

## Spring Term 2026 in Sycamore Class from Mrs Plowman and Mrs Duff

### Welcome back!

We hope you have had a fun and restful Christmas break and the children are refreshed and ready for their new learning in school.

Mrs Plowman will teach Sycamore Class Monday-Wednesday and Mrs Duff will be teaching the class on Thursdays and Fridays.

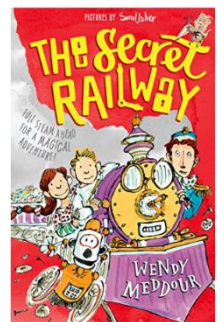
Sycamore Class will continue to attend Forest School on Wednesday afternoons with Mrs Hammond and have PE on Friday afternoons with the sports coach.

We look forward to working with the children and yourselves again this term. Thank you for your continued support.

**Mrs Plowman and Mrs Duff**

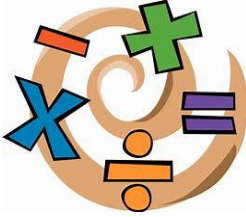
***Take a look at the 'Latest News' tab and Sycamore's class page on the school website to see regular updates of what Sycamore Class have been learning.***

Reading remains a high priority, both in school and at home. Our class reader this term is: **The Secret Railway by Wendy Meddour**. As well as our class book, the children will experience quality books from our reading spine (which can be found on our school website). Children will continue to bring home a book from our reading scheme, plus a choice of their own book from the library. Children should read at home a minimum of 3 times a week. Answering questions and talking about the book is as important as reading the words. Please make sure reading at home is recorded in their reading records as this counts towards our whole school 'Reading Challenge'. We encourage wider reading too, e.g. comics, newspapers, non-fiction and recipes. We want to foster a love of reading!



Spelling patterns taught each week in class can be practised on **Spelling Frame** <https://spellingframe.co.uk/>. Spelling tests remain on a Friday morning.

Maths homework will continue to be given out on a Monday and is due back in on the following Monday. Please practise times tables at home each week too. Some good websites to use are [www.timestables.co.uk](http://www.timestables.co.uk) and [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk). Hit the Button is a particularly good game on the first website. **Knowledge organisers** for this term's topics are available on the Sycamore Class page.

<p><b>English</b></p>	<p><b>Maths</b></p>
<p><b>Reading is taught within the three big ideas of fluency, comprehension and pleasure.</b></p> <p>Our guided reading focus text this term is 'The White Fox' by Jackie Morris.</p>  <p><b>Writing is taught within the three big ideas of composition, communication and ambition.</b></p> <p>We will be writing setting descriptions based on the text 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and a non-chronological report about the history of the railways (linked to our history topic).</p> <p>Alongside this, we will continue to work on our spelling pattern knowledge and our presentation/ handwriting.</p>	<p><b>Maths is taught within the three big ideas of fluency, problem solving and reasoning.</b></p> <p>In Years 3 and 4 this term our areas of study will be:</p> <p><b>Multiplication and Division</b></p> <p><b>Length and Perimeter</b></p> <p><b>Fractions</b></p> <p><b>Mass and Capacity</b></p> <p>Alongside this, we will be learning and practising our times tables and key instant recall facts (KIRFs).</p> 
<p><b>Science</b></p>	<p><b>History/Geography</b></p>
<p><b>Science is taught within the three big ideas of curiosity, investigation and explanation.</b></p> <p><b>Spring 1: Conservation</b></p> <p>The children will learn how to recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.</p> <p><b>Spring 2: Sound</b></p> <p>The children will learn how to identify how sounds are made, recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear, find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it and find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it.</p>	<p><b>History is taught within the three big ideas of chronology, equality and change.</b></p> <p><b>Spring 1: Local History – The Railways</b></p> <p>Our enquiry question to investigate will be:  'Why is local history important?'</p> <p><b>Geography is taught within the three big ideas of location, diversity and environment.</b></p> <p><b>Spring 2: Earthquakes and Volcanoes</b></p> <p>Our enquiry question to investigate will be:  'How does the Earth shake, rattle and roll?'</p>

<b>Art/D.T.</b>	<b>Computing</b>
<p><b>Art is taught through the three big ideas of inspiration, experimentation and expression.</b></p> <p><b>DT is taught through the three big ideas of composition, construction and evaluation.</b></p> <p><b>Spring 1: DT – Textiles</b></p> <p>We will be designing and making cushions to fit a room in our home. We will be learning to do running stitch, back stitch and sew on a button.</p> <p><b>Spring 2: DT – Inventions</b></p> <p>We will take a closer look at some ground-breaking British inventions and the people behind them. We will explore how concrete can be strengthened and reinforced using modelling materials.</p>	<p><b>Computing is taught through the three big ideas of coding, communication and e-safety.</b></p> <p><b>Spring 1: Data Logging</b></p> <p>Children will consider how and why data is collected over time and how computers can use special input devices called sensors to monitor the environment. They will collect and analyse data.</p> <p><b>Spring 2: Events and Actions in Progress</b></p> <p>Children will move a sprite in four directions (up, down, left and right) and explore movement within the context of a maze. They will design and code their own maze tracing program.</p>
<b>Music</b>	<b>R.E.</b>
<p><b>Music is taught within the three big ideas of appraisal, practice and performance.</b></p> <p><b>Spring 1: Madina tun nabi (Islamic song)</b></p> <p>We will look at how to sing over a drone and singing rounds with simple accompaniment.</p> <p><b>Spring 2: Building a groove</b></p> <p>We will look at how drums work with chords and a melody to build the layers of a song.</p>	<p><b>R.E. is taught within the three big ideas of faith, understanding and acceptance.</b></p> <p><b>Spring 1: Places of worship</b></p> <p>The children will explore different places of worship and places of religious significance for different world views.</p> <p><i><b>Big question – What beliefs bind a community together?</b></i></p> <p><b>Spring 2: Christianity - Why do Christians believe they are people on a mission?</b></p>
<b>French</b>	<b>P.S.H.E.</b>
<p><b>French is taught within the three big ideas of culture, understanding and fluency.</b></p> <p><b>à la mode</b></p> <p>Children will learn the names of items of clothing and be able to describe them using colours. They will be work on their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.</p>	<p><b>PSHE is taught within the three big ideas of responsibility, choice and identity.</b></p> <p><b>Living in the Wider World</b></p> <p>Children will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Belonging to a Community</li> <li>- Media Literacy and Digital Resilience</li> <li>- Money and Work</li> </ul>

## **A few reminders...**

### **Water Bottles and Snacks**

We encourage children to have a water bottle on their tables (with a non-spill lid). Bottles will be taken home at the end of each day to be washed and refilled. Squash and juice are only allowed at lunchtimes. Fruit is not provided for children in Key Stage Two, your child can bring in a piece of fruit or vegetable from home for a snack to be eaten at morning break.

### **We are here to help!**

If you have any concerns, worries or questions please do not hesitate to contact us as soon as these arise. The best way to do this is to speak to the teacher in person at the end of the school day. If this is not possible, or you need to make contact at any other time, please call/email the main office and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.