

Sycamores' Spring Term 2024 Newsletter



Dear Sycamore children and Parents,

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter Holiday. Have you eaten all of the chocolate eggs? Or is there some still left in the cupboard?

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 **Why is Matlock Bath like a Victorian Seaside?**, which is all about **the Victorian era**. As this a huge topic, involving history and geography. We'll continue through to the end of the year!

English

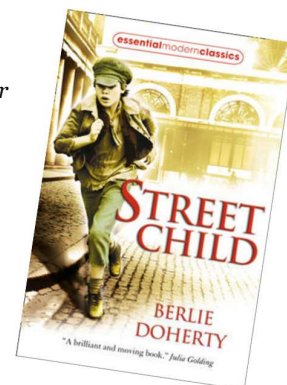
We are focusing our narrative skills on a wonderful text (one of my favourites) entitled 'Street child'. In this novel we meet Jim, a down on his luck lad from London. We follow Jim through the ups and downs of life as a poor boy trying to survive in a Victorian world. This novel provides many opportunities to explore different types of writing, including letters, diaries, descriptions and newspapers.

"The unforgettable tale of an orphan in Victorian London, based on the boy whose plight inspired Dr Barnardo to found his famous children's homes.

When his mother dies, Jim Jarvis is left all alone in London. He is sent to the workhouse but quickly escapes, choosing a hard life on the streets of the city over the confines of the workhouse walls.

Struggling to survive, Jim finally finds some friends... only to be snatched away and made to work for the remorselessly cruel Grimy Nick, constantly guarded by his vicious dog, Snipe.

Will Jim ever manage to be free?"



Maths

Times Table Fact	Percentage of responses correct first time
11 x 11	81.97
7 x 8	83.03
6 x 8	83.55
9 x 7	83.84
7 x 7	84.34
7 x 6	84.53
11 x 12	84.86
9 x 9	85.42
8 x 9	85.64
9 x 4	85.89

With the **MTC** fast approaching ...we're gearing up here in Sycamores. So one last push before the **3rd June**, to really smash it! We are planning to do the TTRS' mock tests next week, and the government are set to unveil their official practice area shortly until half term. After they return, the 'check' will be live and your child will be undertaking it, at some point, in the first two weeks. Many more children are now regularly meeting the threshold of 20 /25 or above and are accessing TTRS more frequently. Ideally children should be playing Sound Check 4-6 times a week as well as a couple of Garage games. Having a look at your child's heat map (located in the top drop down menu) will highlight individual facts that they are taking longer to answer. Below is some national data, which show the timestables which Y4 children generally struggle with.

In Maths lessons we are finishing off our fraction work, before progressing onto decimals and money. Then shape and direction will follow, to recap work already done. With Miss Hampson, children will begin with mental calculation strategies, and then written calculation strategies. Both of which 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. The continuation of Numbots to practice number bonds for quick calculations is still very much a priority too. Once the MTC check with your child has been administered, then they will be asked to switch their focus to Numbots, in an effort to complete as much of this as possible before reaching Year 5.

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

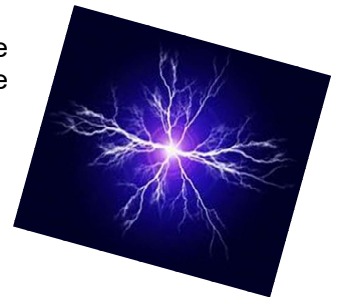
At Tansley Primary we think reading is an essential skill. Your child will spend 10 minutes each day either reading themselves/to an adult or an adult will read to them! When we have assessed children for their reading level, I have begun to award children a certificate for when they have progressed their reading to the next stage. Not only does this allow them to share their success with you, but is a boost to their confidence and informs you of the level of reading they are on. 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. Children who read 4 times (Fri-Thurs) will receive a raffle ticket. At the end of the half term they may receive a prize if their name is pulled out during the whole school Reading Raffle!

Spellings

We have found that children who are engaging well with Spelling Shed are gradually improving in their spelling skills, not only did this result in better test scores, but confidence in using spelling rules is starting to become evident in written work. Please encourage children to keep up their efforts with the programme and if you have any difficulties with Spelling Shed, let me know, and I will do my best to sort it as soon as possible.

Science - Electricity

We will be investigating the area of electricity. This is a quite a practical unit where the children will create circuits and an electrical game. There are links made to the topic, when we look at the invention of the lightbulb (and the controversy surrounding it). We will be highlighting the dangers associated with electricity, the risks of electrocution and keeping safe. In the second half of the term the children learn about significant people during the Victorian era that have influenced science and engineering.



Topic - "Why is Matlock Bath like a Victorian Seaside?"



Thank you to for all your efforts with the Greek day that we had last back in January, the children really enjoyed dressing up! Photos can be viewed through the events pages on the website. We have already begun to dive into the Victorian era, and the children have already shown their keen interest. Very shortly they will receive an important visitor who will hopefully enlighten them some more! As this is a history and geography unit, the children will be looking at the physical and human features of Matlock Bath to consider how and why it became such a popular destination during the 19th century and remains so to this day. To understand this the children will learn about Queen Victoria, the industrial revolution, differences in the class system, leisure time, Victorian jobs, including those for children, Victorian beliefs and interests. The Victorian topic lends its self to many areas of the curriculum, including science, D.T. and art. The children will visit the locality consider why the question 'Why is Matlock Bath like a Victorian seaside?' with the chance to compare with the real thing!

PE

This term it will be Games and Athletics. Children will be having their P.E. lesson on a Tuesday afternoon as usual. They will need to come to school wearing their kit. Expectations of what P.E kit consists of, can be found on the class webpage if you need it. On Thursdays we will be back swimming and lessons will resume on the 25th April. Please ensure they have their kit and that long hair is tied back and no jewellery is worn. (Kit expectations are also listed on the website)

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 and Knowledge Organisers on the website under the class page in Sycamores and follow the Summer 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!

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.

Included in the homework section are some Knowledge Organisers which cover different subject areas to support your child's learning at home.

Key Dates for Sycamores:

Please refer to the school newsletter as well as:

- Badminton /Table tennis at Highfields 18.04.24
- Swimming resumes 25.04.24
- Tansley Primary School's 75th Anniversary 25.4.24 – 26.4.24
- Mystery Visitor 26.4.24 or 01.05.24
- MTC 03.06.24 – 17.06.24
- Other dates to be confirmed so please keep an eye out on Parenthub.

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

Mrs. A Holloway