



# Curriculum Information

## Sycamore, Rowan and Larch September - October 2020



Produced by:

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[www.swansfieldpark.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.swansfieldpark.northumberland.sch.uk)

Welcome to the first Upper Key Stage 2 newsletter of the year. It has been wonderful to have the children back in school; finally seeing their smiles, listening to their stories and hearing their laughter and excitement. We really have missed this at Swansfield Park. We are happy to report that the children are settling well into their new classes and routines and we are enjoying working and spending time together in our class bubbles.

For the first two weeks, the children's learning has been guided by our whole school theme 'And How Are You?'. This has involved activities based around the theme of health, well-being and mindfulness. It has also involved lots of opportunities for practical activities, discussion-based work and outdoor learning. Soon we will be ready to progress to our very exciting (and rather gruesome!) topic *Temples, Tombs and Treasures* whilst also catching up on some of the learning that was missed during our school closure.

*This involves:*

### **History - Ancient Egypt**

Children will learn about the achievements of the earliest civilizations with an overview of where and when the first civilizations appeared through an in-depth study of Ancient Egypt. They will describe the discovery made by the archaeologist Howard Carter in Egypt in 1922 and explain its historical importance as well as explaining who the pharaoh Tutankhamun was. They will look at the contents of Tutankhamun's tomb and identify and describe some of the many artefacts found by Carter, making judgements about them and justifying their opinion as to their purpose and what they indicate about life in Ancient Egypt. Children will use their reasoning skills to make a judgement as to which of the artefacts might be considered of most significance in terms of understanding the life and times of Tutankhamun and they will then be challenged to justify their views. Children will consider the evidence of how ancient Egyptians portrayed the stages of entry into the afterlife in a number of murals and make a reasoned and justified judgement as to what they might represent. They will also describe and explain the most likely cause of Tutankhamun's death at just eighteen years of age and make and justify a judgement as to the most plausible explanation as well as demonstrate their understanding through explanation and reasoning why the cause of the death of Tutankhamun is a contentious issue through critiquing the available evidence and evaluating the conflicting arguments. Finally, children will present their hypothesis as to what may have happened to cause the death of Tutankhamun in the form of a piece of historical fiction which demonstrates the conventions of that genre of writing.

### **Geography - Egypt and The River Nile**

Through a historical study of Ancient Egypt, children will locate Egypt on a world map and look at which continent it is found and which other modern-day countries and seas surround it. They will discuss what kind of country Egypt is in terms of natural (average temperature, average precipitation and physical features of the country) and physical geography (the population and the location and name of the capital city). Principally, to provide context to the historical study of Ancient Egypt, children will investigate the geographical features of the River Nile, such as its length, tributaries, source and mouth, as well as looking at which countries besides Egypt the Nile runs through. Children will locate the Nile and describe its route and geographical features using the eight points of the compass as well as grid references. Children will also consider why the Nile was vital for the survival of the Ancient Egyptians and why it continues to be important to this day. Additionally, children will compare and contrast the geographical features and use of the River Nile with a major local river, the Tyne.



## **Art & Design - Papyrus Painting**

Children will learn how Papyrus revolutionised the way the Egyptians recorded information about their lives. They will make their own replica of a piece of papyrus artwork, studying the art from ancient Egypt for ideas and inspiration.

## **Computing - E-Safety**

Through the study of E-Safety, children will learn how to keep themselves safe online starting by exploring issues of self-image and online identity in the age of the selfies. Children will understand their online representation, deciding what is appropriate to post online and their digital footprints. They will learn about making positive contributions to social networks and online communities. Moving on, the children will learn about privacy settings and setting app restrictions, what cyberbullying is and how to deal with it, game and app age restrictions and screen time as well as evaluating when health websites are reliable sources and when they are just trying to sell something.

## **Science - Diet and Exercise**

The children will start by identifying and naming the parts of the human circulatory system and describing the functions of the main parts of the circulatory system. Moving on, the children will investigate how water and nutrients are transported within the body. The children will learn how diet and exercise impact on human bodies by designing and carrying out an experiment to investigate the effect of different types of exercise on our circulatory system. To finish this unit of work, the children will discuss the impact of drugs and alcohol on the body.

## **Other Foundation Subjects**

**P.E.** Football Coaching (*Tuesdays*), Yoga and Daily Mile

**R.E.** Hinduism: Beliefs and Worship

**R.E.** Buddhism & the Eight-Fold Path

**French** Keeping Fit and French Foods

**Music** Charanga

**P.S.H.E.** Being Me in My World

## **English:**

### **Explanation and Instructional Texts - Breathe by Lit Film Fest**

Children will begin the year by exploring explanation and instructional texts focused on the benefits of mindfulness and meditation; taking part in daily meditation exercises. Through this they will explore a range of explanation and information texts; identifying the features belonging to this genre, as well as understanding the purposes of different writing styles for different audiences. The children will develop their writing skills by selecting appropriate vocabulary, sentence types and using adverbials to link ideas across paragraphs. Finally, children will plan and draft their own explanation and instruction text before using their editing and proof reading skills to improve their writing.

