

Sycamore Group - Supporting Learning at Home

Spring Term 2017. Topic: Past and Present

What we will do in school...	What you could do to support this learning at home...
<p>Social Communication Skills Our focus on encouraging the children to be effective communicators, all day, every day no matter what the lesson, continues... 'Language partners' will be encouraged to use subject-verb-object (SVO) phrases to request and to comment both with adults and with peers, and to include adjectives or position words. We will also help them to recognise and label their feelings, and begin to choose appropriate strategies to regulate their emotions. 'Conversation partners' will be encouraged to talk in clear sentences both to the adults, and amongst themselves. They will be encouraged to discuss their thoughts and opinions in a variety of contexts including during stories and science lessons. They will continue to learn to recognise and regulate their emotions through the Zones of Regulation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your child is at the 'language partner' level of communication we are happy to provide visual cues to help them communicate more effectively with you at home. • Label your child's emotions for them, say 'You look happy/sad/ worried' and give them a choice of strategies to help them e.g. 'would you like some space or a cuddle?' • If your child is at the 'conversation partner' level of communication encourage them to talk to you. Ask them what they are doing; ask them their opinions and encourage them to say why. Encourage use of full sentences and model use of new and interesting words.
<p>Numeracy Our focus for this term is <i>Addition and Subtraction</i>. The children will consolidate their understanding of number and place value using resources such as Numicon. They will continue to practice counting forwards and backwards, and will learn to identify the number one more or one less than a given number up to 100. They will be taught to add and subtract using practical methods such as Numicon and counters, number lines, and mental methods.</p> <p>The children will also further their knowledge of shapes, exploring 2d and 3d shapes. They will explore which shapes they can find in 'real' situations, such as oblong doors, square windows and cylinder log rolls. They will then move on to measures, exploring weight. The children will use non-standard measures, before moving on to explore scales and identifying how to measure exact quantities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make up little 'number stories' e.g. 'we had 10 slices of bread and you've eaten two. How many have we got left?' • Encourage your child to play maths games on the tablet/computer e.g. Ladybird Spots http://www.topmarks.co.uk/r.aspx?sid=4720 or Addition http://www.topmarks.co.uk/r.aspx?sid=4021 • Continue to practise counting, reading the clock, and measuring skills such as when you are weighing ingredients in cooking. • Explore together shapes that you come across in your own home, or when out and about. • Encourage your child to explore weight such as light and heavy. Explore together a set of scales, focusing on the balance level.

Literacy

This term we will be focusing on stories about space, including *Beegu*, by Alexis Deacon. We will use this story to encourage the children to express their opinions, to make inferences based on the pictures, and to make links to their own experiences. The story will also be used as another way of recognising and thinking about feelings. Through role play the children will have opportunities to put themselves in the position of the character and think about how they might feel. The children will be given opportunities to practice composing and writing captions and/or sentences using 'coloured semantics' (colour coded symbols) for support where needed.

The children will have regular phonics and handwriting lessons in small groups, and will read to an adult at least once a week. After half-term the children will look at information books about Space. They will be taught about the special features of information books and how to use them.

- Find and read stories about space, or anything else that your child finds interesting.
- Encourage your child to read their reading book, or any other book, with you if they are willing. Please make a note of how they got on in their **yellow reading diary**.
- Play phonics computer games e.g. <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/PictureMatch.htm> | or <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/BuriedTreasure2.html>
- Encourage your child to write e.g. shopping lists, birthday cards, reminders...

Humanities

Our topic for this term is Past & Present. Our focus this term will be the 1960's. This half-term we shall be exploring what life was like in the 1960's, focusing on household equipment, transport, fashion and childhood leisure activities.

In the second half-term we will focus on space exploration. The children will learn about the first moon-landing by Yuri Gagarin. We will then explore the Apollo 11 space mission, when Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon.

- Use library books or the internet to share knowledge of the 1960's with your child. Explore areas such as fashion, music, leisure activities and transport. Focus on the contrast from today, such as record players rather than cd players.
- Encourage your child to talk to family members and friends who remember the 1960's and who can easily retell stories of what life was like.
- Explore together the moon landing - that's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind!

Science

Our focus this half-term is **Light**. The children will learn about different sources of light (and some may explore common misconceptions, such as whether a mirror ball or the Moon are sources of light). The children will have fun exploring the effects of light in a dark room, and will learn how shadows are formed.

In the second half-term we will look at **forces and movement**. The children will

- Encourage your child to identify different sources of light at home, and when you are out and about.
- Try playing with a torch and making different shadows on the wall.
- Explore different moving toys together. Can

<p>explore how a variety of objects can be moved using pushes or pulls, and will conduct simple tests to find out the effects of other factors on speed or movement. The children will explore different ways of launching toy rockets using air, water or simple chemical reactions.</p>	<p>your child explain how they move? E.g. Fly a kite, play with a remote control car, ride a bike...</p>
<p>Art In Art this half-term the children are learning about colour mixing. They will learn about the 3 primary colours, and will explore the colours they can make. Some of the children will look at how famous artists, such as Piet Mondrian, Paul Klee and Mark Rothko, have used colour mixing in their art</p> <p>DT In the second half-term the children will have an opportunity to make their own toy rocket using one of the propulsion methods we have learnt about in Science.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are brave enough (!) get the paints out at home and explore mixing different colours. • Look at paintings you may have at home - what colours have the artists used? • Explore simple ways of making toys you can blow e.g. blow football - all you need is a scrunch up piece of paper and two straws - lots of fun!



Swimming Sycamore Group will have their turn to go swimming **after February half-term**. They will go every Monday until the end of the summer term.



Forest School Sycamore Group will continue to go to Forest School every **Tuesday Morning** up until February half-term. Please make sure your child has wellies, a warm waterproof coat and a change of clothes in case they get wet.

Spare Clothes Your child will have opportunities to engage in sensory activities including messy play with water, sand, paint, etc. Although the children are encouraged to wear aprons, accidents do happen! Please send a spare set of clothes [**named please!**] for your child in case they should need to change.



Home-School Book Please check the book every day.

Remember - the Home-School book is for you too!! Please feel free to write what your child has been up to at home, any new achievements and any concerns or questions you may have. If your child has missed breakfast, had a bad night's sleep, or anything else - please let us know so that we can care for them accordingly.

Thank you for taking the time to read this term's information. If you have any other queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Claire, Alison and the Sycamore Team - Vanessa, Angela, Aaron & Tahira