



YEAR 5 Swifts

Class Teacher: Mrs Breslaw

Important diary dates and reminders

Parents Evening- Thursday 15th October

Half Term- Monday 19th October - Friday 30th October

Shoeboxes: For our Art project next term, we will need 12 shoeboxes. If you have one going spare, please could you send it into school with your child the first week back after half-term. Thank you in advance.

School uniform: Children should return to school in full winter uniform after half-term.

🎵 Young Voices Half-Term Challenge! 🎵

Over the two-week half term break, we'd love the children to log in to the Music Room and start practising the songs for Young Voices! We'll be working on these together in class after half term, so this is a great opportunity to become familiar with the songs. Some of the songs also have dances to learn, along with Makaton and British Sign Language (BSL), so there's lots to explore! A little practice over the break will make a big difference when we come back. We can't wait to see and hear everyone's progress!

MP Christmas Card Competition! 🎄

We have been invited by Gregory Stafford, MP for Farnham and Bordon, to take part in his annual Christmas Card Competition. Pupils are encouraged to create a festive design to be featured on his official Christmas card; recipients of this card include Headteachers in the constituency, senior national political leaders, prominent members of our local community and His Majesty King Charles III. The winning design will feature on the front cover of the card, with those in second, third and fourth place featuring elsewhere on the card.

If your child is interested in entering the competition, please hand their design into the school office by Monday 2nd November. On the reverse of the design please include: child's name, age and school. If one of our pupils wins the competition, Gregory Stafford will visit our school in early December to congratulate the winner and present them with a special Christmas gift from the House of Commons. We look forward to receiving your entries!

KIRFs: Our KIRF this term is: **To find factor pairs of a number** which the children will be tested on before we break for Christmas. Please refer to the KIRF sheet at the end of this letter to support your child with their learning. The key to success is practising little and often.



Diocese of Guildford



Class update

I can't believe I am writing the last class note for this half-term! Where has the time gone? It has been a very busy, but productive half-term which clearly shows in the fabulous work the children have produced.

Swifts have thoroughly enjoyed their topic learning about The Tudors and our trip on Monday to Weald and Downland Open Air Museum was brilliant and a fantastic way to complete the learning. I thoroughly enjoyed taking Swifts and I was proud of the enthusiasm and knowledge they displayed throughout the trip.

During their visit, the children travelled back in time to investigate daily life in the Tudor period. They discovered what life was like for people living in the countryside, what they wore and what their homes were like - a particular highlight was finding where the loo was! Furthermore, the children trained as Tudor pharmacists learning apothecary skills to uncover fascinating and amusing facts about medicine in Tudor times. They explored why smells were important; what the Four Humours were and what the frog was for!

The children were well behaved, enthusiastic and learnt so much. They had a "brilliant", "fun", "awesome", "fascinating" and "interesting" day!

This week in English, the children have been busy planning and writing their own narratives inspired by Roald Dahl's magical chapter, The Witching Hour from The BFG. They've done a fantastic job using figurative language such as similes, metaphors, and personification, to bring their stories to life. Furthermore, by varying the sentence lengths, the children have created suspenseful and captivating pieces of writing. It's been wonderful to see their creativity shine!

Last week in maths, the children sat their end-of-unit assessment on addition and subtraction. While many showed good progress, an area we will continue to develop is their ability to understand and break down what is required in multi-step word problems. Following the assessment, we began our new unit on multiplication. So far, the children have explored multiples, common multiples, and factors, using a range of strategies to identify patterns and deepen their understanding of number relationships.

The children have worked incredibly hard this half-term and they are adjusting well to the new demands of Upper Key stage 2. I know they will be ready for the break as am I, so on that note, I'm off to recharge my batteries.

Have a lovely half-term and I'll see you on the other side.

Mrs Breslaw

Home learning

When completing English and Maths home learning, can all work please be dated- long date for English and short date for Maths. The children are used to doing this in class. Also, to ensure books can be marked, can home learning please be returned by **Wednesday** of the following week.

Spellings

Rule: Words ending in '-ant'

Green- all spellings	Orange- any 8 spellings	Blue- any 6 spellings
abundant		
brilliant		
constant		
distant		
dominant		
elegant		
fragrant		
ignorant		
tolerant		
vacant		
*mystery word x2		

Writing Showcase Entries

Your child has log-in details to access their work online. Please encourage them to read through their entries, edit and improve their writing, and ensure it is ready for publishing. This is a great opportunity for them to check their spelling, punctuation and grammar, and make any final improvements.

Black History Month 2026 Whole School Home Learning for Half Term- Honouring Our Communities

This year's Black History Month theme is **Honouring Our Communities**.

We are thinking about the Black people who have helped to make our communities stronger through **their courage, creativity, leadership, kindness, service and commitment**.

During your half-term, **choose ONE activity** from the ideas below.

WRITTEN OPTIONS

1. My Community Hero

Choose a Black person who has made a difference to other people.

Find out:

- Who are they?
- What have they done?
- Who have they helped?
- Why do you think they should be celebrated?

KS1: Write a short piece with a picture.

KS2: Write a biography, newspaper article or information page.

2. Someone Worth Honouring

Choose someone from your own community who you think deserves to be recognised.

They could be a teacher, coach, volunteer, artist, healthcare worker, community leader or someone else who helps others.

Write about **what they do and why their contribution matters**.

CREATIVE OPTIONS

3. Create a Community Hero Poster

Design a colourful poster celebrating a Black person who has made a difference. Include pictures, facts and why you think they deserve to be honoured.



Key Instant Recall Facts

Year 5 – Autumn 1

I know the multiplication and division facts for all times tables up to 12×12 .

By the end of this half term, children should know the following facts. The aim is for them to recall these facts **instantly**.

Please see separate sheet for all times table facts.

Key Vocabulary

What is 12 multiplied by 6?

What is 7 times 8?

What is 84 divided by 7?

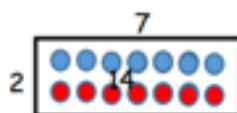
What is the whole?

What are the parts?

Key Imagery:

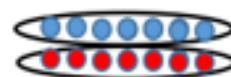
Prove using array:

Eg- $7 \times 2 = 14$



(the parts are 7 and 2 and the whole is 14)

Prove using array using grouping $14 \div 2 = 7$



They should be able to answer these questions in any order, including missing number questions e.g. $7 \times \bigcirc = 28$ or $\bigcirc \div 6 = 7$.

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 once: perhaps you could have a fact family of the day. If you would like more ideas, please speak to your child's teacher.

Speed Challenge – Take two packs of playing cards and remove the kings. Turn over two cards and ask your child to multiply the numbers together (Ace = 1, Jack = 11, Queen = 12). How many questions can they answer correctly in 2 minutes? Practise regularly and see if they can beat their high score.

Online games – There are many games online which can help children practise their multiplication and division facts. www.conkermaths.org is a good place to start.

Use memory tricks – For those hard-to-remember facts, www.multiplication.com has some strange picture stories to help children remember.

Make a poster- Record the fact families for each multiplication times table, for example:

$$7 \times 10 = 70$$

$$7 \times \underline{\quad} = 70$$

$$10 \times 7 = 70$$

to make it harder, try removing some of the parts e.g. $\underline{\quad} \div 7 = 10$