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Live, Love and Learn Together"

Dear Sycamore parents,

A warm welcome back to you all. We hope you have found the first week back has gone well and that your children are settling back into the routine. We are really enjoying teaching them face to face and getting to know all your children. We have a lovely, freshly-painted classroom which looks very inviting and the children are coping very well with adjusting to the new way of working.

Bounce – Our Autumn 1 Topic

Attached to this letter, you will find a knowledge organiser that covers the key areas of the Bounce topic we are covering in Year 2 this half term. Bounce is a cross-curriculum topic with links to PE, English, Science, Maths, Art & Design and PSHE. This half term our focus is learning about being healthy and what animals need to survive. In Humanities, we will learn about Florence Nightingale and how she affected our lives. Each lesson will have objectives suitable to the ability of your child.

Recovery Curriculum – Mental Health and Wellbeing

What Is a Recovery Curriculum? Why Do We Need It? A recovery curriculum is a kind and sensitive approach to welcoming children back into school, assessing their emotional needs and attempting to support their emotional wellbeing within the school setting.

- The pandemic has had an impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the nation in a variety of different ways.
- Some children will have found the experience of being in 'lockdown' traumatic, or may have experienced bereavement.
- Others will have had a wonderful time throughout lockdown, but find the idea of returning to school daunting and unsettling.

We will be prioritising children's mental health and wellbeing through specific PSHE lessons and through creating an enjoyable and engaging curriculum.

Recovery Curriculum – Learning Gaps

Below are our intended foci for catch-up in the key elements of English and Maths that we want to revisit with your child this half term before we move on ahead with the new school year's objectives. We have carefully selected the most crucial areas of learning that will enable them to pick up and access their new school year's objectives more easily. Of course we know that 'one size' does not fit all. We know that each child will already be exceeding, at or below these targets and we are doing ongoing low-stakes assessments (analysing writing, quizzes, informal one-to-one questioning) in class to give us a more individual picture of where your child is at and how we can help them make progress. We are sharing these 4 key elements in Reading, Writing and Maths with you so that we can be partners in the learning and achievement of your child.

Key Catch-Up Foci	Year 2
ENGLISH: Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words.• Respond speedily with the correct sound to graphemes (letters or groups of letters) for all 40+ phonemes.• Read accurately by blending sounds in unfamiliar words containing GPCs (grapheme, phoneme correspondence) they have been taught.• Read Year 1 common exception words.
ENGLISH: Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spell words containing each of the 40+ phonemes already taught.• Use capital letters and full stops to demarcate sentences in their writing.• Join words and clauses using 'and'.• Write sentences by saying out loud what they are going to write.
MATHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Count to and across 100, forwards, backwards from 0, 1 and any given number.• Identify one more and one less of a given number up to 100.• Represent and use number bonds within 20.• Count in multiples of twos, fives and tens from 0.

Additional items to help your child

To make fruit time easier for the children, please can you pack the fruit separately from their main lunch. They can then put it into their tray for easier access. This will also be good for those who have school lunches as well, as the lunches may not arrive until after fruit time.

We would also like to make one more request, please can you provide your child with an old, large named shirt that can be used over their uniform during painting as we have planned some interesting, but potentially messy, outdoor painting activities. This will be needed from next Monday if possible.

If you have any questions at all, we are here to help and you can contact us via the website or make an appointment at the school office.

Best wishes

Mrs Harris, Miss Ivory and Mrs Butchart

