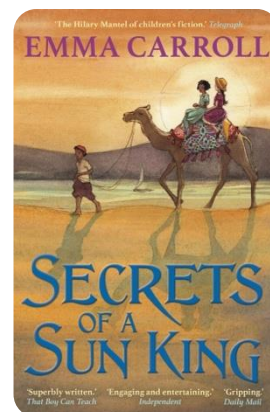


Sycamore Class – Autumn 2023 – Long, Long Ago!

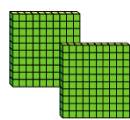
Welcome back: Welcome back to a brand-new school year in Sycamore class. It has been so lovely getting back to school and working with the children this week! The Year 3 children are settling in very well to their new class, kindly supported by their Year 4 peers. The children are enthusiastic and ready to learn – I can't wait to see what we can all achieve together this year!

English

We will begin our new year in Sycamore Class exploring the myth, Theseus and the Minotaur. We will spend time studying the language used in myths and legends and through sentence stacking, will begin to create our own high-quality sentences. This will lead to us writing our own myth, based on Ancient Egypt, linking to our History topic for this term and our wider school theme, Long, Long Ago! Next, we will move on to poetry, composing and performing our own poems about Autumn time. We will spend lots of time outside studying the special characteristics of the season and will use this as inspiration to create our own beautifully descriptive phrases for readers to enjoy. After half term, we will be thinking about our whole school theme, as we plan to write a diary entry based on the story 'Secrets of a Sun King', in which a young girl embarks on a journey to Egypt to return something very special to the tomb of a king. Throughout the term, children will be using their imagination to write creatively, ensuring the accurate use of a range of spelling, punctuation and grammar techniques.



Maths



This term, we begin by focusing on place value, consolidating and building upon previously learnt concepts. Through the use of concrete, pictorial and abstract resources, the children will have the opportunity to explore the number system in detail and gain a greater understanding of the components of number. Following on from this,

we will focus on addition and subtraction, learning a range of mental strategies to solve problems and how to accurately set out formal written methods. In the second half of the Autumn term, we will start to look at multiplication and division, recapping and learning new times tables, helping us prepare for exploration of formal written methods in the Spring term. Please continue motivating your child with their Maths Learning Journey and support them with quick recall of number facts to enable them to be more successful when problem solving!

Science and Technology

In Science, our topic this term is 'Forces and Magnets'. This topic is jam packed and will involve lots of exciting investigations and practical activities! We will begin by learning about different forces and will spend time considering how different surfaces influence the strength of a push or pull force. Following this, we will explore magnetism, observing how and why magnets attract and repel one another.



Theme



Our theme this term is Long, Long Ago and we will be exploring this in depth during our History topic, the Ancient Egyptians. Our topic begins with an engaging and interactive workshop delivered by Imagining History, where we will be able to act out and learn more about the Egyptian civilisation. We will find out where and when the Egyptians lived, making links to our Geography topic Equators and Hemispheres. Using globes and atlases, we will look at the key physical features of Egypt's landscape and how the landscape influenced the lives of the

Ancient Egyptian people. We will then move on to looking at the lives of the Ancient Egyptians in more detail, including their beliefs and even mummification!!

French

The pupils will develop their knowledge of France and French culture and learn basic vocabulary in the form of class room instructions, numbers, colours, family members and days of the week. We will revise and develop new vocabulary taught through role play, games and simple conversations.

Art and Design

Pupils will take inspiration from the Ancient Egyptians this term for their topic, Sculpture, focusing on creating canopic jars. We will spend time observing and researching canopic jars, using information gathered to inform our own plans and designs. We will also spend time working with a range of materials such as clay and papier-mache. In addition, we will learn about a number of famous sculptors and get the chance to create our own sarcophagus sculptures!



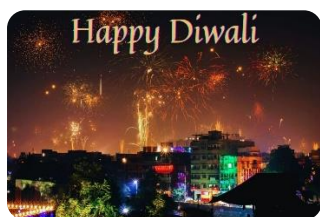
Computing

Computing this term will focus on internet safety and using ICT purposefully. This is especially important in the age of advanced technology! This will start with looking at how to use technology respectfully and responsibly and recognising the risks in online communication. Next, we will look at how to send emails with attachments and how to create a document for a specific purpose, using textboxes, shading and borders appropriately.

Music

This year, the class will be learning to play the ukulele. This will provide opportunities for improvisation, composition and performance. Pupils will also listen to a range of music from around the worlds and compare a range of genres from different time periods.

R.E.



In the first half term we will be exploring the question 'What might a Hindu learn from celebrating Diwali?' starting by learning about what Diwali is and why it is such an important festival. We will also look the story of Rama and Sita and how this story links to the special festival. After half-term, our focus will be on Christianity and how and why Christians use the Bible. We will be thinking about how Christians believe the Bible is the word of God and how it is used for guidance and wisdom.

P.E

We are really fortunate to have the continued support of Mrs. Hunter-Dale (PE specialist). This term we will be focusing on general ball skills, improving throwing techniques and hand-eye coordination. Our lessons take place on Wednesday and Friday so please make sure the children have the PE kit they need, in addition to what they are wearing, in school every day. Please try not to send your child in earrings on PE days as even if they can be removed there is always the worry that they will be lost! Thank you!

Helping at Home

Please continue to work with your child on their Maths Learning Journey, focusing on the specific targets of their current learning journey step. In addition to this, working on instant recall of times tables and number bonds ensures children can approach their work in Maths confidently and that they are equipped with a strong foundation in key mathematical concepts. Children will also bring home weekly spellings that they will be tested on and they can use a range of techniques that are taught in school to work on their spellings, combined with the Spelling Challenge sheet at the front of their books. In addition, daily reading with your child is crucial to support their progress in Sycamore class. We spend a lot of time in the classroom talking about and working together as a team. We discuss ways in which we can make everyone feel welcome and valued as part of our class team. However, if your child is not feeling happy about school for any reason, please do not hesitate to let me know in person or via email at j.davidson@netherkellet.lancs.sch.uk.

Thank you as always for all your support.

Miss Davidson, Mrs Sharpe, Mrs Martin, Miss Lamb and Miss Metcalfe