

Autumn Term 2026 in Sycamore Class from Mrs Plowman and Mrs Duff

Welcome back!

Welcome back to this new school year, we hope you have had a great summer and the children are refreshed and ready for their new learning in school.

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

Sycamore Class will attend Forest School on Wednesday afternoons with Mrs Hammond and have PE on Friday afternoons.

We have many exciting things planned for this term, so please keep checking school communications. We look forward to working with the children and yourselves this term. Thank you for your continued support.

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 is a high priority, both in school and at home. Our class reader this term is the classic story 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King. 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 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, recipes and books from home. We want to foster reading for pleasure!



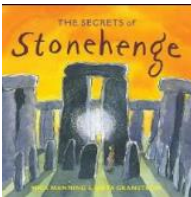
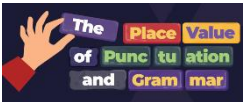
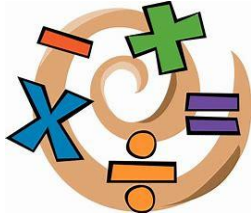
Spelling will be taught using Grammarsaurus. Your child/ren will be receiving a log-in to an online platform soon, please keep an eye out for future information. This will replace weekly spelling lists/tests.

Maths homework is 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 and www.topmarks.co.uk. Hit the Button is a particularly good game on the first website.

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.

English	Maths
Reading is taught within the three big ideas of fluency, comprehension and pleasure. Our guided reading focus text this term is 'The Secrets of Stone Henge' by Mick Manning.  Writing is taught within the three big ideas of composition, communication and ambition. English is taught through a range of different genres and texts throughout the year. We use a five-step approach of: plan, draft, revise, edit and publish. This allows the children to see that writing is a process and we can support them through each stage to reflect the features expected in different genres of writing. This half term, we will be concentrating on 'The Place Value of Punctuation and Grammar' to lay the foundations ready for our writing topics. After half term, we will be writing a non-chronological report about prehistoric creatures.  Alongside this, we will continue to work on our spelling pattern knowledge and our presentation/ handwriting.	Maths is taught within the three big ideas of fluency, problem solving and reasoning. In Years 3 and 4 this term our areas of study will be: Place Value Addition and Subtraction Multiplication and Division Measurement Alongside this, we will be learning and practising our times tables. 
Science	History/Geography
Science is taught within the three big ideas of curiosity, investigation and explanation. Autumn 1: Animals including Humans – What we are made of We will be learning about human and animal skeletons and muscle groups in the human body. We will also identify the five different food groups and explain what nutrients we need and how they work to keep us healthy. Autumn 2: States of Matter We will be learning about the three states of matter and heating, melting and boiling.	History is taught within the three big ideas of chronology, equality and change. Autumn 1: How did people's lives change between the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age? Geography is taught within the three big ideas of location, diversity and environment. Autumn 2: Where do you pass through on a Great American Road Trip?

Art/D.T.	Computing
Art is taught through the three big ideas of inspiration, experimentation and expression. Autumn 1: Art The children will focus on drawing skills using pencil and oil pastel. Our inspiration will be local landscapes and our focus artist is John Brunsdon. DT is taught through the three big ideas of composition, construction and evaluation. Autumn 2: D.T. The children will explore story books with moving parts (flaps, levers, pop-up parts). They will create their own moving storybooks with a focus on working moving parts and effective use of graphic design.	Computing is taught through the three big ideas of coding, communication and e-safety. Autumn 1: Connecting computers Children will identify that digital devices have inputs, processes, and outputs, and learn how devices can be connected to make networks. Autumn 2: Stop frame animation Children will learn how to capture and edit digital still images to produce a stop-frame animation to tell a story.
Music	R.E.
Music is taught within the three big ideas of appraisal, practice and performance. Autumn 1: The children will learn how to play an ocarina. They will learn how to play the different notes on the ocarina as well as reading basic musical notation. Autumn 2: Focus song: This little light of mine. The children will explore gospel music as a musical genre. They will improvise with their voices along to a backing track and will investigate how the call and response style of gospel music works.	R.E. is taught within the three big ideas of faith, understanding and acceptance. <i>Big question - Do beliefs make any difference to someone's life?</i> Autumn 1: Christianity – Reconciliation The children will explore the question, <i>How do Christians show that reconciliation with God and other people is important?</i> Autumn 2: Hinduism – Karma The children will explore the question, <i>Why does a Hindu want to collect good karma?</i>
French	P.S.H.E.
French is taught within the three big ideas of culture, understanding and fluency. We will be learning about 'Un monstre aimable.' The children will learn to read, write and say sentences that describe different parts of the body. They will learn how to tell the difference between feminine and masculine articles and be given the opportunity to experience the French language in an authentic source.	PSHE is taught within the three big ideas of responsibility, choice and identity. Autumn 1: Being Me in My World Who am I and how do I fit? Autumn 2: Celebrating Difference Respect for similarity and difference. Anti-bullying and being unique.

P.E.

P.E. is taught within the three big ideas of activity, collaboration and challenge.

Autumn 1: Team building

The children will develop their communication skills by working on various team building activities which will challenge them to work together and develop a sense of healthy competition.

Autumn 2: Tag rugby

The children will develop and understanding of the rules and skill involved with tag rugby. They will gradually work towards playing competitive games where they can use their skills within a competitive context.