



Dear Parents,



## Sycamore - Term 3 Newsletter 'The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China'



I hope you have had a lovely Christmas holiday! Our topic for term 3 is 'The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China' and the geography of China. We will be reading a variety of Chinese folktales and reading 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman during our guided reading sessions. We will also be learning about dragons and doing some creative writing based around them!

On **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January**, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year! We will spend the day creating crafts and learning about how this is celebrated around the world. As this is a new topic, if you have anything you think might be useful for this topic (or Chinese New Year celebrations), it would be greatly appreciated!

<b>Reading</b>	Please read with your child regularly, even if it is just one page. Their books and book bags will need to be in everyday for 1:1 reading. You may like to add a positive or helpful comment in their homework diary, but please acknowledge the fact that the book has been read by signing and dating in the comments space. A member of staff will be checking homework diaries on a <b>Friday</b> and children are expected to have read at least 3 times a week with an adult.
<b>Spellings</b>	Spelling tests are every <b>Thursday</b> and your child will be tested on the ten spellings they selected in the previous week (from either the Year 3&4 or 5&6 curriculum spelling lists). Their spelling tests results will be recorded in the back of their books for them to share with you.
<b>Maths</b>	Maths homework will be sent home on a <b>Friday</b> and completed for the following <b>Friday</b> . The homework set will either be based on their learning in class or mental maths questions.
<b>Grammar</b>	Grammar homework will be sent home on a <b>Friday</b> and your child will have <b>2 weeks</b> to complete this. The homework will be based on the grammar they will be learning within their literacy lessons.

### Helping to enrich our topics

It is always great to have items or visitors that support our topic, so if anyone has any experience or items that may help us with any of the work above that we could hear about or borrow, we would love to see and hear about them.

**Reminders** - Please can you make sure your child brings in a water bottle each day with fresh water; ensure all jumpers are labelled and bring a coat for the wet weather.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Miss Hare

## Reading at school and at home

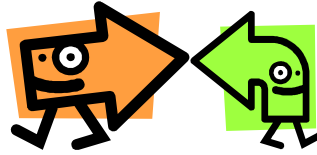
Reading strategies the children use in school and can be referred to at home.

I could sound out the word.

dog

sweet

I can miss out the word. Then I could read on to the end of a sentence and then go back and check what would make sense.



I look for smaller words in words.

butterfly

cat

handwriting

I talk through my ideas, thoughts and feelings about what I am reading so I understand it.



When I read I imagine what is happening and create a picture in my mind.



I use the pictures to help me.





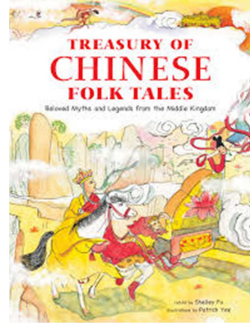
# 'The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China' Learning Map



## Literacy



## Chinese Folktales



## Creative writing: Dragons



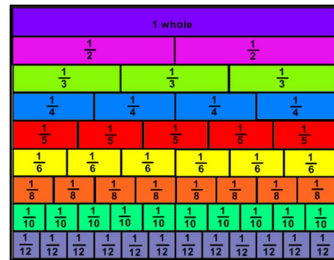
## Grammar

verb  
adverb  
noun  
pronoun  
adjective  
vowel  
consonant

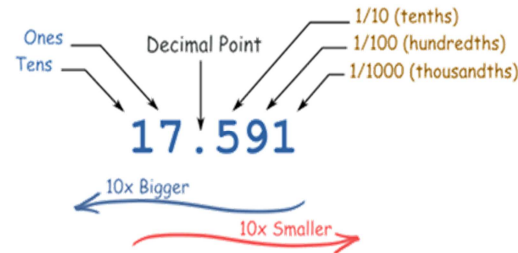
## Maths



## Fractions



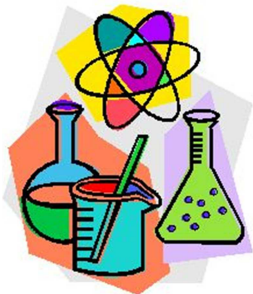
## Decimals



## Percentages

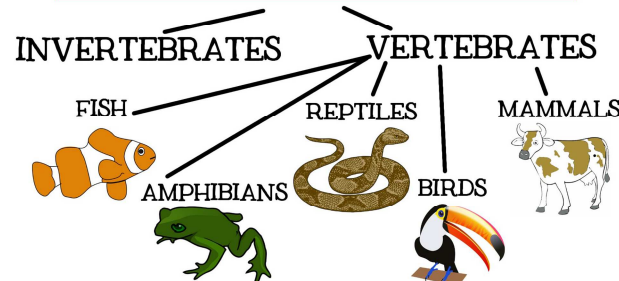


## Science



## Classification

### ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION



### MAMMALS

- give birth to live young
- have hair or fur
- mammal mothers nurse their young with milk
- warm-blooded



# Art



## Chinese patterns



## Chinese New Year Dragons



## History



## History of Shang Dynasty



## Artefacts and lifestyle



## Dragon myths



# PSHE



## Living in the wider world



# Computing



# E-Safety



# Purple Mash



# RE



*How do the actions  
of the church  
affect your  
community?*



# Music



# Traditional Chinese instruments



# Chinese compositions



## Useful Websites:

<http://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/shang-dynasty>

[http://www.ducksters.com/history/china/shang\\_dynasty.php](http://www.ducksters.com/history/china/shang_dynasty.php)

<http://www.historyforkids.net/dynasties-of-ancient-china.html>

## Questions you could ask your child about their learning this term:

- What dates did the Shang Dynasty span from?
- Who were influential people during the Shang Dynasty?
- How is Chinese New Year celebrated?
- Which animal is the year 2017 going to be?
- Which year were you born in? Which animal is this?
- Do you know any characteristics of the animal whose year you were born in?



## Possible home learning tasks:

- Make a presentation of the similarities and differences between modern day China and China during the Shang Dynasty? (Think about how people live, government, religion, dress, food etc.)
- Make a model of a Chinese dragon.
- Find out about why dragons are an important part of Chinese history and culture.