### **Historical Fiction - Secrets of the Sun King by Emma Carroll**

The children will explore the first three chapters of this book, developing their written comprehension skills by increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books; being able to deduce, predict, infer and summarise, take account of viewpoint in a story and explore and discuss themes and issues. The children will then use each chapter as a stimulus to inform a newspaper report, an informal letter and a persuasive letter. Before writing the different types of text, the children will explore the different features of them, develop different sentence types and structure and use of punctuation for effect. The children will plan and draft before using their editing and proof reading skills to improve their writing before using their neat cursive writing to produce their final piece.



## **Mathematics - Geometry (Properties of Shape), Place Value and Calculating**

Children will develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of properties of shapes when they first return to school. Through this practical, hands-on unit of work they will identify, name and describe the properties of both 2D and 3D shapes, including different types angles, lines of symmetry as well as the presence of horizontal, vertical, parallel and perpendicular lines. They will also apply their knowledge of these properties to classify a number of 2D and 3D shapes using both Venn and Carroll diagrams.

When developing their place value skills, they will be provided with opportunities to read, write order and compare numbers up to at least 1,000,000 (Year 5) / 10,000,000 (Year 6) whilst determining the value of each digit and rounding them to the nearest 10, 100, 1000, 10,000 and 100,000. They will also use negative numbers in context, calculating intervals across zero as well as read Roman numerals to 1000.

When calculating, children will use formal written methods, adding and subtracting whole numbers with 2-digit whole number (Year 6). The children's ability to 'reason' will be developed throughout all of their mathematical work as they are continuously encouraged to explain, justify and deepen their thinking.

*For specific learning objectives and curriculum coverage in English and Maths, please look at the Autumn Term planning documents on the school website within your child's class page.*

## **Homework & Spellings**

**Weekly Tasks:** Every **Monday**, your child will be set two homework tasks: one English and one Maths. They will have until the following Monday to complete them and these will be detailed in the 'Homework' section of your child's class page on the school website:

[www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk) As we move towards a more digital way of working and try to reduce the number of items being transferred between home and school, the majority of your child's homework will be accessed online through Google Classrooms or School360. Tasks will be based upon what the children have been learning in class in order to consolidate their new knowledge, skills and understanding. If your child has any difficulties accessing their homework online, please contact their class teacher and alternative arrangements can be discussed.

**Spellings:** Your child has recently been given their login details for our new online spelling programme 'Spelling Frame' ([www.spellingframe.co.uk](http://www.spellingframe.co.uk)). Spellings will be set and tested each **Monday** and it is important that your child routinely practises their spellings online each week. Weekly spellings will also be listed within the 'Homework' section of your child's class page on the school website instead of spelling books being transferred between school and home.

**Mental Maths:** Your child has recently been given their login details for Times Tables Rockstars ([www.ttrockstars.com](http://www.ttrockstars.com)). This online programme should be used by your child on a **weekly** basis to develop and secure their times tables skills. Metal maths skills will be tested on a weekly basis.

**Reading:** Guided Reading will soon take place on a **weekly** or **fortnightly** basis depending on groups and length or type of book being read. To maintain the integrity of your child's bubble, Guided Reading will take place in the classroom under the direction of the class teacher. Your child will be informed which day they need to bring their book to school and to which page or chapter they need to read. It is important that your child still reads a range of literature (magazines, books, newspapers) for at least one hour per week, in addition to their school guided reading book. Your child may also have been set additional reading online using Reading Plus (<https://student.readingplus.com>), if this applies to your child, they will have been given their username and password again and they will need to continue to complete a **minimum of two** of the five set Reading Plus tasks online at home each week.



**Additional items in school:** Each child has been provided with a stationery pack this year so please ensure that pencil cases and equipment remain at home. Each child will however need to bring a clean, named water bottle to school each day as we can no longer provide cups within classrooms. As detailed in the UKS2 disclaimer form prior to the summer, mobile phones should only come in to school under exceptional circumstances. Class teacher are no longer able to collect them in and store them securely, instead children will have to leave them in their coats and school will take no responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones in school.

Although mobile phones are not used within school, please could we ask that children's use of social media is carefully monitored by all parents. Teachers have already spent valuable teaching time dealing with a number of incidents this academic year. If you would like further guidance regarding age restrictions or parental controls, we are more than happy to provide you with this information, please get in touch with your child's class teacher.

**PE Kits:** Children in UKS2 will be having football coaching sessions on a **Tuesday** this half term with staff from the Newcastle United Foundation. Again, to reduce the number of items coming in to school, they will need to come to school dressed in their outdoor clothing each Tuesday as detailed in the letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September - 'PE Session for Autumn Term'. Please ensure that they also have a pair of clean shoes to wear following their football sessions.

**Wellies and outdoor shoes:** Please ensure that your child has a pair of named wellies or outdoor shoes available in school at all times for playtime as well as outdoor learning activities. Children in KS2 will also be participating in a Daily Mile Challenge this half term so additional footwear in school is essential.

***And finally, from the Upper Key Stage 2 team...***

Thank you for all of your support and positive comments over the last week, they really are appreciated. If you have any further queries or questions, please just get in touch, we are always here to help.

Take care and stay safe everyone!

Mrs Murdy

Miss Back

Mr Warburton

