Sycamore Class Newsletter

Autumn 1 2026

English

We will begin the year by revisiting prior learning and skills in English whilst focusing on a short suspense narrative, 'The Caravan'. We will revisit handwriting and presentation expectations and investigate what a sentence is. The children will write a variety of simple and compound sentences ensuring to use the correct punctuation from previous years. They will then revisit expanded noun phrases and similes to describe a setting. Afterwards, we will be inspired by Michael Rosen's entertaining book 'Chocolate Cake'. We will explore first-person narratives, continuing to focus on sentence structure. We will then look at non-fiction texts, writing a recipe for how to bake a chocolate cake! Children will revisit paragraphing and time adverbials to structure their writing clearly.

Science

Year 4: Our key question will focus on how materials can change their state, from solids, liquids and gases. We will explore evaporation, condensation and the water cycle.

Year 5: Our key question will focus on whether all changes to materials are reversible as we explore solubility, evaporation, burning and separation. We look forward to applying our investigative skills too.

Religious and Worldviews Education

We begin our year with a focus on creation as we answer the question of what the creator asked humans to do with His creation. Children will explore how the Ten Commandments serve as God's framework for Christians and Jews, demonstrating His love by guiding them on how to care for Him and one another. Ultimately, these teachings will help children understand that the creator entrusted their creation to the people, including teaching them how.

French

In French we will use our speaking, listening, reading and writing to explore a variety of language structures. Grammar will receive increasing focus in our written tasks as we identify the similarities and differences between English and French.

Computing

Children will apply their knowledge and understanding of networks to appreciate the internet as a network of networks. They will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the internet and get opportunities to explore it for themselves to learn about who owns content and what they can access, add and create.

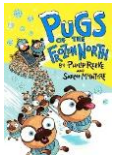
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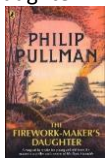
Welcome to Sycamore Class (Year 4/5)!
Home learning will be set weekly on a **Friday** and is due back the following **Thursday**. Reading should happen **at least 4 times a week** and children have the option read independently, with an adult signing their reading diary.
Please ensure all uniform, including PE kits, are named and in school at all times along with a water bottle and waterproof coat.

Any questions, do not hesitate to contact us via sycamore@trentyoungs.dsat.org.uk

Reading

Our first class novel this year is Pugs of the Frozen North by Philip Reeve, which we will enjoy reading together. In our guided reading sessions, we look forward to exploring and unpicking Philip Pullman's book, The Firework-Maker's Daughter.





History

Our big question is 'Why did the Romans invade and settle in Britain?' We will explore what it would have been like to live in Ancient Rome before investigating why they invaded Britain, with Britons' response to this. We will also discover why the Roman army was so powerful and use artefacts to make deductions about the lives of Roman soldiers in Britain.

Maths

Year 4: We will begin with a focus on place value up to 1,000 through comparing, ordering and rounding, as well as reading and writing Roman Numerals. Our attention will then turn to adding and subtracting 4-digit numbers using the formal written column method as well as using inverse operations to check our answers.

Year 5: We will begin with a focus on place value as we explore numbers up to 1, 000, 000 through comparing, ordering and rounding. Our attention will then turn to the four operations as we ensure that we can add and subtract accurately, before focusing on the properties of number, including factors, multiples and prime numbers.

Art

We will begin this year by exploring storytelling through drawing. They will use line, shape and colour to record ideas based on a piece of poetry. Once they have generated ideas, the children will illustrate a narrative, which contains sequenced images, by using composition, sequencing and mark making.

Design Technology

We will begin this year by studying mechanical systems, including making a slingshot car! The children will become familiar with forces, including air resistance to design and then make a slingshot car.

Physical Education

Our first PE unit of the year will be rugby as we explore the new format of T1 rugby through tactics, ball handling and how we can work well as part of a team.
Our other sessions will be dance as we consider how we can show control and coordination.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

We will be exploring 'me and my relationships' as we explore assertiveness, negotiation and compromise, bystander behaviour and what friendship truly looks like.

Music

Year 4: We will be creating compositions in response to an animation themed around mountains. We will play melodies and rhythms, considering dynamics.

Year 5: We will be looking at looping and remixing as we start with body percussion before moving onto use the opening section of 'Somewhere over the rainbow' as a fragment to play along with and compose using Chrome Music Lab.