

## Sycamore Spring Term Newsletter.

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope that you have all had an enjoyable Christmas break. We are writing to provide you with some information about the learning we will be doing in terms 3 and 4.

In English we will be continuing to work on our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) skills as well as our comprehension work where we will be reading passages and discussing what we can learn from it. We will also be looking at stories set in fantasy worlds and using these for some drama, story mapping and imaginative writing. Planning, drafting and editing work will be a continued focus in writing. Next term we will then move onto looking at stories set in historical settings.

Weekly spellings and Mental Maths will continue to be sent home on a Tuesday and tested on a Monday- a big thank you for all the practice and support you are giving your children with these at home. By the end of Year 4 your child is expected to know all of their times tables facts up to the 12 times tables. Your support at home is invaluable and really helps support your child's learning in class in a wide range of areas in Maths.

Maths and English home learning tasks will begin again on 19th January and will be sent home on a Friday. Maths home learning will remain optional and will resume the grid approach where you are able to choose a task a week or whenever you have time to complete.

For our Maths work we shall be covering a wide range of different areas including furthering our knowledge of multiplication and division skills as well as learning about area, fractions and how to use decimals.

Our topic this term is 'The Victorians'. We really enjoyed finding out about the Vikings last term so this is a fantastic topic for us to follow on with. Firstly, we will be finding out who Queen Victoria was and looking at the different inventions from the Victorian era. We will then look carefully at what life was like in Victorian times and comparing the difference between the rich and poor.

Art will be linked to the Victorians. We will be planning and creating our own cross stitch samplers, looking at the work of William Morris and using this as inspiration to create our own printing tiles. We will then be moving on to our DT project on biscuits. We will have lots of fun tasting different biscuits and creating questionnaire to find out other people's likes and dislikes then using this information for our own biscuit creations.

Our Science topic for both terms will be 'Animals including humans' with a focus on teeth, the digestive system and food chains. The children will continue to participate in a range of experiments to improve their investigative skills and build upon their scientific knowledge.

Information Technology will be linked to data handling with our exploration of the use of databases. We will also be using the internet and exploring sites to research information to support our science topic. To do this safely we will be creating our own e - safety power point to understand the SMART online safety rules.

In French the children will be learning to identify and use vocabulary for personal details such as their appearance, age and address and responding to questions asked on this subject.

Within RE we are looking at the theme of 'Gospel' in the big picture. We will be exploring the question of 'What kind of world did Jesus want?' In our lessons we will be finding out what a parable is and what their key features are. In particular we will look at the story of 'The Good Samaritan' and characteristics of a good Samaritan.

In PE, we are lucky enough to have Elite taking one of our PE sessions on a Tuesday afternoon. (Please note that this is a different day from last term). We will also have a session on a Friday afternoon. Please can you check that your child's named and complete PE kit is kept in school and that long hair is tied back and earrings are removed for PE days.

For our PHSCE work we will be exploring and developing the qualities for resilience. By looking at the lives and characteristics of real people, we will consider how we can approach our own challenges.

If at any time you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Manktelow and Miss Kay.