



Sycamore News

Spring Edition

09/03/22

Hello everyone and welcome to our new topic 'Where can we go?' This Newsletter is a quick update of everything happening in Sycamore this half term. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to speak to me at the beginning or end of the school day, or email me at sycamore@mundford.dneat.org. I look forward to another exciting half term!

English:



We will be reading *Goodnight Mr Tom*, about a young boy who is evacuated during WW2. We will be writing newspaper articles about the breakout of war, diary entries from the point of view of our evacuee and short stories about a night during the Blitz.

Maths:



This half term we will be working on percentages, adding and subtracting decimals and long division in our arithmetic sessions. In our maths lessons, we will be focussing on algebra, measurement, volume and properties of shapes, including angles.

Where can we go?

Science:

In Science, we will be working scientifically and looking at light. We will be looking at time zones and time differences across the world why some countries are in darkness during our day times.

Geography:



We are going to be learning about different countries in North America, with a focus on Mexico and Canada. We are going to be looking at climate, culture, festivals and tourist attractions.

We will also revisit our world knowledge and look at biomes and lines of longitude and latitude!



Art:

In Art, we will be looking at the artwork of Mexican Artist, Frida Kahlo, creating one of her pieces, using collage techniques. We will also create some artwork, using our collage skills on the Mexican festival, Day of the Dead.

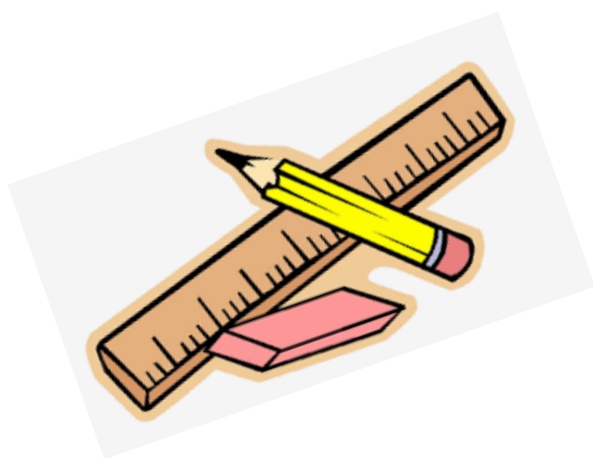
DT: We will be doing some cooking, thinking about different foods and cultures.

History:

We will be looking at the history of Norfolk and completing a local study of King's Lynn.



Questions the children asked about our topic:



Our Mundford Junction this half term will be Tuesday 29th March 9.15-10.15.

Our PE days will remain the same this term on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The children will have a spelling test every Friday and need to remember to learn their spellings for the test on the Friday.

Homework:

As well as Times table Rockstars and Ed Shed the children have a weekly Maths or English task and a P4C discussion question. The aim of these activities is to build the children's foundational knowledge which everything else is built upon. Sometimes the Maths or English task might be replaced by another subject but will still require the use of English or Maths skills. If your child is in year 6, they will have some revision books for the Year 6 SATs. The expectation for these is that they take their time to complete them before May and so this can be done in addition to or instead of the main Maths or English task for the week. The sections to be done, will be outlined in the homework set for that week.

Attached to this newsletter are some top tips for SATs preparation as well as a crib sheet for methods for division as this is one area which parents explained that they were unsure about. I am happy to provide these for any areas which you would like, please just let me know.



SATs Preparation

SATs Tip 1: Help your child understand their mistakes

There is nothing wrong with making a mistake, as long as it is learned from.

SATs Tip 2: Focus on the gaps in your child's knowledge

It might sound obvious, but the most important thing to help your child revise is the topic(s) that they struggle the most with.

SATs Tip 3: Put most of your efforts into boosting your child's confidence

Often children think, especially with maths, that they are bad at a certain subject or topic.

You might be used to hearing:

"I can't do fractions" or "Times tables are too hard".

Sit with your child and attempt to change this perception

Work with them on the areas they lack confidence in, and change:

*"I can't do fractions" to "I don't know the answer to this fractions question yet, **but** I am going to figure it out."*

Confidence is key when it comes to SATs and learning in general in primary school.

SATs Tip 4: Take revision online to keep things fresh and exciting

As well as playing host to a number of games and other ways to waste time, the internet can provide a plethora of revision resources for your child.

