

Dundry Primary School
110 Dundry Lane
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Dundry
C of E Primary School

Tel: 0117 9647181
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www.dundryprimary.co.uk

A BEACON OF HOPE ON THE HILL; A SMALL SCHOOL MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Ruth Noall

Monday 5th September 2022

Dear parents and carers of children in Sycamore Class

Welcome to a new school year! This letter explains briefly what to expect for your child this year. As always, if you need more information or you have any questions please do not hesitate to talk with Mrs Maggs or Mrs Warren at the end of the school day or to contact us via Dojo.

Our class team:

The Sycamore teaching team consists of Mrs Maggs who will be in class on Monday and Tuesday and Mrs Warren who will be in class from Wednesday to Friday. We will be supported each day by Mrs Perrett every morning Monday to Thursday and Mrs Elliott each day.

Our learning this year:

On our class webpage you can find a link to our long term plan for 2022/23. This term our units of learning include:

Maths – Place value and we will start addition and subtraction.

English – We will do a write stuff unit -The book focus will be 'The Star in the Jar' and write our own similar story. We will also do some persuasive writing later in the term. The children will write a rallying battle cry speech in the style of Boudicca to persuade the Celts to fight against the Roman rule.

Science- Electricity. We will create electrical circuits, investigate materials which are electrical conductors and explore the use of switches.

History - The Romans we will understand the Roman Empire, everyday life in Roman Britain and understand their legacy. We will also visit The Roman Baths in Bath.

Art- Painting and the work of LS Lowry. We will look at skills of colour mixing and painting. We will experiment with different effects and textures including working on a range of scales e.g. thin brush on small picture etc.

Music - We will learn about 1970's pop legends ABBA. We will learn to sing, and perform some of their most iconic songs as well as composing and improvising.

RE - Our focus is 'What do Christians believe about God?' and 'What do Jewish people believe about God and the Covenant?'

PE- Our whole school PE day with our sports coaches has changed to **Friday**, so please ensure that children are wearing the correct PE kit.

During term 1, we will also be introducing **orienteering/Forest School on a Friday afternoon**. The children will need waterproofs and wellies for this in the future weeks, when the weather starts to change.

PHSE - Being me in my world

Computing - Our focus will be on coding and internet safety.



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Home Learning:

It is really important that children spend some time at home each week consolidating their learning at school and it is helpful if they have a quiet space to do so. You can find a copy of our Home Learning Expectation on the policies section of our website. In our class the expectation is:

<p>Year 3</p>	<p>Spelling activity to revise rules/patterns at home</p> <p>Reading book</p>	<p>Times Table Rockstars</p> <p>Optional extra: One Doodle Maths activity</p>	<p>Children have the option to explore their termly topic at home and bring their learning into school to share. This might be some research linked to history or geography, some artwork, a poem or story. This is optional and is an opportunity for children and parents to extend classroom based learning at the child's own level.</p>
<p>Year 4</p>	<p>Spelling activity to revise rules/patterns at home</p> <p>Reading book</p>	<p>Times Table Rockstars</p> <p>Optional extra: One Doodle Maths activity</p>	

Spellings:

Across the whole school, and even the trust, the way we teach spelling is up for review and it is likely to change slightly as the year progresses. However, at the moment, children will receive a spelling activity/list of words to revise the rules/patterns that we will be exploring over a two week period.

Reading:

Without a doubt, reading as often as possible is the thing which will make the greatest difference to your child's education.

Children will bring home a reading book with the expectation that they read at least four times a week and record this reading in their reading record. Using the Reading Records as evidence, every child that reads 4 times or more in a week will be entered into the weekly reading raffle where 2 children are randomly chosen and can select a prize from the prize box.. Each half term, the children that consistently read four times a week, will be entered into the raffle where a random ticket is drawn from the hat with the winner receiving a £5 book token! **Reading records will be checked on a Friday.**

When the children are ready they will start reading books from our accelerated reader system. Children will take an online multiple choice quiz to determine what book level would be most closely matched to their reading ability. This comes in decimal form, e.g. 4.5. Children will read their own '4.5' book, then take a small book quiz in school when it is finished. If they score 80% of the questions right, then they move up to the next decimal level (4.6 in this instance.) Word counts will be collectively added together from everything that your children read, and a league table exists in class where children can win prizes with the more words that they read.



