

# MAPLE CLASS CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER SPRING TERM 2016



## The Rainforest

The following information is an overview of some of the activities your child will be doing and some of the things they will be learning about this term. The main focus of this topic will be through Literacy, Geography, Music and Art.

### LITERACY

In our Literacy work we will be exploring the life of tribal families who live in the rainforest. We will focus on using our sense to describe the rainforest setting and use characterisation to write our stories. We will be developing our non-fiction skills to debate the arguments for and against deforestation of the rainforest.

We will also be working out writing letters, formal and informal. We are working on writing newspaper style reports too and the skills and features which relate to that. Some of this will relate to our main topic.

We are continuing with our **BIG WRITING** which will still take place every two weeks. They will be set 'Talk for Writing' Homework in preparation for their Big Write session the following week. During the session itself there will be dimmed light, very quiet background music and a candle lit for contemplation.

### GEOGRAPHY

In Geography, we will locate and find information about the Amazon rainforest. We will learn about the different layers of the rainforest and explore the different creatures that have adapted to live there, and those animals that are endangered.

## ART

We will be describing tribal art and its significance which will then lead on to designing our own tribal art.

We will also be improving sketching skills, looking at how to create variations in tone with pencils and paint.

## MUSIC

We will explore how to create rainstorm sounds by making rain-sticks and using our hands and bodies. We will also recreate the different sounds of rainforest animals using instruments.

## MATHS

Here we will continue to work on a wide range of skills, including perimeter, area and volume, position and direction. Children will learn how to draw line graphs for different purposes. They will continue to work on number skills and knowledge of the number system. They will work on fractions and percentages and they will have opportunities for problem-solving within these maths topics.

## PE

The children will be designing their own workouts inside, looking at how to improve strength, stamina, balance and mobility. They will also be learning tag rugby outside for part of the term. This takes place on a Monday, so children will need to have their outdoors PE kit for that then.

Until Half Term, the Year 4's will continue to attend Swimming sessions at Grange Paddocks on Wednesdays. After Half Term, Year 5 will start their sessions.

Thursdays is outdoor games with Games our Sports coach Matt. Please ensure your child's ***full PE kit is in school every day and that all items are clearly named.***

## PSHE

Our PSHE topic for the term is exploring friendship difficulties and successes and to look at how we can mentor in a dispute. We will also be covering aspects of PSHE in our Fair Trade topic later in the term.

## ICT

Here, children will collect, interpret and organise data using graphing. They will also research using the internet and use powerpoint to create a

presentation about rainforests. They will continue to work on keyboard touch-typing skills too.

#### SCIENCE

Our topics are Forces - where we are exploring gravity, friction and air resistance. Also, after half term, electricity and circuits.

#### D & T

Children will design a truffle recipe and make it for our Fair Trade topic, using fair trade ingredients.

#### RE

In RE we will be looking at ways of belonging, focusing Sikhism. We will also explore issues to do with Fair Trade farmers which carries certain religious values that we will find out about.

We look forward to working with your child and thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Ms Penning and Mrs Martin