



Sycamore Autumn 1 Newsletter



Note from the Staff Team

Welcome Back!

We hope you had a wonderful summer and it is lovely to see the children return to school.

Sycamore class are settling well into the new school year, building new friendships along with the old, and getting to know their new classroom and classroom adults. With another exciting school year ahead, we are looking forward to getting to know your child and yourselves more throughout the year. Please read the further information in this newsletter and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to ask!

Miss Andrews (Class Teacher), Mrs Morley, Mrs Bacon (Learning Support Assistants)

Important Information

Day	Timings of day	Timetable Information
Monday	8.45am - 3:15pm	Miss Andrews (all day) Mrs Morley (am) PE Day - children come to school in their PE kit for the day. Prepare for all types of weather. Homework given
Tuesday	8.45am - 3:15pm	Miss Andrews (am) Mrs Morley (am) Mrs Bell (pm)
Wednesday	8.45am - 3:15pm	Miss Andrews (all day) Mrs Morley (am)
Thursday	8.45am - 3:15pm	Miss Andrews (all day) Mrs Bacon (am) PE Day - children come to school in their PE kit for the day. Prepare for all types of weather.
Friday	8.45am - 3:15pm	Miss Andrews (all day) Mrs Bacon (am) Homework returned to teacher Reading books changed

Expectations

Reading

Reading is a very important part of learning in Year 1 and Year 2, and we ask for your support in helping your child become a confident and enthusiastic reader. Children will bring home a reading book each week along with their reading log. We ask that you read with your child **four times a week** and note this in their reading logs. It is vital that you are reading with your children at home. As they are learning their sounds and blending in phonics, your reading at home will help them to practise this learning. During Whole Class Reading sessions, we read and explore this text together in school. We discuss new and interesting vocabulary, talk about what we have read, and answer different types of questions to develop comprehension skills. Some of the texts may seem a little challenging at first, but this is intentional. By reading the same text several times throughout the week, children become more confident and gain a deeper understanding of the story or information. We will send this text home and ask that you read the text with your child during the week and discuss any words that have been underlined. This helps to build vocabulary and understanding. Please ensure that your child's reading book and reading log is brought to school every day, as it is used both in class and at home.

Reading for Pleasure

We want all children to develop a love of reading. Alongside their weekly reading text, your child will also bring home a book of their choice from our classroom or school library. This book is for enjoyment and sharing together. It may be a book that your child can read independently, or it may be a more challenging book that they enjoy listening to with an adult. Both are valuable experiences and help foster a lifelong love of reading. Children are encouraged to change their reading-for-pleasure book whenever they are ready. If you have any concerns about your child's enjoyment of reading, please speak to a member of the Year 1/2 team. We are always happy to help children discover new books, authors and genres that spark their interest.

Spellings

There is an expectation for children to be practicing the spellings from their learning logs at home. This half term, we ask you to work on the following 15 spellings ready for a half termly assessment on **Thursday 22nd October 2026**. Please ensure that these are being practised at home and we will practise them in school too.

the	to	said	they	me
a	today	says	be	she
do	of	your	he	we

They can of course practice as many spellings as they want in addition to this from the school website.

If your child has spellings on a SEN support plan, they need to practice these but as part of our ambitious curriculum, we would also like them to access the class spellings too.

Maths

Fluency Facts – Fact Fluency within Maths is of the utmost importance at Harthill Primary School therefore we have streamlined our number facts so that children are learning no more than 3 facts for 3 weeks. Supporting your child at home at the correct time would be most beneficial.

Y1	Autumn				
Weeks	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15
Facts	Adding 0 0 + 0 1 + 0 2 + 0 3 + 0	Adding 0 4 + 0 5 + 0 6 + 0 7 + 0	Adding 0 8 + 0 9 + 0 Adding 1 within 10 5 + 1 6 + 1	Adding 1 within 10 3 + 1 4 + 1 5 + 1 6 + 1	Adding 1 within 10 7 + 1 8 + 1 Adding 2 within 10 2 + 2 3 + 2
Plus corresponding subtraction facts					

Y2	Autumn				
Weeks	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15
Facts	9 + 2 8 + 3 9 + 3 11 X 10 12 X 10	7 + 4 1 X 5 2 X 5 3 X 5	8 + 4 4 X 5 5 X 5 6 X 5	9 + 4 7 X 5 8 X 5 9 X 5	6 + 5 7 + 5 11 X 5 12 X 5
Plus corresponding subtraction facts					

Home Learning

All children should be:

- Practicing reading at least 4 times a week using their whole class reading texts.
- Reading their library book, sharing stories and facts at home and developing their love of books with your help.
- Practicing spelling their statutory spellings and zero tolerance words. We do have spelling tests and teach spelling with a focus on children applying these in their writing, which is how we assess their spelling. Reinforcement of their year group words will help your child make progress with this.
- Access Times Tables Rockstars 3 times a week and practice their tables at home for Year 2's.

PE – This half term, our PE sessions are on a **Monday and Thursday**. Please note that PE uniform is a plain white t-shirt, black shorts/leggings/jogging bottoms, black sweatshirt/fleece and black unbranded trainers. Coloured clothing must not be worn. Spare PE uniform is available in school if children come in incorrect clothing. Please tie long hair up and remove any earrings or you can provide sterile tape to protect them.

The children will be completing more outdoor sport skills this year so please ensure they are prepared for all types of weather.

Communication – Feel free to catch me at any point on the playground in the morning if there is anything you'd like to chat about. However, I appreciate this is a busy time and some discussions may need to be private. If you'd rather, call or email the office and I will give you a ring back at a suitable time. Don't ever feel this is a problem – I am very happy to do this! You can also connect with me on DOJO between 9-5 on school days.

Ways to Help your Child

Please encourage your child to read as much as possible. It has been great to hear the children read so far and it is clear how much of a love they have for reading. We are continuing with our 'Reading for Pleasure' and we strongly believe that there is a book/genre for every child. If your child is struggling to find reading material to engage them, let me know and we will help.

Joining the local library is a huge benefit for all children as it opens their possibilities when choosing books. I would highly recommend signing up if you haven't already as they also hold lots of fun activities throughout the year for children to engage with.

What we will be learning this term

English - Our class text Peace At Last – Jill Murphy The Storm Whale – Benji Davies	Maths Concepts covered We will use this half term to develop the children's understanding of place value and then begin the addition and subtraction unit. Timetables to practise- The Year 2 children are focussing on the 2, 5, 10 times table this half term and year 1's will be focused on number bonds within 10 and 20. Please keep practising these at home to support their fluency.
Other Curricular areas: This half term our Science unit is Everyday Materials . We will be learning about In History, we will be studying The War of the Roses and focusing on how power changed hands during this time. Ball Control and Gymnastics will be our PE units this term. Our focus artists in art is Leon Kossoff. We will be learning skills in drawing with line control and drawing simple observations. In PSHE, we will be focusing on Learning and playing together to create a harmonious environment at school.	

Useful Websites

Websites	Resources
https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button	This is a great game for developing quick recall skills in Maths
https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0	As previously, you can find additional books here. If you have any trouble logging on, please let me know.
https://ttrockstars.com/	Your child will have their login in their learning log.
https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/	Free to register with additional books you can enjoy with your child