



**LABURNUM**

PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

CHALLENGE • ACHIEVE • RESPECT • EFFORT

# **Sycamore Class Parent Briefing**

**Mrs Bellingham and Mrs Dawes –  
Sycamore Class Teachers**

# The Sycamore Class Team

Mrs Bellingham



Mrs Dawes



Mrs Murphy



Mrs Fox



Mrs O'Leary



**Sycamore Class Parent Briefing:** Mrs Bellingham and Mrs Dawes – Sycamore Class Teachers



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# Communications



- Please contact us in person or on Class Dojo if you have any questions or concerns – we are here to help.
- Class Dojo messages should be sent to Class Teachers (Teaching Assistants have access, but will not respond to messages).
- Class Dojo – messages sent outside of the core hours of 8am – 5:30pm may not be responded to until the next working day.
- All issues should be addressed with your child’s Class Teacher initially.
- Issues raised with the school office or a senior leader will usually be passed back to the Class Teacher first.
- Our full Communications Policy is available on our school website.



# Curriculum Overview – National Curriculum

- We have an exciting and full year of learning ahead – full details are available on the school website.
- Highlights this term:
  - English: Rain Player
  - Maths: Place Value (Numbers to 1,000,000!)
  - Science: Properties of materials
  - Art & Design: Typography
  - Computing: Networks and sharing
  - French: Phonetics 3/ Do you have a pet?
  - History: The Maya
  - Music: Livin' on a prayer
  - Physical Education: Gymnastics & throw tennis
  - Relationship & Health Education: Me and my relationships
  - Religious Education: Christianity
  - Values: Respect



# Current Timetable

- This is subject to change according to the needs of your children.

	8:55	9:00	9:15-9:45	9:45-10:45		11:00-12:00	1.00-1:15	1.10- 2-10	2.10-2-3:10	3:10
<b>Monday</b>	Maths challenge	SPAG:	English		Break time	Maths	Circle Time	Art & Design	History	Music appreciation
<b>Tuesday</b>	Reading comprehension	SPAG	English			Maths	Circle Time	RE	PE	Picture News 1
<b>Wednesday</b>	SPaG mats	SPAG	English			Maths	Independent Reading	PE	Music	Picture News 2
<b>Thursday</b>	60 second read	SPAG	English			Maths	Circle Time	Science		Values Assembly
<b>Friday</b>	Class Book	SPAG:	Homework Spellings Timetable			French	Circle Time	Pause for thought	RHE	Computing



# English

- We continue to use SPaG already visited in year 4 throughout our writing and building on it in year 5.
- In year 5 we start to use a variety of sentence types in our writing and begin to think about how to use different sentences for effect.
- We use more advanced punctuation for example, colons and semi-colons as well as parentheses.
- We challenge ourselves by linking ideas across paragraphs.
- We continue to build up their writing stamina with longer pieces at the end of every unit.



