



Believe ~ Learn ~ Grow



## Autumn Term 1

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Sycamore Class Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to the start of a new academic year. 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 topic web which provides an outline of the teaching and learning experiences for Autumn term 1, and a Pick and Mix home learning grid.

### **Theme:**

Over the course of term 1, our focus is geography based around the Northern Hemisphere and its wealth of features. As a stimulus, we will be using the books "The Journey Home" by Frann Preston-Gannon and "The Greatest Show on Earth" by Mini Grey. We will investigate the key question of 'How can we help shape the future of our planet and what can we do to protect our planet for future generations?'

### **Reading:**

This week, the children will have brought 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, text understanding and the meaning of any new vocabulary encountered.

In addition to reading for pleasure and intervention groups, whole class reading sessions take place daily.

### **Science:**

Every Wednesday afternoon, Sycamore class will return to their original year groups for science. Year 3 will be taught by Mr Farmer and will be learning about animals, including humans. Year 4 will be taught by myself (Mrs dos Santos) and will be learning about states of matter.

### Home Learning:

Pick and Mix home learning will be starting the week beginning **8<sup>th</sup> September**. On this grid, there are a range of homework activities based on English, Maths, the term value and theme. If children have completed a piece of home learning, they can bring it into school on a Friday so this can be shared with their peers. User logons and passwords for Times Tables Rockstars can be found 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 starting on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**. 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. 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!

### Multiplication Tables Check:

The multiplication tables check (MTC) is statutory for primary schools. The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. All Year 4 children will be tested in June on all of the times tables up to 12 x 12 using a device to input their answers. We will have a termly focus on a particular times table and also practise inputting on the device to enable the children to have the best possible chance when taking the check.

### PE:

In addition to the daily 'Golden Mile', the children will have P.E. on **Wednesdays and Fridays**. If your child wears earrings, these will need to be either removed for P.E. days or medical tape can be kept in their P.E. 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. The children can wear either the school kit (green and yellow), or a white t-shirt with green shorts. It would also be useful for your child to have jogging bottoms (green or black) for the colder months. Any children with long hair must always have their hair tied back.

### Class Open Session:

Our first open classroom session will be held at 2.30pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**Values:**

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

**G**iving something we value to someone else

**E**ncouraging the best in each other

**N**ever selfish

**E**njoying helping others

**R**aising support for a good cause

**O**ffering what we can

**S**haring our time and talents

**I**nviting someone to join in

**T**aking care of God's creation for future generations

**Y**ou first, me last.



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office on [admin@lydiardmillicentceps.org](mailto:admin@lydiardmillicentceps.org)

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sycamore Class team

Mrs dos Santos, Mrs Tidy, Ms Traynor and Miss Cuthbert