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The children will also have the opportunity to take home a reading for pleasure book which is just a book they can choose to enjoy and share with you.

Times Tables:

In Sycamore class we will do daily times table practise through a variety of activities and games. You can support your child at home by encouraging them to play TT Rockstars often.

Year 3 are expected to recall 3,4 and 8 x tables by the end of the year. (alongside 2,5,10 x from year 2)

Yr 4 multiplication tables check

The multiplication tables check is an online test for pupils in Year 4. Pupils are asked to answer 25 questions on times tables from two to 12 . They are given six seconds per question, with three seconds rest between each question, so the test should last less than five minutes.

This will take place in June.

A great website to use is www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/

PE:

Our class will have PE lessons every **Friday**. Your child should come to school in their PE kit on this day. Please ensure your child has the proper PE kit and is wearing suitable footwear.

From term 2 there will also be an additional session on a Wednesday. Children should also wear PE kit on this day in term 2.

Forest School / Outdoor Play and Learning:

Our children will play outside and may get messy! They will need to wear waterproofs and wellies for this. This will be on a Friday afternoon during term 1.

They will need a coat in school every day as we will also try to play at break times - there is no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothes!

Trips, visitors and experiences this year:

We already have lots of exciting experiences planned, and many more in the pipeline! This term we will be visiting the Roman Baths in Bath. A letter with full information about these visits will be sent home prior to each visit.

Assessments this year:

There are some assessments that are statutory. This year your child will undertake the Times table check if they are in Year 4.

These are nothing to worry about, we will ensure that the children are ready and prepared for these. More information about these will be available nearer the time.

Sharing our learning:



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Our class Dojo Story will periodically update you to celebrate learning in class as will our newsletter. Each term a class will share their learning with the whole school in an assembly and you're invited to join us. Our class sharing assembly is **Tuesday 18th October**. You can share learning that your child completes at home through their Dojo Portfolio. We will have two parents' evenings this year, one in November and one in March and our end of year reports go home in July.

Citizenship and Character Award:

All children in the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership have the opportunity to take part in the Citizenship and Character Award. There are five categories for children to challenge themselves and earn Bronze, Silver or Gold awards as they move up through the school. Each child will be issued with a passport to help them track their progress. Please support this at home if you can - you'll be surprised how many challenges can easily be helpful or exciting at home such as 'fix something', 'go on a long walk' or 'use a map'. We will use school assemblies as an opportunity to encourage children and to celebrate their achievements. This is a long term award and children are aiming to achieve gold over a two year period, by the end of Years 2, 4 and 6.

How you can get involved:

We welcome parental involvement in whatever ways you can offer! If you are able to come into school to help you will need to undertake a volunteer induction and have an enhanced DBS check - but then you're free to help! You can help regularly such as to hear readers, or as one off occasions maybe to lead an art workshop or to help on a trip. We also really need you to support our PTA. You can help by attending the meetings where decisions are made, joining the committee or simply by turning up to events.

Communication:

As a school we have an 'open door policy'. It is always best to talk to us straight away if you have any worries, concerns or questions. I am available at the school gate after school most days, or you can make an appointment via Dojo. Dojo is a very easy way to contact me. I operate 'quiet hours' but will get back to you as soon as I can. Our school newsletter is the main form of communication between school and home and it is essential that you take some time to read this each week. Lots of useful information about our school can also be found on our website.

We are very much looking forward to teaching your child this year.

Kind regards

Mrs Maggs and Mrs Warren



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