

Sycamore (Year 5) & Oak Class (Year 6) Newsletter

Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the autumn term. We are delighted to be back and are all very excited about our learning this half-term. We understand that school will be strange for a while and some children may have heightened anxiety, but we hope that the start of term has reassured them somewhat.

This term, Years 5 and 6 will be following the same curriculum in most areas. We will not be following a Creative Curriculum in the same way as in previous terms, but will be focussing on Wellbeing for this first half term. Please see the Curriculum Leaflet (out tomorrow) and our notes below for more details. We also realise that, under current arrangements, it is difficult for you to speak to us in person. However, if you do have anything you would like to discuss, please pass a message to the office and we will endeavour to call you as soon as possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to 'introduce' you to Miss Sapiano, who will be working in Sycamore class with Mrs Gardiner this year. Miss Sapiano has already proved to be a valuable addition to our team.

Kind regards,

The Year 5/6 Team (Mrs Gardiner, Miss Marbe, Miss Sapiano, Mrs Edridge and Mrs Larr)

Maths & English

In English we will be completing an author study, exploring some of the books written by Neil Gaiman. Mr Gaiman writes in a number of styles and has published picture books, novels for children and young adults as well as adults. Some of his stories have been made into films and TV programmes, notably *Coraline*, *Stardust*, *Neverwhere*, *American Gods* and *Good Omens*. We will be using his books to explore letter writing, drama and biographies as well as improving the quality of our book reviews.

In Maths we have begun by re-capping on number and place value. We will be ordering and comparing numbers and extending our understanding of mathematical vocabulary. Year 5 will be working with numbers up to 100,000 before using the same skills with numbers up to 1,000,000. Year 6 will be working with numbers up to 10,000,000. Following this, Year 5 will be practising addition and subtraction, using the inverse operation to check calculations. Year 6 will be looking at written methods for the four operations, then investigating factors, multiples, prime numbers, squares and cubes.

P.E.

P.E. for both classes will take place with Mr. Bromley on **Mondays**. Please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school, including joggers as the weather cools.

If your child wears earrings, please ensure they can remove these themselves or they will not be able to take part in the lesson. We will also be taking part in short, daily exercise sessions to improve our overall fitness and stamina.

Science

As Science is progressive across Primary Education, we will be spending the half-term covering the topics the children missed last term. Both year groups will be covering: **Magnets & Forces, Light and Sound** to varying depth and Year 5 will also look at **Environmental Change and Adaptation**.

Temperature

To adequately ventilate the classrooms, as per government guidelines, the classroom windows will be open as much as possible. Please do send in an extra jumper, fleece or bodywarmer for your child, which is comfortable but too bulky to work in.

RE

In RE we will be exploring five major world religions: Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism. We will be comparing and contrasting them to Christianity and each other.

Home Learning

Home learning will include weekly spellings and times tables. We may also send home work to be completed that night to enable us to cover the curriculum. However, please be assured this will not be large tasks, but generally finishing off or research tasks.

Reading Diary

Every child has been given a Reading Diary. The expectation is that your child will record every time they read outside of school. We also ask that they read to an adult or older sibling once a week and this is also recorded. We would like the children to take pride in these diaries and have told them that they should only write in biro or pencil – no felt tip pens. They should also have them in school **EVERY DAY**. Reading diaries will be monitored weekly.

Art

We are going to be using collage to explore dreams this term. We would be grateful if you could send in any surplus paper or fabric materials such as: newspapers, magazines, cereal boxes, wrapping paper. Please could we have these in school by Monday 14th September so we can quarantine them sufficiently before we use them. Thank you.

Reading

Reading records will be brought home every day. Please use these to record reading at home. We will also sign them when we listen to children in school.

Children can take school books home. They will be able to choose a book on Mondays and return it on a Friday – they can keep it for multiple weeks if they are still reading it. However, when they have finished with the book, it will go into a box to be quarantined over the weekend before being returned to the book shelves on Monday.

Children can bring their own books in from home to read but these must not be shared with others.

If they prefer, they can keep a school book to read in class and read their own books at home.

Adults in school will be regularly washing and sanitising our hands between contact with children's books and reading records.

Bug Club and TT Rockstars

Miss Marbe and Mrs Gardiner are currently checking each child's level is correct on Bug Club and TT Rockstars. We will be allocating new books and activities over the new two weeks.

We will be reminding children of their passwords as well.

Please do support your child to use Bug Club to improve their reading comprehension skills and complement reading 'real' books.

We will be encouraging children to use TT Rockstars to learn and practise their allocated weekly times table. We will let you know when times tables tests will resume, once our assessment has been completed.

Collective Worship

We can not currently meet in the school hall for whole school Collective Worship, however, we are meeting every day over a secure virtual platform. Each class joins the meeting with their teacher and explore various themes, listen to Bible readings and prayers. We are very much looking forward to being able to sing together at some point in the future.

We are also privileged to have the support of the Epping clergy team, who will be recording a Collective Worship each week for us to watch in class.

Plimsolls

Whilst the weather is dry, we will be doing PE outside. Once the weather turns and PE is inside, children will need a pair of plimsolls or clean trainers – we can no longer do PE in bare feet (this is usually for gymnastics).

Water Bottles

As our water fountains can not be used, every child should have their own water bottle in school. This should be taken home every day to be washed.