



## Sycamore & Maple Class Newsletter – Autumn Term 2018

Teachers: Miss Letchford, Mrs Stephenson, Mrs Vallins & Mrs Smith

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Dawe & Mrs Ormandy



Welcome back to a new year at Emscote. We hope you had an enjoyable holiday. We have hit the ground running and thought you might appreciate an update of what this term holds in store. We look forward to meeting you properly at our parent/teacher meetings on either 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

### Literacy and Topic

Our literacy and topic learning this term will focus on Traditional Tales including Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs and The Gingerbread Man. These stories are a great focus to develop writing skills and story-telling. We will also be looking at alternative versions of these stories - for example, re-telling from a different character's point of view.

Alongside this we will have weekly SPaG lessons which focus on the spelling, punctuation and grammar used within the English language. Most children are learning joined handwriting, but correct letter and number formation is essential for this to be successful.

### Maths

Our maths starts this year by securing knowledge gained in Reception and Year 1 and extending into Year 2 with an understanding of place value, addition, subtraction, estimating, measurement, money and shape. It is really important that children understand numbers really well and can talk about how they are made up of 10s and 1s, 1 or 10 more, 1 or 10 less and pairs of numbers that are added together to make another number. We will also use our 'sticks and dots' method for addition and subtraction.

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### PE

Games lessons are weather dependent and where possible will be outside.

Please have a suitable winter kit including tracksuit bottoms, a jumper and suitable shoes.

Maple and Sycamore Class PE lessons are on a Tuesday with Mr Partridge for gymnastics and a further fortnightly PE lesson will take place on a Wednesday.



### Science

We are excited about our science learning this term which will look at animals and their homes. We will be looking at the different animals groups, what animals eat and what they need to survive. This will be followed by a closer look at animal habitats and environments.

The children have already looked at what plants need to survive and are investigating what makes a plant grow.



### Other Subject Areas

A lot of our curriculum is creative and we try to incorporate other subject areas such as music, art, geography and history into our topic work. In RE we will be encouraging pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring their own thoughts. This term, our focus festivals will be Rosh Hashanah (Jewish), Diwali (Hindu) and Christmas (Christian). In December we will be visiting St. John's Museum to participate in a traditional Victorian Christmas as part of our history/ RE work.

Circle time sessions will take place each week where the children will get chance to talk about their thoughts, feelings and emotions, including the Warwickshire 'Taking Care' PSHE programme.

### Reading

Your child will have now received their new 'Autumn Term Reading Diary'. We would like reading books and diaries to be in school daily. We aim to do Guided Reading once a week along with at least one individual read.

If reading books need changing, your child **MUST** put their reading packets in the changing box inside the classroom. Please encourage them to do this first thing in the morning. It gives us the opportunity to change the book and update their reading record - thank you.

We would also encourage parents to read the notes in the front and back of the reading diary to give some guidance when listening to your child to read.

**Please remember that our expectation is that you will read 4 times a week at home.**



**If you have any questions or concerns, please come in and see us. We have more time at the end of the day. Please let us know if anyone different is picking up your child so that we can write it on the board.**

Check book bags daily for letters please!

### Homework and Spellings

We endeavour to send homework out on a **Thursday**.

It would be great to see 100% return of homework books by the following **Tuesday**. This allows us to mark and prepare them in time.

Phonics will continue in school. Children are often not in the same class for phonics as it is streamed on ability.

Spellings for the term are in homework books so please make a note of them each week. Please learn to read and write these words as it is an expectation for children at the end of Year 2.

**The children are tested on these every Friday.**

### Mathletics

Please support your child's maths learning at home by using Mathletics. We will endeavour to set a task linked to our learning weekly. The log-ins are in the back of your homework book.

[www.mathletics.co.uk](http://www.mathletics.co.uk)

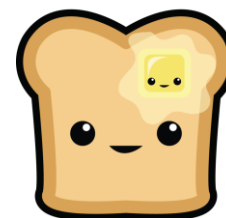
### Clothing for Colder and Wetter Weather

Please ensure your child comes in with a named, warm, waterproof coat every day. They are also welcome to bring in a pair of named wellies as we do encourage the grassy area to be used throughout the year – and they can visit our resident chickens!



**Toast** – 20p per slice at morning break.

Children can bring in £1 to give to Mrs Robertson on a Monday for the whole week if that is easier.



**Our sharing assemblies are at 9:10am:**

Sycamore: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October

Maple: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November

Christmas Carol Service...dates to follow

### Water Bottles

Please remember that children need to bring in their own named water bottles as we no longer sell them at the office.

These will be sent home daily to be washed and filled.