

Sycamore & Oak Class Newsletter

Spring Term 1 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Happy New Year to you. We hope you have a restful Christmas and are ready for a busy spring term.

Out topic this term focuses on periods of rapid change in world history. We are concentrating on the Victorian era in Britain and comparing it with a similar time in America, with a particular look at immigration and settlement. We will also be looking at immigration today and 'refugees' and finding out if the reasons for immigration are similar or different to those in the past.

We also have various events that we will be taking part in: Inter-school Cross Country, Sports Hall Athletics. We will be going on at least one educational visit, details of which will follow soon.

Please be aware that Mr. Cakebread is on his 'contrast placement' for most of this half-term and Miss Moxham is taking his place.

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, Miss Moxham)

Maths & English

In English we will be exploring discussion texts, speeches and biographies. We will be looking at the variety of reasons for migration, using the following books to explore different points in history: *Refuge*, *The boy who fell off the Mayflower*, *When Jessie Came Across the Sea*, *The Unforgotten Coat*, *Illegal*. The last book, *Illegal* by Eoin Colfer & Andrew Donkin, is a graphic novel and we will be comparing the impact of presenting the story in this genre. We will be looking at speeches made by world leaders (e.g. Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, Winston Churchill) and examining what makes a good speech: the writing or the delivery? We will then be writing and delivering our own inspiring speeches.

In Year 5, in Maths, we have begun the half-term by revisiting multiplication and division. We will be learning to multiply a number up to four digits by a two-digit number, introducing the 'grid method', and dividing a four-digit number by a 1 digit number, using the 'bus-stop' method. We will then move onto fractions, learning to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa, finishing the unit by investigating fractions as division.

Year 6, in Maths, we have begun preparation for the SATs test our Year 6 children will undertake in May. Your child will be taking the papers home once we have marked and talked through the papers together, in lessons. Please could you look through your child's paper and support them as much as possible. We will be learning about fractions, simplifying, comparing and ordering fractions. We will then move onto adding and subtracting fractions as well solve problems where we have to apply these adding and subtracting skills. The next unit will involve multiplying and dividing fractions.

P.E.

P.E. for both classes will take place on **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays**.

Please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school, especially warm clothing for **cross country on Wednesdays**.

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 investigating materials. We will be looking at dissolving, separating and what a reversible or irreversible change is. We will investigate how some processes create new materials and these are irreversible changes. We will continue to develop our skills at working scientifically, including planning fair tests, recording and reporting results and drawing conclusions from those results.

RE

Year 5 will be investigating Sikhism with a focus on the Gurus and the importance of equality and service to Sikhs and how these principles can be applied to our own lives.

Year 6 will be thinking about investigating Islam with a focus on the importance of the city of Makkah, the Ka'aba and the mosque as a place of worship.

Other things

- **Absences:** Please see link to website if you are unsure whether your child is well enough to attend school as we have noticed some children taking days of school for 'feeling unwell'. <https://basildonandbrentwoodccg.nhs.uk/about-us/publications/health-information-leaflets/1763-advice-on-childhood-illnesses-poster/file>
- **Uniform:** Just a reminder that children should not wear nail polish in school or be wearing jewellery (only small studs).

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