



Sycamores Newsletter

Autumn
2025

BEHAVIOUR

It's good to be green!



Your child is aiming to show good 'green' behaviour at all times. Please ask your child if they have been green all week and help them to reflect on how

Things to remember:

Swimming kits on a Wednesday

- make sure children wear appropriate clothing and footwear to walk to and from the swimming baths.

Home Learning Expectations:

Children will receive:

- A set of 10 spellings to learn every Monday, children will be tested the following Monday.
- Daily reading
- Times tables practice on TT Rockstars

It'd be beneficial if the children learnt their times tables up to 12×12 , as this is an essential skill that can be useful in a range of mathematical tasks. Encourage your child/ren to practise them at home too, either writing them down on a piece of paper, going online or using the TT rockstars website/ app. Please contact us if you require your child's home login details to access Times tables Rockstars.

Thankel

CELEBRATING CHILDREN'S WORK

We value children's achievements extremely highly and always display the children's creativity and hard work in class. Please feel free to email us on sycamores@christchurch-sowerby.calderdale.sch.uk if you have any queries.

Literacy

On the first half-term our focus texts are 'Unspoken' and 'The Firework Maker's Daughter'. Children will have the opportunity to develop their writing skills for different genres: character and setting descriptions, retelling a story, writing a story from different characters' point of view and non-chronological reports. In the second half of the Autumn term, we will be using *Oliver Twist* and *A Christmas Carol*, both by Charles Dickens, as our main reading texts, and again we will develop our writing skills through different genres. We will also use daily grammar tasks to help us improve our writing.

Maths

Our Maths focus for the term will be place value, the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and fractions. During our lessons we will focus on fluency (the ability to solve calculations accurately and efficiently), reasoning and problems solving. We will also have a big focus on using more concrete (hands on), pictorial (use of visual representations) and abstract (formal written calculations) approaches during lessons so children can gain mastery in mathematics.

What your child will be learning this term:

Science: In the first half of our term we will be learning about 'Living things and their habitats'. Within this we will be studying conditions for life and grouping and classifying organisms, animals and plants. We will also learn about the work of Carl Linnaeus and his system of classifying organisms. In the second half of the term our topic is 'Electricity'. Within this we will have a mini topic focusing on renewable energy.

RE: We have started this term with our topic 'Is Jesus the Messiah?' In this topic we introduce the concept of the Messiah and what that means, a foretold rescuer who would bring salvation to the people of God. During the second half of the Autumn term, our unit is 'How do Sikhs show commitment?'

Geography/History: In the first half term we will have a focus on Geography; we'll be finding out about the countries that make North America as well as their capital cities. Children will research the differences and similarities between them. We will also learn about the Grand Canyon and how it was formed. In the second half of the term we will focus on the Victorian period. Children will learn about Queen Victoria, the Industrial revolution and what life was like during this historical period.

Art: In art this half term, we are looking at pop art movement. Children will explore the work of different artists such as: Julian Opie, Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol. They will use this as an inspiration to draw self-portraits as well as create drawings of iconic brands and sweets whilst developing their drawing, painting and block printing techniques.