

**Maple
Class**

**Spring
term 2018**



Rainforest

Dear Parents,

This term Maple Class has the topic of Rainforests. This topic develops geographical skills involving maps, finding out about where rainforests are in the world and what they are like, and discovering what plants and animals are found there. The children will investigate how people live in rainforest lands, including how cocoa is grown, which links with Fairtrade Fortnight in March. Maple Class will also look at the environmental changes and threats to rainforests and why rainforests are so important to preserve.

In Science, the children will explore electrical circuits, how they work, the symbols used to represent parts of working circuits and electrical insulators. They will look at safety also. The children will continue to use Explorify to help them develop their reasoning skills in science.

Maple Class will have PE with Matt on a Thursday morning and netball skills and games on Monday afternoons. Year 4 will finish their swimming at half term and Year 5 will pick theirs up after this.

In RE, Maple children will explore themes of identity and belonging, and what these mean in Christianity, Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam. They will also find out about aspects of prayer and make links between this and mindfulness.

Forest will continue for Year 4s until half term, when Year 5 start this for the next six weeks.

In Art and Design, the children will make paintings of rainforest animals, after considering colour, pattern and texture. The children will continue to practise sketching skills. They will also begin to make designs using compasses. For Design and Technology, the children will design and make a box of Fairtrade chocolate truffles.

In PSHEE, the children are setting goals for themselves. They are also going to be looking at how it is "Good to be me!" and thinking about what makes each of them themselves. After half term, we look at 'Good to be me', which celebrates 'difference'.

In French, Maple will work on building their penfriend relationships through letter writing, and to this purpose, learning vocabulary about the family and pets.

Maple Class will be using Gooseberry Planet to find out more about internet safety during the term. They will use search engines to research topics related to rainforests and newspaper reports in English.

Maple children will have Mathletics set for them on a weekly basis, Spelling and English homework. They should continue to work on learning their times tables also. We encourage the children to take their books home to read daily, also.

We look forward to a full and stimulating term with Maple Class!

Ms Penning, Mrs Whittet and Mrs Lammin

