

Please note that due to the late lockdown announcement on 5/1/21 some parts of this letter will not be applicable now. However, the topics will remain the same.

Sycamore Class Newsletter



Welcome back!

Welcome to the Spring Term in Sycamore Class! We have a busy term ahead and this newsletter is intended to give you a guide to what we will be doing in our classroom over the next 12 weeks. If you have any questions, please just ask.

Mr Pickavance

English

Our first English unit this half-term will be instructional texts. We will be using verb openers to create imperative verbs and exploring how the layout can help aid the reader's understanding of a set of instructions.

We follow on from this with traditional stories using 'Talk For Writing' strategies to support our learning. The children will be introduced to a version of Little Red Riding Hood before learning it and eventually writing their own story. Once we have learnt it, I shall encourage the children to practise reciting the story to you at home.

After the half-term, our literacy focus turns toward dragons as the children will be producing an information text and a narrative story using these mythical creatures as a stimulus. In the meantime, you can keep your eye open for the 'Dorset Ridgeback' dragon that can often be seen flying through the skies at this time of year...

Maths

We will continue to develop our understanding of place value, building on what we learnt in the Autumn Term. The children will be practising adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers up to 100, including the use of money. We will then progress onto repeated addition to introduce multiplication of the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables.

We will cover 3D shapes and look at the features that help us to identify each and continue to practise reading the clock to the nearest quarter of an hour and five minutes.

What we are learning this term:

Our topics this term are *Land & Sea!* and **Beachcombers**. We will look at the history and geography of the UK through time with a focus on areas in Dorset. We will examine maps of the world and UK, design our own flags and learn about seafaring in the past. There will be an opportunity for children to create coastal pictures and compare our area with that of Toluca in Mexico. We round the term off by looking at the dangers associated with the coast and how to keep safe at the seaside.

Science

As part of our topic work, we will look at working scientifically and developing our knowledge of animals and classification systems. The children will be given criteria to help them sort a list of creatures found in and around the beach and shown how scientists have developed systems to help us compare different species.

ICT

This half term, we will be focussing on e-safety and staying safe online. Our work covers the use of search engines to find information and who to talk to about if you have a problem. After half term, we will look at gathering data and the different ways you can produce graphs and charts through different programs.

Home Support Sessions

The way children learn has changed a great deal since the time we were at school. As a result, there are more up to date and modern methods the children use that you may not recognise. This is most noticeable in reading and maths where the children use a different approach to work out words or answers to number sentences.

I would like to offer you support for any of these new processes so you understand how the children learn and, in turn, are able to support their home learning with more confidence. If there are any areas you would like support with,

After half-term, we will have a focus on fractions, which many children can find difficult. The work on multiplication and repeated addition will help their understanding and practise you can do on doubling will help their understanding of halving.

such as reading and recognise sounds or using equipment to solve mathematics problems, please let me know and I will do some sessions showing how we do it in school. The best way to contact me with any suggestions is via my email a.pickavance@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk.

SATs

The end of Key Stage 1 SATs will not be taking place this year and the final assessment will be made by the school. We are working hard to gather the evidence in reading, writing and mathematics using some of the worksheets to show off our understanding. If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me.