



Welcome to Sycamore Class

I hope you have all had a fun and refreshing summer holiday and that your child has settled back into the school routine.

I feel privileged to be given 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.

Staff - I would like to welcome Ms Mason, an experienced and very lovely teaching assistant, who will be with Sycamore class on Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays. The children will be pleased to know that Miss Steer will be working with us on Monday and Thursdays.

Curriculum and Timetable

You will find our class timetable, topic web for this term and the rolling program for the year 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 Romans we will just focus on a few aspects of Roman 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, we will be spending the whole afternoon at Headlands. Children will walk up to Headlands after lunch and will return to school in time to be collected at 3:30pm. The children will be learning invasion game skills and having a go at tag rugby in the first half term and will move on to gymnastics after the half term break. Children should come to school wearing their PE kit and also be prepared for the typical UK weather as we will be outside regardless of what Mother Nature has in store for us!

Homework

Spellings: New spelling patterns will be introduced each Monday and we will be practising these patterns throughout the week in school. Children will be expected to complete at least 3 games on Edshed during the week or to complete a paper worksheet if you'd prefer. I will check who has completed this online each Monday (or collect in paper sheets). 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 15 minutes of practise for each child on the program and will check that this has been completed on a Monday. 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.

There may be other homework bits throughout the year linked to various subjects and I'll let you know as and when these are set.

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.

Across the school we are having a big focus on vocabulary. Children are encouraged to spot new vocabulary in their reading books, find out the meaning and then share the new word with the class. They have bookmarks which they can use to record the new word. We have a special board for these words to be recorded in our classroom. Please encourage your child to be a vocabulary ninja, learning new words each week and sometimes every day! You can also ask them about new words we have been learning in class!

Forest School - We will continue attending forest school for a day each half term. The first date for this term will be Thursday 22nd September. We are in need of several parent volunteers for this to go ahead. Please let Therese know in the office asap if you may be able to help.

Trips – We have some exciting trips and visitors in the pipeline. We are also planning on taking Sycamore class on an overnight camping 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 me – sue.cleverley@thelink.academy I look forward to partnering with you this year in giving the Sycamore Children the best possible learning experience!

Mrs Cleverley