

Sycamores' Autumn Term 2024 Newsletter

Dear Sycamore children and Parents,

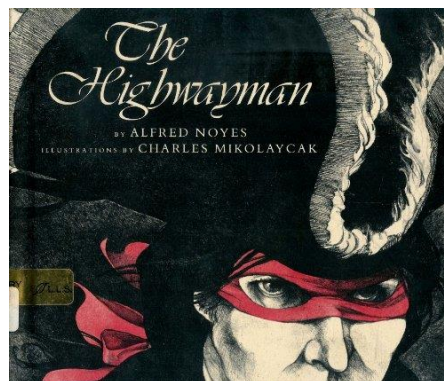
I hope you all had a fantastic Summer break and that you are all happy, and well. I can't believe how fast it has flown by!

We have exciting times with joining Lea and Wessington schools, and I am aware that that brings lots of changes for the children, and I am here to support both them and you through it. Sycamores have handled this in their stride, like I anticipated, and as always, Sycamore children have returned ready to learn and have settled back in, well, ready to hit the ground running! They all seem especially interested and excited in our new topic (as am I).

As you all probably have been informed by your children already, we have a very exciting topic ahead entitled '**Your Nicked**' which is all about **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**. As this a huge topic, involving History and Science, so we will continue through to Christmas! (sorry to mention the C word already!)

English

We are focusing our poetry and narrative skills throughout the term. We firstly begin with the crimes that have been committed by fairy-tale characters and then move on a wonderful poem (one of my favourites) entitled 'The Highwayman'. After this, the plan is to move onto a new novel entitled "Black Powder" This novel provides many opportunities to explore different types of writing, including letters, diaries, descriptions as well as many non-fiction text-types like newspapers, explanations and instructions. I was really impressed by the love of reading that took place whilst reading Street Child, and I hope the children fall in love with the English I have planned for this term.



Maths

In Maths lessons, we are continuing with White Rose Maths throughout school, and as always, we are kicking off with Place Value. This will then lead onto the first part of multiplication and division, with perimeter and area to follow. On Mondays, Miss Hampson and the children will begin with extending shape and measures from the previous year 4. Both have been previously taught and this is to provide more practise and revision. Please aim to use the correct vocabulary and methods which support your child's learning for their age/ability when learning at home. Examples can be found on our website of strategies and methods that are used in school. If you are ever unsure, you can simply pop in.

The continuation of Numbots to practice number bonds for quick calculations is still very much a priority too in Sycamores, and children will be encouraged complete this programme as soon as possible. Now that the MTC check has been completed, the focus in TTRS is to build upon the speed in which the times-tables can be recalled. The children are to focus on playing the Studio Game to improve their rock status, and Garage to practise for weekly timetables tests.

Key Definitions in Fractions:

- **Fraction** part of a whole
- **Numerator:** The digit on the top of the fraction to show a number of parts it is referring to.
- **Denominator:** The digit on the bottom of the fraction to show the number of parts in the whole.
- **Improper fraction:** The numerator is a higher digit than the denominator e.g. 13/7.
- **Mixed number:** An expression of a whole number with a fraction e.g. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
- **Decimal point:** A dot to separate whole numbers, from part of the whole such as tenths and hundredths.

Reading

Topic Reading: to develop a love of reading, it always helps to tie texts to interests and current learning where possible. With this in mind, please take a look at the reading section in the class pages, where I have made a reading list of books that may be of interest to the children. Could you please also help children to familiarise themselves with various fairy-tales, as we are using these in many writing areas this year. Reading to younger siblings, cousins etc. where possible, benefits both the reader and the listener (and frees you up for about 15 mins too!)

Homework expectations: At Tansley Primary we think reading is an essential skill. Your child will spend 10 minutes each day either reading themselves/to an adult, or an adult will read to them! Children are expected to read a minimum of 4 times a week at home and encouraged to read both independently and to an adult in order to check comprehension. You support us, by encouraging your child to choose a variety of different reading material, as it has been noted that some children read the same type of books, which hinders their understanding of text type and vocabulary. **Reading diaries** will be **checked** every **Thursday morning** by Mrs Goodwin.

