

Name:

Class:

English Reading Practice Papers

Year 2 and 3

Book 1

The swallow that came
back.

Remember

- Read the text carefully BEFORE you answer the questions.
- If you are unsure of the answer go to the next question.

.....
Look at the sentences below. There is a word missing in each one. Tick the box next to the word that best fits the gap.

1. A lemon is.....

pink ☐ red ☐ yellow ☐ white ☐ brown ☐

.....

2. The cow had a.....

lamb ☐ foal ☐ kitten ☐ puppy ☐ calf ☐

.....

3. The animals in a cage in the zoo.

were ☐ was ☐ have ☐ will ☐ here ☐

.....

4. The children on a school trip.

had ☐ here ☐ went ☐ want ☐ visit ☐

.....

5. many days are there in a week?

What ☐ When ☐ Why ☐ How ☐ Which ☐

.....

6. I go to every day.

shoe ☐ start ☐ school ☐ ship ☐ slipper ☐

.....

7. The doctor medicine for the patient.

painted ☐ predicted ☐ described ☐ prescribed ☐

.....

8. The Romans built forts in Wales.

numerous ☐ notice ☐ novelist ☐ numeral ☐

.....



The swallow that came back

Have you ever stopped to look at a row of swallows sitting on the telephone wire in late summer? They all look as if they are ready for a long journey. Where are they going, and where have they come from?

Many of the birds we see here in Wales have 'migrated' from other countries, and return or migrate again when it is getting colder and darker here.

Usually, they come here in spring from countries such as Africa and return when summer is over and there are no flies left for them to eat here.

1. Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.

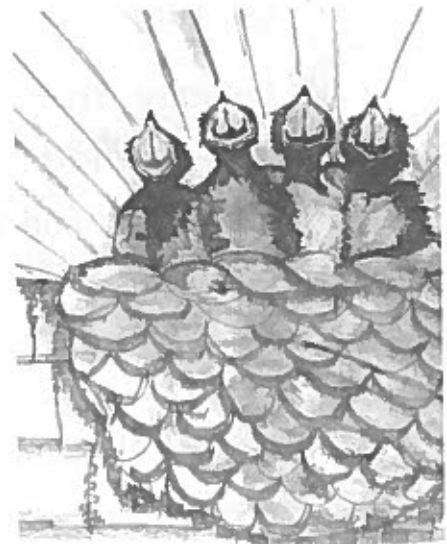
	True	False
Swallows migrate in late summer.		
Birds migrate when it is too hot in Wales.		
Swallows migrate here in spring.		
Swallows migrate from America.		
Swallows return to Africa at the start of summer.		

2. Find and copy two words that show why the weather makes the swallows migrate back to Africa.
- _____

Last spring, a little swallow came to my front porch and spent many days building itself a nest made of mud and twigs above the door. We tried not to disturb it as it made its journey backwards and forwards.

Each time, it had a beak full of mud or twigs and even some soft wool and feathers to line the nest.

Soon, there were four white eggs with brown spots in the nest and before long, four wide-open beaks peeped at us, waiting for the next meal of juicy caterpillars!



The little swallow darted swiftly around the fields and farmyard looking for any insects she could find.

1. What do swallows use to build their nests?

Tick 3.

