

Welcome to Sycamore Class



September 2021

Welcome to Sycamore Class and the beginning of an exciting year of learning. The adults working in our class will be myself (Mrs Gardiner) and Mrs Hughes. The class will be taught by Mrs Dallison on a Monday and Tuesday afternoon.

Our learning in September and October:

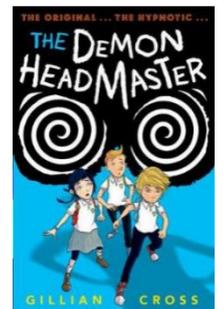
Our first topic is **Little Eaton**. During this unit we will cover the following areas:

- Use digital maps to locate and describe physical features in the UK, East Midlands, Derby and Little Eaton
- Study Ordnance Survey maps to explore how Little Eaton has changed from 1890 to the present day.
- Learn about Thomas Bates (1844 – 1903), his life in Little Eaton and what he has provided for people living in the village today.
- Develop map and compass skills using local fieldwork.

English:

We will be celebrating Roald Dahl day on Monday 13th September, children have been asked to dress up as a character on this day. Please don't feel pressured to buy a costume, there are many characters in the books who wouldn't require a specialist item.

Our first English unit will focus on descriptive writing using the setting of the 'Chocolate Room' from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We will then look at recounting events through letters using: 'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt.



This half term our class book is 'The Demon Headmaster' by Gillian Cross.

Maths:

Our focus for this half term will be Place Value and Number, including:

- Roman numerals
- Counting in 100s, 1000s, 50s, 25s
- Read and write numbers up to 1,000 (or 10,000) in numerals and words.
- Compare and order numbers beyond 1000
- Round any number to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000.
- Add and subtract numbers with 3 or 4 digits

Children are expected to know their times tables, up to 12 x 12, by the end of year 4. Please see the additional letter about our Year 4 times table challenge.

Other curriculum areas include:

- Science: States of Matter
- PE – Athletics
- Art – Leaves
- Music – Brass lessons will continue on a Tuesday afternoon (starting Tuesday 21st)
- PSHE – Think positive
- French – children will be taught by a specialist French teacher (Mrs Duncan) on a Monday afternoon.
- Computing – word processing

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.
- **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 Autumn one, we will have PE on a **Friday** (starting on Friday 10th).

Dates for the diary:

13th September – Roald Dahl day

22nd September – Little Eaton History society visit to talk to children about Thomas Bates

19th October – Online safety parents meeting (6:30pm) More information to follow.

22nd October – INSET and then half term holiday

1st November – Children return to school for Autumn 2

If you have any questions to ask, or have information to tell me, please get in touch via the school office (julie.carter@littleeaton.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.