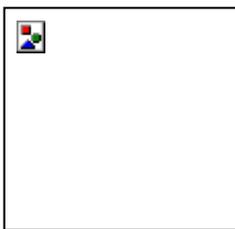


Summer Term in Sycamore



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had an enjoyable Easter, and are feeling relaxed and refreshed! This term's topics are particularly interesting, so I hope the children will enjoy them as I much as I do! If you have any questions please email me at my class email address: sycamore@morley.norfolk.sch.uk.

- **Value for Life** – The new value for life this term is peace. We will look at the story of 'Jacob and Esau' in class and how this relates to peace and forgiveness with each other. We will continue to explore this in our Forest School sessions, how it relates to Jesus dying on the cross and we will continue to visit this theme throughout our collective worships.
- **Topic** – Our new topic this term is the Egyptians. We will be linking our English with the help of books 'The Story of Tutankhamun' and 'The Egyptian Cinderella'. We will look at some of the main achievements of the Egyptians, their farming methods and the importance of the River Nile, along with their Gods, tombs and pharaohs. As this is our 'create' term we will be making several Egyptian themed items in art and D.T., so look out for these to come home!
- **Science** – This term in Science, we will be looking at Living Things and their Habitats, including predators, prey and their food chains. We will spend some time pond dipping and working out how animals can be grouped. We will also be working on plants, what they need to live and how environments can change. This will become more of a focus after half-term, but we will cover some of this beforehand.
- **Forest School** – Forest School will be continuing this term on Friday afternoons. Be aware, the nettles will now really begin to grow and so long outdoor trousers or thin waterproofs are advisable on the days your child is in the woods! Also, please BE TICK AWARE. We haven't had any issues with ticks at Morley so far but I would please ask that everyone remain vigilant and look out for ticks after afternoons spent in the woods. Remember, in the event of high winds or electrical activity, Forest School will be cancelled. A huge thanks to the volunteers who make the Forest School sessions possible each week. I will be continuing Forest School sessions on Wednesdays throughout the summer term, when Mrs. Sinclair will continue to work with Sycamore class.
- **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. Each child will have a reading record, and we would expect the children to be reading for at least 15 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. Please ensure that the child's reading record is filled in each night and returned to school the next day.

- **Homework** – Homework books contain logins for MyON, Times Table Rockstars, Numbots, My Maths and Spelling Frame. It is a good idea to write these down at home so you have these while Homework books are in school. They will also contain a place to record spelling scores, and fact quiz scores. Every two weeks, the children are expected to hand in a writing task completed inside the homework books. These will then be marked and the next writing task stuck in.
- **Fact quiz** - Each Thursday, the children will be given a short fact quiz based on the knowledge organiser in the homework books. Five questions will be asked each week, with the aim of the children knowing all fifteen facts by the end of term. If the children are successful, they could have the chance to compete as the class champion in a mastermind quiz on the same fifteen facts.
- **Times Table Rockstars** – All children have access to Times Table Rockstars. It is very important that the children are practising these as much as possible. A secure knowledge of times tables will give them a much stronger grounding going into Year 5 and 6. Each child will take a times table test at the end of Year 4, and the national curriculum states that each child should know their tables up to 12 x 12 by this time. These tests will be online and are simulated by the sound check option on TT Rockstars.
- **Spellings** – Tests are on a Friday, and spellings are introduced to the children on Monday morning. We will practise these in our spelling journals through the week as part of our morning work. It is very helpful to the children when these are also practised at home as children find writing easier when they can remember how to spell common words.
- **Named clothing** – Please can I ask again that all clothing is named. Several items of clothing have not been returned to their owners simply because they have not had names on, which is as frustrating for you as it is for me, I'm sure!
- **PE** – All children need to arrive in school wearing their PE kits on days when they have PE. We have PE on Monday mornings, which will be taken by Mr. Smith, and we will also have P.E. on Tuesday afternoons, taken by myself. 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.

'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!

Many thanks,

Greg East