bricks

☐

mud

☐

stones

☐

wool

☐

twigs

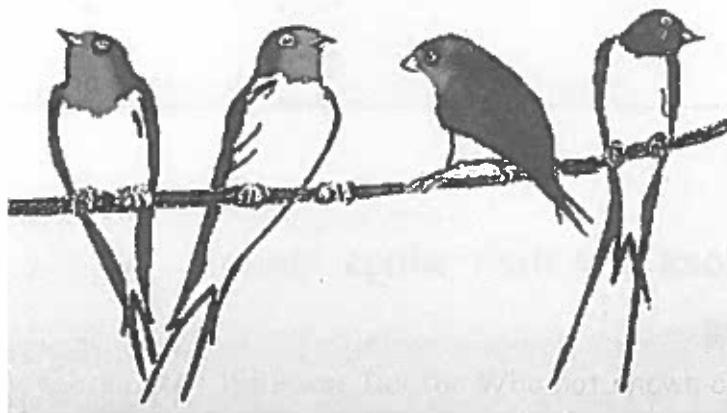
☐

flowers

☐

2. In this text how many eggs did the swallow lay?

3. Find and copy 2 words that describe how the swallow flew.





Then it was time for the four baby swallows to 'try their wings', and soon, they were all gone - on their long and dangerous journey to Africa. But the story doesn't end there, because this spring there was another swallow nesting above the front porch door!

I wonder if it was the same swallow, or maybe one of the chicks that hatched in the nest last spring.

What do you think?

to migrate - to move from one place or country to another.

1. What does 'try their wings' mean?

Tick one.

learning to sing

☐

learning to walk

☐

learning to fly

☐

learning to jump

☐

2. The 4 baby swallows disappeared. Where had they gone?

3. Put these events in order by numbering them from 1 -5.
The first one has been done for you.

There were 4 white eggs with brown spots in the nest.

A swallow built a nest above the front door.

Then there were 4 little chicks there.

Soon they had all disappeared.

Mud, twigs, wool and feathers were used to build the nest.

4. How does the story end?

Find and copy the sentence.

5. What sort of journey was it to Africa for the swallows?

Tick 2.

easy	<input type="checkbox"/>	short	<input type="checkbox"/>	dangerous	<input type="checkbox"/>
long	<input type="checkbox"/>	difficult	<input type="checkbox"/>	fast	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. What is the meaning of the word 'migrate'?



The fat cake

Some birds 'migrate' at the end of summer, as there is no food for them here in Wales, but some stay here over the winter as well, here are some of them - chaffinch, bluetit, thrush, robin, sparrow, starling and the blackbird. Perhaps you can think of others.

As food is scarce for the birds that stay with us, it is a good idea to feed them regularly. A favourite with the birds is a fat cake, full of all the things that they enjoy to eat.

How about making a fat cake for them this winter?

You will need,

bird seed

suet or lard

raisins

yoghurt pots

peanuts

mixing bowl

grated cheese

string - about 33cm for each pot

Important

- This recipe is not suitable if you have a nut allergy. Leave out the nuts and check the seed mixture.
- Bird seed and nuts bought for birds should not be eaten by children.



Recipe for a fat cake.

1. Carefully make a small hole in the bottom of a yoghurt pot.
2. Thread string through the hole and tie a knot on the inside. Leave about 30cm of string on the outside.
3. Cut the lard into small pieces and put it in the bowl.
Warm the lard (perhaps on a shelf by the radiator.)
4. Put in everything else and mix with your fingers until it is a 'squidgy' mixture.
5. Fill your yoghurt pots and put them in a fridge to set for an hour.
6. When set, hang them from trees or your bird table.
7. Watch the birds enjoying their special treat!

1. Find and copy the names of 3 birds that stay in Wales over winter.

2. Why is a fat cake a favourite with the birds?

Tick one.

because it makes them fat

☐

it is full of things they enjoy to eat

☐

because they like yoghurt

☐

3. How many things are important to remember before making the cake?

4. Why is the mixture called 'squidgy'?

Tick one.

it is hard and dry

☐

it is runny

☐

it is soft

☐

5. Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.

	True	False
the robin migrates in winter		
food is scarce for the birds in winter		
the birds' favourite cake is a jam roll		
birds enjoy raisins, peanuts and grated cheese		

6. Why do you have to put the mixture in the fridge?
Tick one.

to melt

☐

to cook

☐

to set

☐

to mix

☐

7. Where can you hang the fat cakes?

8. What is the last thing you should do?

Find and copy the words.

Draw a picture of a swallow feeding her chicks in the nest above the door.

Write a short paragraph about the swallow- you could find information in books or on the internet.

