



What's happening in Sycamore Class in the Spring Term 2023



We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas break and are looking forward to starting the new academic year in Eagles.

Mrs Cox will be teaching you on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Miss Grant will be teaching you on Thursdays and Fridays.

Our class TA this year is Mrs Harrold and our LSA is Ms Elgood.

Our value for life this term is: Justice and Equality and we will be reflecting on this during our daily Collective Worship and as part of our daily school life, so please embrace any opportunities of Justice and Equality with your child and take the time to talk about them.

<p>In Maths this term we will be starting work using our new scheme, Power Maths. Year 3 - Multiplication and division, money, statistics, length, fractions. Year 4 - Multiplication and division, area, fractions and decimals We will continue our work on our speed of recall of the times tables and have regular maths meets where we focus on our arithmetic skills and reasoning skills. We also use Propellor Boards throughout the week.</p>
<p>In English this term we are focussing on: creating our own story narratives - looking to develop our descriptive writing skills. Writing diary entries to show how characters are feeling, writing a newspaper report and even producing a non-chronological report. We will also be focussing on skills to help us edit and improve our own writing.</p>

This term we will be learning.....

<i>Topic</i>	Exploring the world around us, especially the area in which we live and The Iron Man and The Wild Robot.
<i>Science</i>	Light and Sound
<i>DT / Art</i>	Making a robot, using chalk and black paper to create a picture of the Iron Man, Looking at Laura Carlin's book illustrations. Cooking.
<i>Music</i>	Children will study the music of Marvel Studios and investigate the impact of music on film trailers and films in general before they then compose their own music or special effects to a trailer of their choice. They will be listening to and appraising a range of music and evaluating their own and each others' performances.
<i>RE</i>	We will be thinking about what philosophy is and how people make moral decisions. We will also be thinking about what we mean by truth.
<i>Computing</i>	e-Safety, Technology in our lives, Programming (Scratch)
<i>PE</i>	Outdoor Adventurous Activities and Dance
<i>French</i>	The alphabet, dates, months of the year, members of the family, numbers 21-31.

For this term, Sycamore will have a PE session on Mondays and Wednesdays. We will be continuing to ask children to come to school on these days ready to take part in their PE lesson. Please ensure that they have a kit suitable for outside (black shorts or tracksuit bottoms, house coloured t-shirt and a black jumper).

Forest school will be returning after February half-term on a Tuesday afternoon. Please make sure your child has wet weather gear - waterproof jacket, trousers and wellies in school.

Art aprons are required to protect the children's clothing during art and design activities - these can be left in school.

Children will be expected to have their Reading Records and Spelling Logs in school with them everyday.

Homework

Spellings: Following on from the Introduction of Read, Write Inc. Phonics in both the Early Years and Key Stage One classes, we have chosen as a school to adopt Read Write Inc. Spelling for the majority of children in Key Stage Two. Pupils will be using their Spelling Logs to record the spellings that they, as an individual need to focus on.

Reading: Please continue to support your child with their reading and understanding at home. We encourage them to read a **minimum of five times a week**. Please make a note in their reading record book which should come into school **every day**.

Reading is very important as children are not only building fluency but also their knowledge of vocabulary, which is essential when tackling comprehension tasks. According to one source, if you read for twenty minutes a day you'll encounter an estimated 1,800,000 words over the course of a year whereas reading for only one minute a day will result in only 8,000 words. So, hearing children read regularly and reading to your children really does pay dividends in secondary school.

Written homework and Maths homework: This year all homework will be set in homework books, which need to be kept in their book bags. Children will be given a piece of English homework and Maths homework on alternate weeks. They will have a week to complete the task.

With all homework, be it spellings, reading comprehension, piece of writing or Maths activity, when parents interact with their children and provide support and interest in the activity that they are completing, we know that this goes a long way to help improve the learning outcomes for the child. Please involve yourself as much as you can with your child's home learning and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us through the class email address.

We expect pupils to spend a minimum of 30 minutes on their weekly task.

TTRS and Power Maths: We will continue with the times table challenge as part of the Times Tables Rock Stars programme. Please encourage your child to use the Times Table Rockstars programme on a regular basis in order to support and improve their knowledge and speed of recall of the multiplication tables.

All pupils also have login details for Power Maths where we regularly set activities for them to practise.

Knowledge Organisers

Over the course of the next few weeks, knowledge organisers will begin to appear on the school website. These will contain information about vocabulary, key facts and information that will be being discussed and covered across a unit of work. They will be shared with the pupils within the classroom and displayed on the walls. Please feel free to use them as a reference guide and discussion tool for what your child is learning.

If your child is self-isolating due to Covid please contact the school and once we have been made aware we will publish work for them on google classroom. Your child's login details from last academic year will remain the same.

Finally, if you have any questions, queries or concerns about your child please do speak to one of us at the end of the day or contact the school to make an appointment.

Mrs Cox, Miss Grant, Mrs Harrold and Ms Elgood.