



Sycamore News

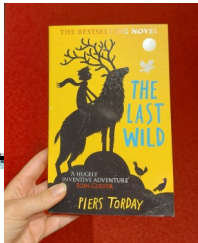
Spring 2 edition

03/03/25

Hello everyone! Welcome to our newsletter this half term and an overview of our new topic Utopia vs dystopia! This topic will help us unpick how a utopian world is one that is perfect and whether it can ever be achieved? We will then compare it to a dystopian world, where it is the complete opposite! Take a look at our learning for this half term and how our theme links to our subjects! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask or email me at sycamore@mundford.dneat.org. I look forward to another exciting half term of learning!

English:

In English, we will be reading the Last Wild by Piers Torday which will include writing our own stories based in a dystopian world, linked to the book's setting and plot!



Utopia vs dystopia

Maths:



This half term, we will be looking at units of measure and converting between units of measurement. We will then be looking at ratio and proportion and even a bit of algebra!

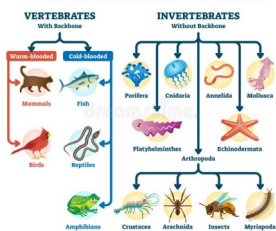
Science:

In Science, we will be looking at living things and their habitat. We will be classifying animals, plants and microorganisms. We will then be designing our own mythical creature to live in a utopian world and one to survive in a dystopian world

Geography:

In Geography, we will be answering the big question: What elements create a perfect 'utopian' society? We will be comparing first and third world countries and thinking about elements that would make a perfect place to live? This may be no poverty? Good healthcare? Safe places to live? Transportation links? Eco friendly sources of energy?

CLASSIFICATION OF ANIMALS



P4C:

Some of the P4C questions we will be discussing:

Can we ever live in a perfect world? Can you be happy if you are poor?

If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?

Art

In Art, we will be looking at the work of Yayoi Kusama. Her work is often reflective of a perfect world. It often used shapes from nature which she always felt had a calming influence. We will be making our own flower sculptures in her style!



Homework:

As well as spellings and daily reading, the children have a weekly Maths or English to complete. The aim of these activities is to revisit learning within lessons, to ensure knowledge is embedded. Sometimes the Maths or English task might be replaced by another subject but will still require the use of English or Maths skills. The children will also be given some revision books for the Year 6 SATs and these will be issued this half term. Sometimes the homework set may be a section from the revision guides. The children are also expected to record some reading in their reading record book daily. They can record this themselves if they have read alone, but ideally they should still be reading to an adult twice a week.

Attached to this newsletter are some top tips for SATs preparation in the lead up to the tests in May.

The SATs this year will run from: **Monday, 12 May to Thursday, 15 May 2025.**

The children will be well prepared, but any questions, please do ask.



Our Mundford Junction this half term will be Monday 31st March 9.15-10.15 and our next showcase is Thursday 24th April 9.15-9.45 to show off all of our wonderful work from our previous topic.

Our PE days will be Mondays and Thursdays.

The children will have a spelling test every Friday and need to remember to learn their spellings for the test. These will be given out on the Friday the week before the test.



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 (see dates on previous side of the newsletter).