



Believe ~ Learn ~ Grow

Autumn Term 1



September 2026

Dear Sycamore Class Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to the start of a new academic year with fantastic learning experiences, as we continue to Believe, Learn and Grow together in 2026! We hope you have all had an enjoyable summer and are as excited as we are about being back at school.

Along with this letter, you will also receive a copy of this term's objectives overview which provides an outline of the teaching and learning opportunities for Autumn term 1 and a Pick and Mix home learning grid.

The children will be returning to school and adapting to new teachers and routines, a new learning environment and expectations. We will be supporting the children through all of these new experiences and helping them with their transition into Sycamore Class.

Theme:

Our theme this term is 'Our Ancient Ancestors' with the main historical focus of the Stone Age. The big question this term is 'What do humans really need to survive?' The children will discover why this period in history is called the Stone Age and what was unique about this era. They will research what life was like including shelter, settlements, clothing, hunting and gathering of food and become designers of cave drawings, weapons and tools.

Reading:

The children will be bringing home a reading book and a reading record booklet to help track reading practice. As reading is the key to accessing the rest of the curriculum, it is important that all children read regularly to develop fluency, prosody, text understanding and the meaning of any new vocabulary encountered. Whole class reading will also be introduced this term where we hone our reading skills as we study a longer narrative together.

Home Learning:

New to Sycamore pupils this academic year will be Pick and Mix home learning which will start the week beginning **14th September**. Children can complete as many (or few) as they would like to. On the grid there are a range of homework activities based on English, Maths, History, Art and the term's value. If children have completed a piece of home learning, they can bring it into school on a Friday so this can be shared and celebrated with their peers. User logons and passwords for Times Tables Rockstars and Numbots will be stuck in on the inside front cover of spelling books.

As well as Pick and Mix Home Learning, we also have spellings, reading and times table practice. Spellings will be handed out on a **Monday** and will be tested on the **Friday** with the test recorded in the back of the spelling book. The first set of spellings will be handed out on **Monday 7th September**. The best spellers are those who practise a little every day!

Forest School:

We are delighted to inform you that Sycamore Class will be participating in a series of sessions every **Tuesday** afternoon this term. During these sessions, the children will learn how to use tools in order to whittle and cut, tie knots to secure ropes and string, make shelters and adventure playground equipment whilst developing teamwork skills of co-operation and communication. Sessions start on **Tuesday 15th September** for the rest of the term. It is advised that children wear old, weather appropriate clothing as they can get muddy. Children will need to bring clothing and suitable footwear e.g., wellies, waterproof coat, sunhat etc. in case of wet or hot weather with them on Tuesday morning in a named bag. Please ensure everything is labelled as lost items tend to find their way back more quickly than those without a name!

PE:

In addition to the daily 'Golden Mile', the children will have P.E. on **Wednesdays and Thursdays**. If your child wears earrings (studs only, no hoops), these will need to be either removed for P.E. days, or medical tape can be kept in their bag for your child to cover them up (the children will be responsible for applying and removing the tape). Please ensure your child wears the correct PE kit to school on their allocated days. It would also be useful for your child to have jogging bottoms for the colder months. Any children with long hair must have their hair tied back.

Values:

In Term 1 we will be learning all about "Thankfulness".

Thinking of good things
Happy memories
All creation praising God
Not taking anything for granted
Keeping focused on the positive
Feeling blessed
Understanding the sacrifices people make
Living joyfully
Not complaining
Expressing gratitude to God
Saying thank you to those who help us
Showing gratefulness by our deeds



Please join us for our Class Collective Worship about the value of thankfulness on the afternoon of Thursday 15th October at 2.30pm in the hall.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to phone or make an appointment via the School Office.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Mrs dos Santos, Mrs Tidy, Mrs Millington, Ms Traynor, Ms Grieve and Mrs Chivers

