

# Sycamore Class

January 2021



**GET READY TO:**  
LEARN **see** DO  
read **EXPLORE**  
question **GROW**  
laugh **SMILE**  
IMPROVE **SHARE**  
try write **CONNECT**  
imagine **DO YOUR VERY BEST**

## Our learning in January and February:

This half term, we are going all the way back in time to discover prehistoric life in our new topic: **Stone Age to Iron Age**. During this unit, we will cover the following areas:

- What is prehistory and how do we know about it?
- How did the prehistoric diet change as people moved from hunter-gatherer to farmer?
- How did the discovery at Skara Brae change historians' views of prehistoric life?
- What is the significance of Stonehenge?
- How much had life changed by the end of the iron age?
- How did prehistoric life compare to life today?

To get this topic off to an exciting start, we will have a Stone Age day in school on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January. On this day, our guest archaeologist will lead the children in an archaeological dig where items will be categorised and assembled into a museum; as well as creating Stone Age tools and jewellery.

### **English:**

Our first unit will be writing instructions on how to trap a Sand Giant. This will be followed by a portal story based on 'Stone Age boy' by Satoshi Kitamura, where the main character is transported back to prehistoric times.



Our class book will be 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King.

### **Maths:**

Our focus for this term will be multiplication and division. We will cover:

- Multiplying three numbers
- Multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100
- Factor pairs
- Written method of multiplication and division
- Area of shapes

Children are expected to know their times tables, up to 12 x 12, by the end of year 4. Children will continue to progress through the times table challenge with a test each Friday on the individual table being learnt. They will need to know multiplication and division facts and be able to complete 39 or 40 questions within 4 minutes to progress to the next stage. The first times table test will be Friday 14th January.

TTRockstars is updated each week to reflect the table children are focussing on. Further details can be found on the class page of the website.

Other curriculum areas include:

- Science: Animals including humans
- PE – Dance (Mr Singh)/ Dodgeball (Mrs Gardiner)
- Art – Cave paintings and Stonehenge (mixed media)
- Music – Brass lessons will continue on Tuesday afternoons
- PSHE – Safety First
- RE - Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?
- French – children will be taught by a specialist French teacher (Mrs Duncan) on a Monday afternoon.
- Computing – Programming (Scratch)

### **Supporting learning at home:**

- **Spellings:** Spellings will be taught in school and lists will not be sent home to learn.
- **Reading:** Every child needs to read every day; including weekends. In this class, children need to read for at least 15-20 minutes and talk to an adult about what they have read. Children will be given a reading journal to record their reading which will be checked every **Monday**.
- **Times Tables:** Children will work on our times table challenge with a test on their individual focus table on a Friday.
- **Homework:** Children will be set weekly homework on a Wednesday which will be due back the following Monday. It will follow this **Wednesday-Monday** pattern throughout the year. You may support your child in tasks but please ensure if they are struggling that they know they can ask me for help.

### **Useful information:**

**Coats:** Please make sure your child brings a coat so we can go outside! Also ensure that EVERYTHING is named! If it isn't, we cannot return it.

**PE:** On our PE days, children will need to come dressed in their PE kit. They will remain in these clothes for the rest of the school day. Please also make sure that your child has a named water bottle. In Spring One, we will have PE on a **Thursday** and a **Friday**.

If you have any questions to ask, or have information to tell me, please get in touch via the school office ([julie.carter@littleaton.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:julie.carter@littleaton.derbyshire.sch.uk) or 01332 831471) I will also be available on the playground at the end of the school day.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Mrs Gardiner.