're going on a bear hunt' and we've made our own bear masks and talked about different types of bears.



This week in Kingfishers we have learnt the new sounds ck, e, u and r. In Maths we have had fun making patterns and in Art we enjoyed mark making in the playground drawing around our friends.



In Starlings this week we have been performing some drama activities to emphasise further what London was like in 1666. Here the children are pretending to be a horse and cart and are talking about the terrible smell there was in the streets from the animal and human waste!!



Goldfinch class had a wonderful time at church practising their songs for the Harvest Festival, we can't wait for you all to come and see them perform.



Swallows have had a productive week - we enjoyed writing harvest poems and setting up wax resist work in Art.



FOLS

FOLS AGM Monday 9th October 7:30pm

If you would like to join FOLS then please speak to Belinda (Mason's mum) or Jen (Finn and Dylan's mum) or ask in the office for more info.

Diary Dates

October

Wednesday 11th

Harvest services in St Giles' Church at the following times:
9.30am for Kingfishers and Starlings, 10.10am for Goldfinches and Swallows
The Tower Cafe in the church will be open and serving refreshments to families.
European Day of Languages

Friday 20th

Individual photographs

Friday 20th

End of Term 1

Monday 30th

INSET DAY

Tuesday 31st

Start of Term 2 and Parents' Evening - more information to follow