

Sycamore Tree Autumn Term

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and are feeling refreshed and ready for an exciting new school year. I am really looking forward to welcoming the children into class and getting to know everyone over the coming weeks.

We have a fantastic Autumn Term ahead of us, with lots of exciting things planned and plenty of new things to discover and learn. Most importantly, I hope the children have a happy, positive start to the year and enjoy being part of our class.

I am really looking forward to the year ahead! 🍎📖

Curriculum

- 🍎 During our Maths lessons we will begin by focusing on place value and we will start with identify the value of each digit in a number before moving on to using place value charts and writing numbers in words. Later in the term we will begin to focus on addition and subtraction and using our number bond knowledge.
- 🍎 In English, the children will use a variety of different stimulus throughout the term to engage and inspire the children's writing. The children will begin the year looking at our whole school 'Together We Learn and Grow' topic. We will then look at the book, 'Troll Swamp and cover a range of writing.
- 🍎 In our first History topic, the children will explore the question 'How Did My Grandparents Used to Live?' which focuses on life in school now compared with what it would have been like in the old GSP school. We will walk in the local area and look at the old school grounds and spot differences on the outside of the buildings. The children will also look at life at home now and then with a focus on toys and games, developments in technology.
- 🍎 In our first Geography topic, the children will explore the question 'What can we find at GSP?'. We will take the children on a local walk around school and create our own sketch maps from this. The children will also be using maps, atlases and globes to locate the UK and Warrington based on a study of the geography of the school and its grounds.
- 🍎 This term, we will be learning about everyday materials. We will explore different materials, such as wood, plastic, metal, glass and fabric, and learn about their properties. We will carry out simple investigations to help us understand more.

Reading

- ☀ Children are encouraged to read at home at least three times each week. Please note in the school planner when your child has read, the page number reached and any comment you may wish to make. Children who have at least three adult signatures in a week will be awarded a raffle ticket to be in with a chance of winning our 'Reading Raffle' prizes! star for their superstar reader challenge. I hope to see lots of children achieving the gold award by the end of this school year!
- ☀ School planners will be checked and signed by a member of the KS1 team at least once a week. These form an important part of our home/ school communication so please write in them regularly.
- ☀ All children will take part in guided reading activities on a daily basis and be heard reading individually by a member of the LKS2 team at least once a week. To help us achieve this please can you ensure your child has their reading book and diary with them in school every day.
- ☀ Please try to read with your child on a regular basis; research shows that **even 10 minutes a day** can have a significant impact on a child's academic progress. As well as listening to your child read please do try and find the time to read and share books with them as well. We always encourage children to read a range of different materials and books, not just their school reading books. The local libraries are an excellent way to encourage and support reading for pleasure. These can also be noted in the reading section of the school planners.

Spellings

- ☀ Spellings will be uploaded to Google classroom for our Year 2 children on Fridays. The children will then be tested on them the following Friday.
- ☀ Spellings will focus on either a particular spelling rule/pattern or will be taken from the Year 1 and 2 statutory word list.
- ☀ Please try to help your child to look at these words, pointing out any particular patterns that will help them to remember them. Many children find learning spellings very challenging so this should be low key and a fun few minutes.

Times Tables

- 🌻 We will be introducing TimesTables Rockstars to our Year 2 children who may not have used this before. To support the children's learning and the children will all have their own individual login, which can be found in the front of their school planners. The children will also have access to a few songs that we will be learning in class to support our times table knowledge. Please access these videos that will be uploaded onto Google Classrooms, as they are an excellent way for the children to learn.
- 🌻 As you will know our school has also invested in Numbots, an app produced by the makers of Time Tables Rockstars. This app supports children's quick recall of addition and subtraction facts and we are encouraging children to play this alongside Times Tables Rockstars.

Homework

- 🌻 Homework will be set on a **Friday** and this should be returned by the following **Wednesday**. Please sign your child's planner once it's completed.
- 🌻 Homework will alternate between a Maths or an English activity, linked to the unit of work they are covering in class, so they should be able to complete the activity independently. However, if your child feels they need some extra support to complete the activity they should ask in school asap.

PE

- 🌻 The children will have PE on a **Tuesday** and **Thursday** this term. Following on from last year the children will be allowed to come into school wearing their PE kits on these days. Please ensure children are wearing the correct PE kit (**house coloured top, black bottom and no jewellery**).
- 🌻 Please remember to tie back long hair and wear no jewellery for safety reasons. If your child is wearing earrings they will have the option of removing them for the lesson or covering them with medical tape.

Volunteers

- 🌻 We are always very grateful for any parents/grandparents/carers who would be willing to come in and help, either on a regular basis or as a one-off, or if you feel you could contribute to any of our topic work in any way, then please come in or contact us.

If there are ever any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch, either by popping in or telephoning. The support you give is essential for your child's progress and the closer we can work together the better it will be for them. If you are on Twitter, please follow @sycamore_tree1 to see regular updates.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Humphreys