SATs Tip 5: Make sure you're both aware of what's coming up

Preparation is everything here. Look at practice papers, find out what sorts of questions come up, and know which SATs papers your Year 6 will be sitting on which days.

SATs Preparation By Working On Exam Techniques

Something that is crucial but often forgotten about, exam technique is very important for Year 6 children.

This will likely be the first time they have sat an official test/exam though, so here are some top tips of ways you can help them with their exam technique! Take a look at the handy checklist for some examples of good exam technique:

What would help?

- ☐ Underline key information
- ☐ Cross off items
- ☐ Use a drawing/model
- ☐ Check units of measure
- ☐ Estimate answer

SATs Tip 6: Teach your child to eliminate any wrong answers

For any questions that have multiple answers in the SATs paper, only one of them is going to be correct and this is why you should remind your child to eliminate any answers they know to be wrong.

5 Circle the **largest** number.

~~13.67~~ ~~130.70~~ ~~103.60~~ **130.76** ~~103.07~~

By doing this they are removing any doubt they may have had about the question and it can be a good way to focus during an exam. Getting them to explain their reasoning for each question will also help you to spot where they are making mistakes or doing the right thing.

SATs Tip 7: Make sure they pay attention to the connotations and context of the questions

Sometimes the questions in Year 6 SATs papers use words that can help to indicate certain actions that your child will need to take, so it is worth keeping an eye out for these.

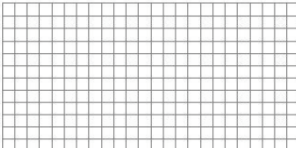
For example, if “*Johnny has **four more apples than Ben***” the question is likely to be about addition.

Whereas if “Ben has **15 fewer** apples than Johnny”, the question is likely to be about subtraction.

Run through some examples of these types

of questions with your child, helping them to identify the words that may help them answer the question as you go.

9 Cara needs £135 to buy a new phone.
She got paid £62.70 for working on Saturday.
She got given £54 for her birthday.
How much more money does Cara need to get to buy her phone?



£

A car costs £7,525.

In a sale its price is reduced by £1,890.

What is the new price of the car?

£

1 mark

SATs Tip 8: Remind them to underline/highlight key parts of the question

This is another simple tip, but if children are not reminded to do it they can often forget when they are immersed in their SATs test.

By simply underlining key parts of the question they are working on, it will help them to focus on specific calculations or problems that need to be solved.

In the reading paper they should highlight where they found the last answer from in order to carry on from there as the questions are mostly in the same order as the text.

SATs Tip 9: Make up and make use of mnemonic devices

E.g.

I View X-Rays to remember the order of the Roman Numerals for 1, 5 and 10;

KFC to remember the way to divide fractions (**Keep** the first fraction. **Change** the sign from divide to multiply. **Flip** the last fraction)

SATs Tip 10: Remind them to take their time in the tests

Rushing equals mistakes, so one of our most important SATs tips is to remind your child to take their time and start with the harder questions on the paper.

It can be easy for children to try and go through the paper as quickly as possible in an attempt to make sure it is completed, but this is not best practice when it comes to any type of exams!

SATs Tip 11: Revise in small chunks

The children can easily get overwhelmed with the amount they have to do, short activities can help with this.

SATs Tip 12: Put the tests into perspective for them

When you are a 10 or 11-year-old, SATs can seem like a much bigger deal than they should do.

At that age you see these tests as something that you have been working towards for a long period of time, and whilst they are important, **SATs are not the be-all and end-all.**

SATs Tip 13: Talk to your child about their stress and listen

It is very important that you speak to your child throughout the entire SATs period and discuss with them anything they may be finding stressful.

Your child trusts you, and by just lending your ear to their worries and fears you will find that they are a lot less stressed than they otherwise might be.

SATs Tip 14: Use the right language around the home

There should be no mentions of “*passing*” or “*failing*” in the run up to, or during the SATs. It is up to you to set the right tone around your home.

SATs Tip 15: Discuss the concepts of anxiety and stress with them

With your child being such a young age when they sit the SATs, this could be the first time they experience anxiety or stress so they may not know how to describe what they are feeling.

The best thing to do is to simply sit with your child and discuss both the physical and mental effects stress and anxiety can have to help them articulate anything they may be feeling.

SATs Tip 16: Get the correct test dates in your calendar early

