

# Great Whelnetham Church of England Primary School

*'By growing together, we become the best we can be'*



## Class Newsletter

**Swans** - Autumn Term 1, 2019

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer break and that your child is ready for some exciting and challenging learning this half term.

Our **main topic** is called 'Poles Apart' and will involve learning about some great British explorers like Scott and Shackleton, and the 'race to the Poles' in the early 20th century. We will study in detail the journey of Shackleton, on the HMS Endurance, to the South Pole and the courage and determination shown by the crew.

In **Maths** we will be looking at place value, rounding numbers, comparing and ordering numbers, negative number, addition and subtraction, multiples and factors, multiplication and division. It would be great if you can help support your child's learning by looking at the resources in these areas online at BBC Bitesize - KS2 Maths.

In **English** we will write a biography of Ernest Shackleton after conducting some research about his life and adventures. We will also be writing formal letters to apply for a Spy job with MI6! Our **Guided Reading** will be centred around 'Wonder' by RJ Palacio. In October there will be a class trip to Cambridge which will be a fun packed day in 2 parts - first a visit to the Polar Museum and a bespoke workshop, and then to Spy Missions to use Maths and reasoning skills to solve some mysteries. More details about the trip will follow soon in a separate letter.

In **Art** we will be looking at the work of graphic artist M.C. Escher and creating our own tessellating designs. We will then complete the design by exploring shades of different colours.

Our **P.E.** days will be Tuesday and Friday this year, so please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school on these days. There will be 2 sets of **Home Learning** each week. Maths will go out on Tuesday and needs to be back in on Thursday; English will go out on Friday and needs to be in the following Tuesday. **Spellings** will go out on Friday and be tested the following week.

Year 5 and 6 children are expected to read at home daily, for around 20 minutes, recording this in their new Planners, and parents should please sign once a week to confirm this. I would really appreciate your support with reinforcing this most beneficial habit - which helps with so many aspects of our learning. Happy reading.

Kind regards,

Mr Sharp