

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Sycamore Class! We hope you had a lovely Summer and are looking forward to our first term. Please find below some important information and reminders for you as we begin our new school year.

The Teachers: Miss Neill will be teaching every day, supported by Mrs Robinson, Mrs Griggs, Ms Wade (Thursday afternoons) and Miss Rousell.

The Curriculum: All the teachers from The Merriott and Haselbury Federation have been working very hard over the summer to prepare this year's exciting new curriculum for the children. Below we are pleased to give you some information on the areas we will be covering in Sycamore class up until half term. It should be noted that if you do notice slight differences in the areas we cover at both schools it is because of the mixed age class structure of Haselbury school but rest assured we will still be covering the same skills and curriculum objectives. If you have any questions about the curriculum, please do ask.

English Writing	Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah. This text follows Leonard, the main character, as he arrives on our shores aboard the HSS Empire Windrush. We will uncover a timeline of Jamaica's history alongside the experiences of those journeying to Britain after the Second World War and use this to inspire our own writing.
English Reading	Reading Focus: <i>On the Move</i> , Poems about Migration by Michael Rosen. Michael's poems are divided into four: in the first series, he draws on his childhood as part of a first-generation Polish family living in London; in the second, on his perception of the War as a young boy; in the third, on his missing relatives and the Holocaust; and in the fourth, and final, on global experiences of migration
Maths	As mathematicians, we will be working with place value and learning to read, write and work with numbers to ten million! We will also be working on ordering and rounding integers (whole numbers) as well as working with negative numbers. After that, we will revisit addition, subtraction, multiplication and division - consolidating learning from Year 5 and using our skills to solve increasingly complex multi-step problems involving these operations.
Science	In science, we will consolidate and extend previous learning from year 4 by constructing simple series circuits and drawing them using scientific symbols. We will conduct investigations to determine how the voltage in a circuit affects the brightness of a bulb. We will use their 'working scientifically' skills to plan an experiment to investigate variations in how components function and use the results to write a clear and concise conclusion. We will use the internet to research information about renewable and non-renewable energy sources and communicate this information in the form of a leaflet.
History	As historians, we will be taking a look at the Transatlantic Slave Trade. We will be asking ourselves why British people were interested in countries halfway around the world and what made Bristol an important port and harbour.
Art	As artists, we will be working with 2D drawings and 3D making.
R.E	We will be revisiting Hinduism and exploring the tricky concepts of Dharma and Deity and the belief that all living things are connected.
Computing	We will be learning about computing systems and networks by exploring the work done to break secret codes and cyphers at Bletchley Park during WWII.

Assemblies: Our celebration assembly will be on a Friday at 2.45pm to which you are all invited. We will let you know in advance if your child has received a star of the week certificate so that you could make arrangements to attend if you would like to. Please also let us know if your child has achieved anything outside of school (however small) so we can celebrate this too.

PE kits: PE lessons are on a Friday afternoon. Please make sure that your child brings their PE kit to school and keeps it at school on their peg in a drawstring type PE bag or carrier bag. For practical reasons it is unhelpful to put PE kit in a rucksack as they take up too much room on their peg. Please bring in spare socks or tights, as they get very wet during the winter months on wet grass.

Homework: Homework will be sent out every Monday, to be returned by the following Monday to be marked and the new homework set. Please feel free to bring the homework in sooner - there is a tray that the children will put their work into when they return it.

Home-reading: Please read with your child as much as possible. Sometimes it's not possible to read every day, so we ask for 3 reads a week to be signed by an adult in the reading log. This is checked every Friday - stars and house-points are awarded, and the total reads are added up which go towards our reading challenge prizes.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me, either in person or via the school email.

Best wishes,

Miss Neill