



Sycamore Class

Newsletter

Please note that if local lockdowns occur or your family has to self isolate, we will still aim to cover these areas by sending work home or by using remote learning platforms.

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 "Here We Are" which looks at constructing sentences and presenting our work clearly. 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 place value and simple calculations. 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 look at revisiting the properties of 2D shapes and measuring distance in centimetres and metres.

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 **at least 5 times a week (High 5 challenge)** so they can build a real enjoyment of reading.

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.

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 Creation. We will examine stories from the Old Testament including Noah's Ark and Jonah and the Whale. Before the half term, we shall also learn about the Rosary prayer through Prayers, Saint and Feasts.



Towards November and December, we will look at the sacrament of marriage and then 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 Merry and Ms Long throughout the year.
- PE lessons are on **Tuesday** and a **Thursday**.
- Spellings and mathematics homework is set on Thursday and is due in the following Wednesday. This year, we will try to do more online homework where possible to prevent the transfer of paper between school and home
- Spelling tests are on Wednesdays

Discussing what your child has read **and new vocabulary they meet** will also help develop their understanding of texts and help support their learning in school.

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: A.Pickavance@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk .

PE Days (Tuesday & Thursday)

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.