



# Welcome to Maple Class!

14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome to Maple Class. We have a full programme of work and topics to keep the children busy and learning this term. Here is an outline of what we are going to do.

## English:

The children will be reading and investigating a variety of text forms, including fables and myths, classic fiction in the form of Alice in Wonderland a range of poetry and poetic forms, instructional writing and autobiography and biography. Independent reading is very important and done every day, with one of us hearing your child at least once in a fortnight. Maple Class also do some Guided Reading sessions and some reading-related activities such as writing book reviews and comprehension tasks. The children will also be learning spelling patterns, improving and adding to the punctuation they use, and examining and practising grammatical structures.

The children will have five spelling words to learn in their homework and will have a piece of English homework to do that should not take longer than about half an hour. Let us know if the homework is taking your child much longer than that. We will send out homework on Wednesdays and the children can complete it and bring it back on the following Monday. We will be doing some "Talk for Big Write" homework during the term, where the children will come home with a topic to talk to you about. This is to help prepare them for writing about it on the following day.

## Maths:

Maple children will be studying a wide range of maths topics, including number and place value, using measures, finding fractions, and using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to find the answers to real life problems. They will be working on geometry and using different units of measurement to measure length, weight and capacity and time. They will also be trying to improve mental fluency by finding different strategies to solve calculations. The children will be using manipulative equipment and real life applications, including doing some Maths outside.

The children will have some homework set on Mathletics to help consolidate and encourage many skills outside of lessons also. When the children get certificates on Mathletics, we will endeavour to present these to them during assemblies, also. Furthermore, the children will be learning and practising times tables and related division facts. These will be tested on a Thursday with a prompt card for their relevant stage, given on a Friday. It would be great to see lots of Maple class become Champion times tablers!

## Science:

This term we are going to be studying living things and their habitats. We will look at the importance of classification and how to identify living things. We will also be looking at plants and life cycles.

We will be undertaking investigative work and learning how to draw informed conclusions from our findings. We will also be using the ideas from the Explorify website, from the BBC, which you are very welcome to follow with your child at home. It gives delightful ideas for investigations, some of which can be done at home. More information to follow this term.

**Topic:**

“The Victorians” is our topic about Queen Victoria’s era in which so much change took place. In this, the children will be able to explore what might have changed since then, looking at how Victorian children’s lives were different and what inventions occurred during the time. We will explore how Victorian homes were run and find out about some famous Victorians. Later on, we will look at Christmas through Charles Dickens’ eyes.



We will also find out about the Victorian history of Little Hadham School.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, Maple Class will be taking a trip back in time when we go to Colne Valley in Essex for the day, to experience a Victorian classroom, steam trains, and visit a Music Hall, amongst other things. For this, the children can dress up in Victorian dress and take a plastic-free packed lunch (there was no plastic as we know it in Victorian times).



**Other curriculum areas:**

Maple will be learning songs and using instruments in Music. They will be improving skills in Art and Design, using various materials, pencils and paint, and tools. They will be exploring how to create 3D effects and 3D scenes. We will investigate some illustrations in the original Alice in Wonderland, linked with our Victorian topic. They will be finding out about Hinduism, Sikhism and Christianity in RE, comparing their ideas about God and exploring “Ultimate Questions”. In ICT Maple children will be trying to improve their keyboard skills. They will also be making Powerpoints about their topic and using search engines to find information. The children will be having outdoor PE with Matt on Thursday mornings and sessions of indoor PE on Mondays, so they will need their PE kits in school all the time. Swimming will continue on Wednesday mornings, with Year 4 taking the first turn. Maple Class will be learning “Mamma Mia” using Music Charanga, working on singing and using instruments too. Year 5 are learning keyboards with the keyboard teacher for half an hour on Mondays, also.

This term, Year 5 are starting the Forest sessions, up in Millennium Wood. Year 4 will do this later in the year. This is led by the children, with den-building being popular and some team games and science-related or art activities to be conducted.

We look forward to a terrific term of learning with your child as a very welcome part of Maple Class.

Yours sincerely,

**Ms K Penning, Mrs L Whittet and Mrs T Lammin**

**Maple Class Team**

