

Dear Parents and Carers

### Welcome to Sycamore Class

Welcome back after the summer holiday, I hope the children have enjoyed their first days back at school. This letter is to let you know what we will be doing in class over the following weeks and how you can help your child this year.

Our main Literacy project for the weeks through autumn and leading up to Christmas will be 'Dragons'. We will be linking lots of our literacy work to this theme: persuasive writing to encourage someone to become a dragonologist; writing reports about how to care for pet dragons; creating instructions for spells or recipes to keep them healthy; looking at longer pieces of narrative poetry such as Jabberwocky; looking at descriptions of dragons across a range of literature and taking part in drama work around the story of *George and the Dragon*.

In science we will be looking at two of the new national curriculum topics. The first of these, 'Evolution and Inheritance', will focus on how fossils are made; how species are suited to their environments and how offspring are similar/different to their parents. As part of this topic it would be great if children could bring in photographs of their families (parents/ siblings/ grandparents/ aunts/ uncles etc.) to create a family tree and so that they can look at how they have similarities and differences - if this is a problem for any reason then they will be able to use a set of given photographs instead. The children will also be inventing their own dragon: thinking about how it would be suited to a certain environment.

In history we will be looking at Castles. Who first built castles in Britain; why they were built; where they were built and why their designs changed over time. This will also involve geographical and scientific skills. In addition to this they will also become Museum guides in order to explain the story behind the Bayeux tapestry.

Our art project will be sculpture and children will be studying the elements of sculpture; working with a range of materials; looking at famous sculptors; gathering a range of sculpture ideas and finally creating a sculpted piece of their own on a theme of fossils or nature.

The children will have spellings each week, given out on a Monday and tested on Friday (it is important that spellings are learned to help with reading and writing). They will also usually be given a piece of maths homework, which is given out on a Friday and expected back by the following Thursday, at the latest. The homework is usually a consolidation of the work we have carried out during the week.

It is still extremely important that you continue to read and share books with your child, whether they are reading independently or particularly if they are struggling to read. Lots of children can decode well but it is important that they talk about the stories and words that they read so that they really understand them. It is also vital that your child learn their tables to 12 x 12 including knowing the division facts - this will help them to multiply numbers quickly, divide numbers quickly, spot number patterns, work out fractions of numbers, find percentages, work out areas of shapes etc. It is expected on the new curriculum that your child will know their times tables to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. Please also make sure that your child is able to read the time on analogue and digital clocks.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will do my best to help.

Yours faithfully

Miss Lorna Burrow (Sycamore Class Teacher)