

AUTUMN TERM IN SYCAMORE



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Morley for the Autumn term, I hope you had a great summer and made the most of the sun! I'm really looking forward to getting to know your children better over the next few months and we have plenty to be looking forward to!

- **Topic** - Our topic this term will be World War One. We will follow the daring-do of an American dog, Sergeant Stubby and we will be using the children's books Archie's War and Charlie's War to learn more about what life was like 100 years ago. We will look at life in the trenches to produce a diary entry in English, and look at the propaganda posters of WWI in Art. This will switch to a Geography focus later in the term, with a focus on chocolate and where it comes from.
- **Gressenhall Visit** - The World War One topic will also be supported by a visit to Gressenhall, which has been provisionally booked for 31st October. It would be good if children could wear costume for this event. Boys could wear old trousers, flat cap and shirt. Girls could wear dresses, skirts and blouse or pinafores but please bear in mind the weather on the day. Please do not go to any expense for this. More information will follow in due course.
- **Castle visit** - We will be looking at 'Paston's Treasure' as a starting point for our creative curriculum afternoons with a visit to the Castle Museum on Wednesday 19th September for all of KS2, to look at this piece of art and become inspired. Do look on-line, it is a fascinating piece with much to talk about and of great historical significance.
- **Cathedral Visit** - On 10th October we will also be visiting Norwich Cathedral to take part in Cathedral day.
- **Reading** - Reading is something that should be treasured and loved by everyone. Encouraging children to read is very important, as much as the sharing of ideas and thoughts after reading. There are many books out there, but if you wish for a recommendation please do come and ask. There are plenty which stretch the mind and imagination just that little bit further. Each child will have a reading record, and we would expect the children to be reading for at least 30 minutes every night. At this stage the children will not need to be supervised for the whole of this time, but if you could ask some basic questions after they have read this will help with understanding. We will read with the children in school,

but this should not be their only exposure. A reading passport will be handed out, with the expectation that all the books on it will be read by the end of the year. A further passport will be prepared for the more avid readers! When a passport book is complete, children are invited to complete a review on a leaf template, which will go on display in the classroom.

- **Colder weather** - As the weather gets colder please do provide your child with suitable named clothing. It can be very cold at playtimes and lunchtimes and the expectation is for them to be outside as part of their learning. We would suggest a hat and gloves as they do feel the cold. The children should be encouraged to take care of their belongings and to make sure they are in a safe place over break and lunch.
- **Spellings** - Spellings will begin to start being given out this week. They will be given and tested on a Friday morning. It is very helpful to the children when these are also practised at home as not having to remember how to spell words means that the children can focus on becoming better writers.
- **Red Books** - Your child will either already have or will be receiving a red home link book for you to let us know of anything you feel would be useful to us. For example, if your child is going home with someone else. It will be your child's responsibility to ensure that a red book that has been written in is placed on my desk at the start of the day.
- **PE** - All children need to have their PE kits with them every day please. We have P.E. on a Monday afternoon, which will be taken by Mrs. Green until half term. We also have a session with Coach Ian first thing on a Tuesday afternoon. It would be appreciated if children did not wear earrings on these days, but if this is not possible please ensure your children either has tape to cover them or can take them out themselves.
- **Value for Life** - As a Church of England school we follow the values for life, and this term it is thankfulness. So please do take every opportunity to chat to your child about being thankful as we will be reflecting on this as part of Collective Worship and as part of daily school life.

'LEARN TOGETHER, WORK TOGETHER, GROW TOGETHER'

Our priority is your child. We find that those parents who become partners in learning truly improve the outcomes for their children. When parents are involved, children achieve more, they are happier, they develop greater self esteem and demonstrate good behaviour so please do get involved as it is the most wonderful time in their lives and it whizzes by in a flash!

If you have any questions or queries, then please do come and see me.

After school when I am seeing the children out onto the playground is the best time to catch me as mornings are usually very busy!

Many thanks,

Greg East