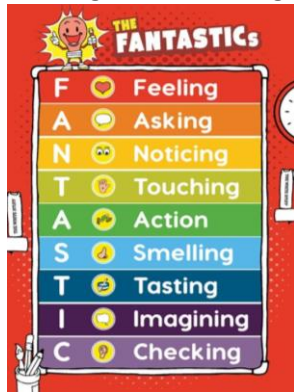


Sycamore Class – Spring 2024 – Our Blue Planet

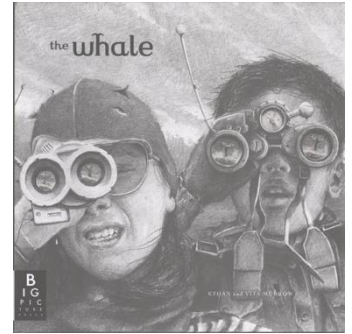
Welcome back: Welcome back to a brand-new term in Sycamore Class! I was really impressed with the attitude and commitment of the children to their learning during the Autumn term. We particularly enjoyed learning about the Ancient Egyptians and their passion and enthusiasm for the topic really shone through in their class work, on our trip to Manchester Museum and during our class assembly. I am really looking forward to continuing to foster this excitement for learning over the Spring term and seeing what we can achieve together!

English

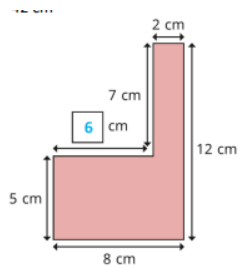
This term, we will begin exploring writing a mystery narrative, based around the story 'The Whale' by Ethan and Vita Murrow, linking closely to our 'Our Blue Planet' Theme. We will think carefully about how to use language to create suspense for readers, building tension throughout our narratives! Following on from this, we will use the



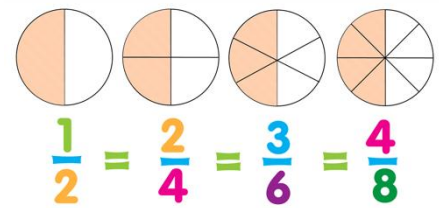
book 'Once Upon a Raindrop' by James Carter to learn more about the water cycle, complementing our Geography topic, all about water. We will use what we have learned to create a script for a factual tour explaining the journey of water through the water cycle. Next, we will be returning to narrative writing and basing it around the story 'Flood' by Alvaro F. Villa, which depicts the devastating effects of flooding on a family. Throughout the term, children will be using the 'lenses' and their imagination to write creative, high quality pieces. Children will also have the opportunity to write across the curriculum in different subjects and will be taught accurate use of a range of spelling, punctuation and grammar techniques.



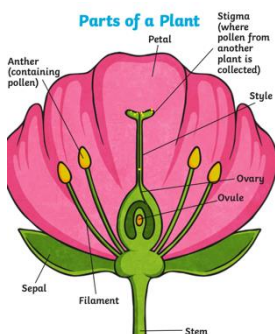
Maths



Throughout the Spring, we will continue to look at multiplication and division and apply our knowledge to formal written methods. We will use a range of concrete, pictorial and abstract resources to consolidate understanding of the theory that underpins these crucial methods. In the second half of the Spring term, we will start to explore length and perimeter, through practical activities and outdoor learning sessions. This will allow us the opportunity to improve our understanding of units of measure and their equivalence to one another, which can be used to calculate length and perimeter accurately. Finally, we will study fractions, focusing on unit and non-unit fractions, as well as mixed numbers. We will be comparing and ordering fractions, completing fraction number lines, working out equivalent fractions and adding & subtraction fractions from each other and whole amounts. 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!



Year 4 children will take part in the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in the summer term. It is an online test where children are given 6 seconds to answer questions up to 12 times 12. As a result, we feel it's really important to improve the knowledge and recall of Year 4's times tables, so that they are in the best position possible for the MTC. *All Year 4 children can come into school from 8.30am each morning to work on times tables, using TTRS.*



Science and Technology

In Science, our topic this term is 'Living Things, Habitats and Plants'. This topic is jam packed and will involve lots of exciting investigations and practical activities! We will begin by learning about the ways in which we can group and classify living things. We will undertake fieldwork considering the human impact on the local environment and consider how this will affect plants and animals. Following on from this, we will study plants in detail, learning about the function of different parts of a plant and their requirements for life and growth. We will also consider different methods of seed dispersal and how plants are pollinated.

Humanities



Our History topic this term is 'Lancaster Through the Ages'. We will be spending time studying the changes in Lancaster throughout History, starting with the Roman occupation of the city. We will also spend time studying Lancaster Castle, considering how it has expanded and been fortified over time. Following this, we will look at the development of trade in Lancaster and the construction of the canals. In Geography, we will be thinking about water, starting with the journey



of water through the water cycle. We will then spend time studying rivers and reservoirs in depth and consider the impacts of flooding and water pollution.

French

The pupils will develop their knowledge of France and French culture and learn basic vocabulary in the form of classroom 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 Our Blue Planet this term for their topic, Textiles. We will learn how to weave textiles and use a range of skills including cutting, plaiting and stitching.

Computing

Using the computer program Scratch, pupils will develop their coding and programming skills and learn how to create, write and debug algorithms (a set of instructions).

Music

We will continue to learn the ukulele on **Tuesdays**. 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 'Why do Muslims fast during Ramadhan?' starting by learning about what Ramadhan is and why it is such an important festival. After half-term, our focus will be on Christianity, considering the question 'Is sacrifice an important part of religious life?'

P.E

This term we will be doing gymnastics, thinking carefully about sequences of movement and ways of travel. 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. 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