



Sycamore Class Welcome Letter

I hope you have all had a fun and refreshing summer holiday and that your child has settled quickly back into the school routine. Miss Heike and myself have had a wonderful start to the year and both feel privileged to have such a great bunch of young people to work with. They are lively, full of ideas, creative, kind and fun – I have no doubt that they will put the effort in to make great progress and attain wonderful things!

I am excited for this upcoming academic year and look forward to creating a safe, purposeful and creative learning environment for your child to thrive. I (Mrs Cleverley) will continue to work on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Miss Heike will teach Weds afternoon and Thursday and Friday. Ms Mason are fantastic teaching assistant will continue working with Sycamore class on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

You will find our class timetable and topic web for this term on our class page on the school website. We have a full and exciting curriculum to tackle once again. We continue to focus on depth in each subject rather than breadth so when we learn about the Stone Age, we will just focus on a few aspects of Stone Age life, but the children will hopefully have a deep or thorough knowledge of these areas rather than knowing a little about everything!

PE - Our PE day for the autumn term will be Tuesday and for the first half of the term the children will be swimming on a Wednesday morning which we will be their second PE lesson.

New spelling will be given out on a Friday and children will have a week to be working on these at home. The children will be given a paper copy and be able to practise on Edshed as well. Our minimum expectation is for the children to complete 3 games on Edshed or to show that they have practised them on paper in their homework books. We will not be having spelling tests every week, but I will be looking to see the patterns spelt correctly in their classwork and we will have mini tests often, practising the range of patterns they have learnt, to try and avoid the problem of children learning spellings for a test and then promptly forgetting them!

Times Tables: All children will have access to Times Table Rockstars. This is a great program that will assess your child's multiplication knowledge and can then give them the appropriate tables to be working on (when working within range). I will set 10 minutes of practise for each child on the program and will check that this has been completed on a Friday. If you would rather your child practised on paper, I am happy to arrange this for them. The year 4's will have an official assessment in June and will be expected to have quick recall of all tables up to 12 x 12 so will be doing lots of work on times tables in school too.

The children will be given one other piece of homework on a Friday which will usually be a Maths sheet. This will be stuck in their homework book. Please make sure your child has their HOMEWORK BOOK IN SCHOOL EVERY FRIDAY.

Reading and Vocabulary: Reading and vocabulary is a crucial part of a child's learning. Reading not only opens up a world of enjoyment of reading for pleasure but is also a vital tool to access information across the curriculum and beyond. The more you read, the more you know, the more you want to know, and the wider and richer your vocabulary becomes. Reading has a high profile in Sycamore Class, and we support this through individual reading using our Accelerated Reader (AR) scheme, small group guided reading sessions where the support offered can be more personalised

and whole class guided reading sessions which exposes children to a wide range of texts, genres and inspiration. Children will be bringing their reading book home and are encouraged to read each night. To support the development of reading, it would be great if you could listen to your child read regularly and discuss books they have read. Each child will have an AR target to try to meet by Half Term. This will involve reading books within their range and taking quizzes to check their understanding. All AR quizzes need to be completed in school please.

Forest School – as you know Ms Canon our forest school lead is no longer working at the school so there will be no forest school for the first Half Term but we hope to be able to share a plan with you soon.

Trips – We have some exciting trips and visitors in the pipeline. We are also planning on taking Sycamore class on another overnight trip in the summer term!

Rewards - In class and around the school, children can receive 'Thank you' notes for anything which the teachers think deserves thanks! These will be placed in a large jar ready for a class raffle each Friday. The 2 children in each class with the highest number at the end of the Half Term will receive a prize. In class children can also earn effort and achievement certificates. In our weekly celebration assemblies, we will recognise a 'Star of the Week' from each year group and one child in the school will earn the courtesy cup!

BLP – Building Learning Powers - We are having a school wide drive on encouraging good learning behaviours in class. The children will be learning about 4 animals who display positive learning behaviours. Reciprocity (bee), Resourceful (squirrel), Resilience (beaver) and Reflective (owl).



I hope this letter answers most of your questions but if there is something you would still like to ask or let me know, please feel free to email the office and we will reply to you as soon as we can.

We look forward to partnering with you this year in giving the Sycamore Children the best possible learning experience!

Mrs Cleverley and Miss Heike