

# Sycamore & Oak Class Newsletter

## Autumn Term 2 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the last half-term of 2019!

So far, we have enjoyed our topic enormously and are looking forward to discovering more about the solar system. We are especially looking forward to our trip to the Science Museum on 28<sup>th</sup> November. If you haven't yet sent in the permission slip and payment, please do so as soon as possible. Of course, once December arrives, we will be going into the Christmas madness of pantomimes, church services and parties. We will send out a letter nearer the time about Christmas party food and are always grateful for your contributions.

Just a few general reminders:

1. As we move into colder weather, please could we ensure that children are appropriately dressed for the weather as there have been a few occasions where children have not brought in coats.
2. Pencil cases/ felt tips: just a reminder that children do not need to bring in their own pencil cases into school. We provide all equipment needed for the day.
3. Please could we ask that all school uniform is labelled as we have many school jumpers (many of them brand new) ending up in lost property where children have misplaced them.

Thank you.

If you have any questions about the curriculum, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Kind regards,

The Year 5/6 Team (Mrs Gardiner, Miss Kendell, Mr. Cakebread)

### Maths & English

In English we will be focussing more on fiction writing. We will be using the novel "A Wrinkle in Time" to investigate the features of science fiction texts and writing our own science fiction story. If your child would like to purchase a copy of the book so that they can read along in class, that would be great.

In Year 5, in Maths, we have begun the half-term by looking at graphs and tables and learning to use them to find information. We will then look at multiplication and division, learning about multiples, factors and introducing Prime Numbers, square & cube numbers. We will also re-cap multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000. We will finish the term with a unit on measure, focussing on perimeter and area.

Year 6, in Maths, will be completing a unit on the four operations, including: common factors and multiples, recognising prime numbers, squares and cubes and learning about the order of operations and how brackets are used within calculations. Following this, they will begin two units on fractions, where they will learn and revise: simplifying fractions, placing fractions on a number line, comparing and ordering, adding and subtracting fractions, multiplying and dividing fractions and calculating fractions of amounts.

### P.E.

P.E. for both classes will take place on **Mondays** and **Thursdays**. Please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school, especially warm clothing for cross country on Mondays.

If your child wears earrings, please ensure they can remove these themselves or they will not be able to take part in the lesson.

### Science

In Science, we will be learning about forces: the different types of forces that are around us, gravity, resistance, magnetic forces. We will identify balanced and unbalanced forces as well as compose scientific enquiry questions based on observations of the world around us. We will plan an investigation into the effectiveness of parachutes, identify what we need to change and what will stay the same. We will also investigate how levers and pulleys work.

### RE

Year 5 will be looking at places of worship, synagogues, churches and gurdwaras. We will then start our Christmas unit, 'Journeying'. Year 6 will be thinking about what makes a person special with reference to Jesus and Saints. Their Christmas unit is 'The Mystery of Christmas'.

### **Creative Learning Journey**

Our creative learning journey focus for this half-term is art and music. We will be exploring the planets in our solar system through Holst's 'The Planet Suite'. This will then, in turn, act as a stimulus for our art work. We will explore a variety of media in response to the music: water colours, chalk, charcoal, collage, oil pastels etc.

We will also be exploring 'One Small Step....' and questions around it In P4C. In addition, we will be creating our own solar system databases in Computing and working towards creating a 'Top Trumps' style game for the planets.

### **Assessment**

This half-term, both year groups will be continuing a weekly spelling test and having weekly mental maths tests.

At the end of each half-term each class is given two maths tests which cover the content of the units studied in that half-term. One test focuses on arithmetic (number and place value, mainly using the four operations to calculate) the other is a reasoning test which is using and applying the arithmetic skills to problem solving.

Reading and writing are assessed periodically through writing tasks, reading comprehension and weekly reciprocal (group) reading with the teacher.