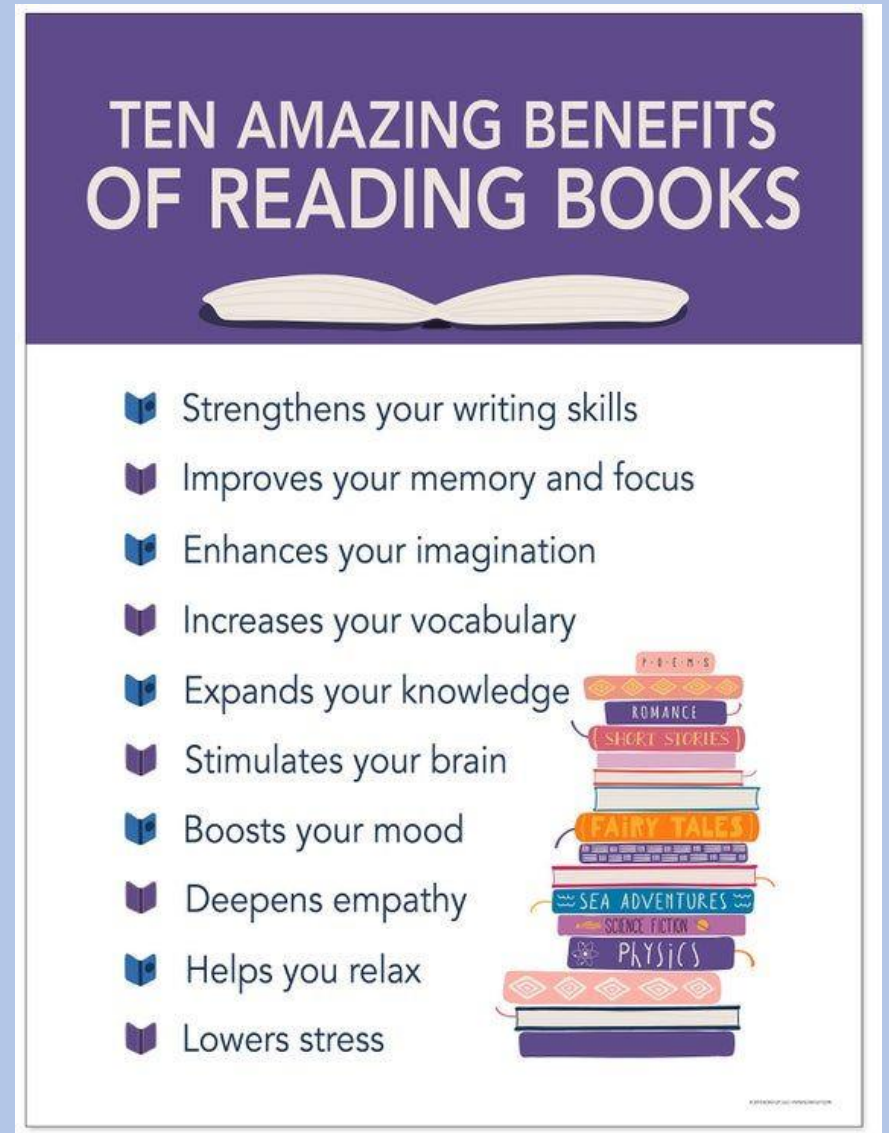
# Spelling

- As part of our new spelling scheme from years 2-6, we will no longer be sending home the traditional weekly spellings. We will be focussing on investigating spelling patterns, looking for rules and proving/disproving them as well as exploring different strategies to remember unusual spellings-of which there are many in the English language!
- We will share what the focus is with you on Dojo so you can still see the rule/pattern we are looking at but we aren't going to test weekly.
- This way we can support and extend the children more efficiently as needed.
- Other homework will still be set and we do encourage daily reading as this will support your child across the curriculum.




# Reading:


- All learning becomes more easily accessible when you read fluently. It allows you to focus on comprehension and taking on board what the information is, whether that be a story, poem, recipe or information.
- KS2 children should be reading daily although perhaps not always to an adult.



## TEN AMAZING BENEFITS OF READING BOOKS



- Strengthens your writing skills
- Improves your memory and focus
- Enhances your imagination
- Increases your vocabulary
- Expands your knowledge
- Stimulates your brain
- Boosts your mood
- Deepens empathy
- Helps you relax
- Lowers stress





# Maths

- This year children need to have learnt their times tables up to 12x12 as we use them throughout the year and we begin to have a stronger emphasis on mental arithmetic in the run up to year 6.
- We have a strong focus on the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) where we look at different methods used.
- We work with numbers up to 1 million in year 5.
- There is an informal assessment at the end of every unit for maths, which can be used to inform the next set of teaching and interventions.
- Other units we cover include; statistics, fractions, decimals, percentages and measuring angles.



# Home Learning Expectations Year 5 & 6

- Children are expected to practise core skills every week:
  - Reading - ideally daily, but at least 3 times a week.
  - Maths skills rehearsed using tasks set online on Sumdog.
  - Embedding multiplication and division facts, up to 12x12, recalled in any order at speed (online using Sumdog/ TT Rockstars).
- Additional English and Maths homework will usually be sent home weekly.
- Children should learn and rehearse the information sent home on knowledge organisers.
- Extra homework may be given out periodically with a set date for submission.



# Uniform Expectations: Year 3-6

- All children are expected to wear the correct school uniform:
  - Grey shorts/ trousers/ skirt or pinafore dress
  - Plain white shirt and school tie
  - School jumper or cardigan with school logo
  - Sensible black shoes (not trainers)
  - Grey socks or tights
  - In the Summer Term, navy blue and white checked gingham dresses may be worn
- Sports and PE Kit:
  - School sports shirt (navy and red) with school logo, navy shorts or jogging bottoms, navy socks, plimsolls or trainers. School jumpers, fleeces or plain navy blue jumpers may also be worn on PE days.



*Please contact us if you need help – we do have some very good quality second hand uniform available at a very low cost.*

# PE and Physical Activity

- All classes Y1-6 have two PE sessions a week. Children should come to school in their PE kit on these days. Our class PE days are:
  - **Tuesday & Wednesday**
- In addition to PE lessons, we expect all children to engage in additional physical activity. This can be in their play, but also through specific activities such as, 'The Golden Mile,' which takes place in addition to PE and builds fitness and stamina for all children.



# Health and Safety

- For safety reasons children should not wear jewellery in school. If your child has pierced ears, then studs only are accepted.
- A child may wear a watch, but the school cannot accept responsibility for it.
- Long hair (shoulder length or longer) needs to be tied back with red or navy bands.



# Food & Drinks (snacks and lunchtimes)

- No nuts or foods containing nuts.
- Healthy Snacks:
  - Not provided Y3-6. Children are encourage to bring their own snack.
  - All snacks must be a piece of raw fruit or vegetable – no other snacks will be permitted.
- Water Bottles:
  - All children should bring a water bottle – this should contain water only.
- Lunch:
  - Year 3-6 – school meals are no longer funded – consider applying for Free School Meals.
  - Packed lunches should be balanced and healthy and contain no more than one cake/chocolate item.



# Free School Meals / Pupil Premium

- Contact Central Bedfordshire Council if you think you might be eligible:

## Qualifying benefits to receive free school meals

The qualifying benefits to receive free school meals for children in Year 3 and over are:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

## How to apply for free school meals

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call us on **0300 300 8306**. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- dates of birth for your children
- if you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

Central  
Bedfordshire



# Free School Meals / Pupil Premium

- All children eligible for Free School Meals receive:
  - An individual plan to support learning,
  - Reduced price school visits,
  - Free Milk at morning break (if requested),
  - Free School Lunches,
  - A yearly uniform voucher,
  - Free access to Breakfast Club every day,
  - Reduced price after school clubs,
  - A termly book linked to in-class learning (to keep forever)
  - Additional support in discussion with the Class Teacher and Pupil Premium Lead (Mrs Dawes).





# Educational Visits this year:

- Spring Term: – West Stow
- Summer Term: 7<sup>th</sup> July – Space Centre

*Children eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant (Free School Meals) pay reduced costs for school visits – we want all children to take part, so please contact the school office or your child's class teacher if the cost of a school visit is causing an issue for you.*

**Payment plans are set up for all residential visits as these are more expensive.**

