



Sycamore Class Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn Term of Sycamore Class- a mixed-age Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Class. We hope you all had a wonderful summer break and are looking forward to what we hope will be a very good academic year.

If you do have any questions or concerns, or would like ideas of how to best support your child at home, then please do email us via office@tunstead.norfolk.sch.uk or through the Google classroom which will be set-up in the next couple of weeks.

Mrs Beckett and Mrs Dominguez will be the teachers working in Sycamore. Mrs K Dominguez will work Thursdays only and Mrs K Beckett will be teaching in class the rest of the time. Our full time TAs include Mrs Shipley, Mrs Payne and we also have the pleasure of Miss Leadbeter and Mrs Jefferson working with us part-time.

Sycamore runs both the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum alongside the Key Stage 1 National Curriculum to cater for all the ages of pupils in our class. We do this through a mixture of adult directed/led learning, as well as planned for play-based and child-led opportunities for the children to investigate and explore their learning. Some of the provision will be planned through linking it directly to the topics set-out in our KS1 curriculum, and these will be balanced with provision focussed on the children's own interests and topics they are talking about e.g tigers, dinosaurs, airplanes, filling and emptying, trajectory movements and so on.

KS1 Topic

Our topics for the first half-term are ***Spatial Sense*** in our Geography studies, ***Colour*** in Art and ***The Human Body*** will be our scientific focus. As we move into the second half term before Christmas we will focus on ***Discovering History*** through our learning in History, ***Animals and their needs*** in Science, and in Art we will be looking at ***Colour, Shape and Texture***. Across the whole term our focus in ***DT*** will be learning to cook and we may invite parents and carers to join us for the sessions on ***Jam Tarts/Mince Pies*** and ***Dips with Vegetables*** so please keep an eye out for invites in to these lovely sessions with your child.

Maths

In Maths, we will be using **Power Maths** as our scheme with daily opportunities to learn through using practical maths resources. The work we do in school is based around the three principles of fluency, problem solving and reasoning. Children are expected to be confident in all areas and the work we complete in school will reflect this. All children in KS1 will be given log-in details for Times Tables Rockstars and will get a chance to familiarise themselves with this learning platform in school on our class Chrome Books. Children in Year 2 are expected to regularly use this to improve their times tables knowledge and speed of recall as the year progresses

<https://trockstars.com/>

English

We will start the term with learning a narrative text called '**Where the Wild Things Are**' by author Maurice Sendak where we will learn about descriptive writing through delving into the settings found in this story. After half term we will be moving on to learning the skill of writing explanation texts, followed by enjoying creating our own calligrams in poetry. We will continue to learn our fiction and non-fiction texts through Talk for Writing.

Phonics

Phonics is a method used to teach early reading, where decoding and encoding it taught through the recognition and application of grapheme (letter)-phoneme (sound it makes) correspondence. We teach phonics every day, with some children requiring a second or 'keep-up' sessions in the same day to ensure they don't fall behind. We are a **Little Wandle** school and so follow their progression documents. For your interest and so you can better support them when reading at home we offer lots of information and example videos on our school website under the 'Key Information- Reading' tabs.

P.E.

PE this term will be on **Mondays**. We ask that your child comes to school dressed in their PE uniform with an outer layer in case it is held outdoors. Forest School runs weekly, led by Mrs Payne and will be on **Tuesday** afternoons. It is essential that your child comes suitably dressed for this session as they attend regardless of the weather conditions. A long-sleeved top and trousers is suitable, layered with waterproof clothing as appropriate to the weather conditions. Wellies or walking boots for footwear must be worn and can be sent into school in a carrier bag so that they can change into them in the afternoon. Gloves, hat and scarf are needed in the colder months and **everything** must be labelled clearly with your child's name. Be prepared- they **will** get muddy! Earrings need to be removed and hair tied back for both PE and Forest Schools.

Homework

Reading is the most important thing for all children to be practising as this unlocks all other areas of learning. Daily practice is best but we understand life can be busy so encourage children to read 3 or more times a week with our

Reading Reward Schemes and Top Reader Awards. Please remember to send in books (including the reading record diary) **every single day** so we can read with them as and when. Little Wandle/Big Cat books will be changed only on **Mondays** and **Thursdays** once your child has read them **x3 times at home**. If they have not read them x3 times then the same book will be resent until they have. This is to allow for your child's fluency and progress to develop as quickly as possible. New **library** books will be issues **each Thursday only**.

Reception

Our Reception children have all been set-up with a Tapestry account and further information on this will be sent in a separate letter. They will also need their all-weather clothing all the time so please ensure they keep a set of wellies, outdoor clothing (waterproof all-in-one or separate trousers with coat) and hats and gloves as it turns colder, in school.

Lost belongings

To avoid losses it is essential you ensure to label all of your child's belongings with their name (water bottles, lunchboxes, jumpers, wellies etc). Some labels fade with time so it is worth checking routinely.

Healthy Snacks/ Water bottles

Water bottles must be sent in each day with fresh water. We encourage children to stick to water only to support healthy teeth. Please speak directly to us if there is a problem with sending water in your child's bottle. We will of course fill them with fresh water should they be left at school accidentally overnight.

We promote healthy eating and drinking at school and offer milk, water and fruit to Sycamore class. Milk can be ordered via www.coolmilk.com or call 0800 3213248 to register (a charge applies for children over 5 years. We are happy for you to send an alternative snack for break time but it must be a healthy substitute to what we offer e.g. fruit, vegetables, cheese etc and no chocolate bars/biscuits.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a busy Autumn Term.

Mrs Beckett (Class Teacher), Mrs Dominguez (Class Teacher), Mrs Shipley (TA) & Mrs Payne (TA), Miss Leadbeter (TA), Mrs Jefferson (TA).