

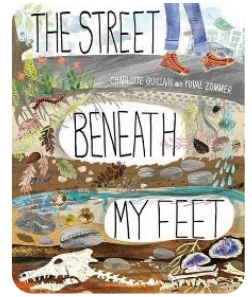
# Sycamore Class – Autumn 2024 – Let’s Explore!

**Welcome back:** Welcome back to a brand-new year in Sycamore Class! The children have made a fantastic start and I’ve been particularly impressed with their enthusiasm and commitment to learning. I am really looking forward to working with the class and seeing what we can achieve together this year!

## English



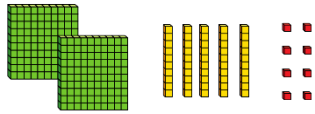
This year we will start by studying ‘The Street Beneath My Feet’, linking with our Science topic, ‘Rocks and Fossils’. We will be using the book to create an explanation text that allows readers to journey to the centre of the Earth, passing layers of soil, clay and rock, all the way to the boiling hot core! Following on from this, we will be linking our History topic to the book ‘Arthur and the Golden Rope’. We will then create our own Norse myths, using the story to support and inspire our writing. In addition, we will be using the book ‘Where Snow Angels Go’ to write our own wintery poems! 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, will be taught accurate use of a range of spelling, punctuation and grammar techniques and will have frequent opportunities to write independently.

## 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

In Science, our topic this term is ‘Rocks’ and we will start by being ‘Rock Detectives’, using magnifying glasses to observe and investigate the properties of different types of rock. We will then explore how rocks are formed within the Earth and conduct a series of experiments (hardness and permeability of rock) to test and classify rock types. Through this, we will have the opportunity to record and present scientific data, forming links with Maths and Statistics. Next half term, we will move on to exploring a range of fossils, considering how they are made.



## Humanities



In History, our topic this term is ‘Anglo Saxons and Vikings’. The topic begins with an exploration of Anglo-Saxon life and why they chose to live very differently from the people of the Roman Empire. We will then think about where the Vikings came from and how they travelled. In addition, we will talk about how they explored, raided and traded within other lands, debating whether we should call them raiders or settlers! We will also have the exciting experience of a

history drama workshop from “Imagining History”. Finally, we will spend time looking at the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England and how this ended with the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Our Geography topic, ‘Natural World’, starts with exploring the different layers of the Earth. Following on from this, we will then study volcanoes, earthquakes and mountains, considering how they link to plate tectonics and the impacts they have on people living in their vicinity.



## 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



During the Autumn term, children will use collage to explore colour and texture. They will start by using their sketchbooks to experiment with different drawing techniques and record observations. Later on, and into Autumn 2, the children will use a range of collage techniques such as tearing, overlapping and layering, creating the image of a Viking longship. In addition, they will think carefully about how to change the texture and appearance of paper through twisting, crumpling and spiralling, creating pictures of volcanoes.

## Computing

Computing for 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 Word and PowerPoint, learning to effectively operate these programmes.

## Music

Pupils will listen to a range of music from around the world and compare a range of genres from different time periods. We will also have opportunities to sing in class and singing assembly, clapping along to the beat and even composing our own creations!

## R.E.

In the first half term, we will be exploring 'Why is family an important part of Hindu life?' starting with focusing on the meaning of dharma. We will look at the festival of Raksha Bandhan and explain why it is so important to Hindu families. After half-term, our focus will be on Christianity and how and why some people serve God. We will be thinking about the importance of service and sacrifice.

## P.E

This term, we are going to be focusing on basketball. We will improve our skills of throwing and catching, ensuring we do this with increasing accuracy and control. We will also think about how best to attack and defend in basketball games. Our lessons take place on Tuesday and Wednesday so please make sure 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](mailto:j.davidson@netherkellet.lancs.sch.uk).

Thank you as always for all your support.

Miss Davidson, Mrs Sharpe, Mrs Martin and Miss Lamb