Spellings

We are continuing with **Spelling Shed**, with the key difference being that the spellings will be for rules aimed at Year 5. Therefore, children will not be put in spelling groups like previously taught, but the new assessments will identify any gaps within their learning, and with the support of an adult, will work to secure learning in these areas. Initial assessments are currently being done and spellings will start after updates have been made by the Spelling Shed website (either this week or the week after). In Sycamores we will be testing on a **Thursday morning**.

Science - CSI

An original topic for Science, which will pull from various strands of the science curriculum. We begin with what makes us the same and different, leading onto DNA, and how this is used to solve a crime. It is also quite a practical unit where we will use chemistry investigations to help solve questions. There are links made across the curriculum too by using Da Vinci's 'The Vitruvian Man' (Art) to learn about measurements and proportions of the human body (Maths). We will be learning about coding and secret messages too. I am planning to end the theme, by children having to solve a staged crime scene and identify the culprit!



Topic - "You're Knicked – Has crime and the way it is punished always stayed the same"

Our topic '**You're Nicked**' is a cross-curricular topic based on crime and punishment, but with a focus of Law and Democracy from our British Values. Hide behind the cushion...it could get a bit gruesome! I am sure it will prove to be very exciting!! We start with considering what crimes are, then we step back in "crime" to discover if crime and punishments are the same, or if they have changed throughout the course of history. The children have already discussed their ideas, and have offered some indication of where they would like to develop this topic. These have included finding out about the guillotine, beliefs in Karma and an interest in my personal family history, when a distant cousin of mine was murdered. (don't worry not too graphic). I

am in the midst of planning a school trip to the National Courts of Justice in Nottingham, where the children go to a real courtroom, so keep your eyes peeled for information!

PE

The P.E sessions have had a major but tremendously exciting overhaul. This is now on a 4-week rota system

Week 1 - Forest School

Week 2 - P.E

Week 3 - Curriculum Enrichment

Week 4 – P.E

Sycamores and Elders class will join together for all sessions and will be taught by a team of staff from across all three schools (i.e. not myself or Miss Hampson). As the staff are new to the children, Week 1 (**Tuesday 10th**) **will NOT be Forest School** to allow staff and children to get to know each other better. The following week will be Week 2 as planned, and then will continue from there onwards as above.

- ❖ Forest school – (information previously sent) layers of clothing (named and a waterproof bag).
- ❖ P.E - (as usual) trainers, black shorts or joggers (depending on the weather) and a red or white T-shirt (no football shirts). Children should bring a red jumper if needed. Jewellery will need to be removed for health and safety reasons, so it is better if removed at home if possible. If not, it must be covered by medical tape by the child before coming to school.
- ❖ Curriculum enrichment – school uniform

Trips

The National Courts of Justice (Nottingham) – information to follow once confirmed.

Lea Green (Year 5 across all three schools)

Homework

Essential/ Non-negotiable Homework:

For Reading, Spelling and Times Tables - see expectations from the relevant section above. You can also visit the related pages on the website under the class page in Sycamores (follow the autumn leaf links.

Optional Homework:

Please see the Homework Grid for suggested homework activities (on the website) These are OPTIONAL and ADDITIONAL to the essential Homework, and you may do as much as you like to enrich the topics we learn about. It is not exhaustive, and if you fancy doing something else that has inspired you, that would be fantastic! I am currently putting a list of places that you may choose to visit. If you have any suggestions, please email me, and I will pop them on for all to share.

Optional homework has no hand in date and so can be brought into school as and when they are done. Children will receive recognition for their efforts. Make it good quality, well presented, unique or fascinating, and it might get displayed on the Homework Board to really show off the talents we have here at Tansley.

Key Dates for Sycamores:

Please refer to the school newsletter as well as:

18th September 2024 – Year 5 trip to Lea Green

23rd October 2024 – Halloween Disco

2nd December 2024 - Christmas Activity Day

17th December 2024 - Christmas Party

19th December 2024 – Church Service

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me:

aholloway@tansley.derbyshire.sch.uk or make an appointment through myself, email or the school office to have a chat with me at the end of the day.

Thank you for your continued support, and let's have a great first term!

Mrs. A Holloway