



Sycamore Class Newsletter

Welcome to Sycamore Class

Welcome to Sycamore class! I am really looking forward to getting to know the children and you better over the next 12 months.

As you will be aware, Year 2 is a very important year for the children with the end of Key Stage tests in the Summer term. I welcome your support at home and encourage you to discuss with your child the work we have been doing in the classroom.

English

We will be looking at both fiction and non-fiction units over the next 12 weeks. The first unit of work is called "The Secret Sky Garden" which raises issues about the environment. In the following unit we will look at Anthony Browne's 'The Tunnel' to link with our topic and write our own version to develop our stamina for writing. Our final unit of the half term will be a poetry unit to help the children build on their understanding of effective word choices.

After the half term, we will do our second Talk for Writing unit to help develop the children's story structure and build stamina for writing. This will be followed by information texts where the children will look to apply their own knowledge and write factually about a pet or an animal they know lots about.

Mathematics

Our main focus this term will be counting to 100. The children will be developing their understanding of ways numbers are made using a variety of tens and ones and their quick recall of the 10, 2 and 5 multiplication tables. Then we will look at adding and subtracting numbers using different equipment to support their methods. We shall also cover Money. During this topic you could support your child by setting up a game of shops using coins and discuss different ways of making 50p.

Reading

Reading is an essential life skill and also helps improve writing structure, spelling and mathematical understanding. I hope you can support and encourage your children to read as often as possible at home so they can build a real enjoyment of reading. Discussing what your child has read will also help develop their understanding of texts and help support their learning in school.

PE Days

For the time being, we are asking all children to come to school in their PE kits on PE days. This is to eliminate the need for changing and lower the risk of infection spreading. It is recommended that on these days, you send a spare pair of socks and shoes in with your child to avoid them having wet feet for the remainder of the day. If the weather looks like it's going to be wet, children are allowed to wear navy/ black jogging bottoms over their shorts as will be doing PE outside as much as possible.

Topic: Towers, Tunnels and Turrets

We kick off the year looking at Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. This topic has a History and Design and Technology focus but will also see the children looking at Science investigations. We will have a day trip to visit Corfe Castle.

The children will be investigating famous towers found around the world and why we have them. We shall examine the materials used to make towers and how towers can be used for different purposes.



After half term we are completing more Science experiments and examining how different forces can have an effect on materials.

Religious Education

Our first unit this year is New Beginnings. We will examine stories from the Old Testament about God's Creation.

We will discuss what family means to us and explore being part of God's family.



Following that, we will look at Judaism followed by Advent in the build up to the Christmas holiday. The children will examine the first nativity scene by Francis of Assisi alongside our Christmas performance.

General Information

- The children will be working with myself, Mrs Foy and Ms Long throughout the year.
- PE lessons are on Tuesday and a Thursday.
- Homework is set on Thursday and is due in the following Wednesday.
- The spellings will be sent home at the start of each half term.
- Reading records are collected each morning so we can count the reads and change books.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to come talk to me at the end of the day or email me: g.dale@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk.