

Maple class

Welcome to Maple Class. We hope you have had a lovely summer with your children and a well-deserved rest. Below you will find more detail about what your child will be learning this term.

This term, in **History**, we will develop children's knowledge of the Norman invasion and settlement. Children will learn about the Battle of Hastings, key dates and events, Norman culture, the feudal system and the Domesday Book.

After half term, in **Geography**, we will learn about Village settlers. This project will travel our pupils back to the time of the early village settlers as they will discover how towns and villages got their names and why certain areas were chosen as settlements. Then they will return to the present day and look at settlements and explore maps of surrounding areas.

Maple Class will be taught **PE** by our super sports coaches, Matt and Miss Bennett. This term, children will be taught netball and tag rugby. They will also have a Yoga session with Mrs Sassis on Mondays and a Forest school session with Connor on Fridays.

In **Science**, we will learn about eating, digestion and teeth in animals, including humans. We will then learn about Life Cycles and will explore the processes of sexual and asexual reproduction in plants, find out about sexual reproduction in animals, investigate the differences in the life cycles of different animals and find out about the work of naturalists.

In **RE**, we will think about own sense of identity as well as the communities we belong to. We will discuss values, rights & responsibilities, diversity, religious perspectives, British values, and global citizenship. After half term, we will discover the details behind the Christmas story, find out why Bethlehem was the location of the greatest story ever told and how Mary and Joseph found themselves with a newborn in a barn.

Our **PSHE** units in the Autumn term will be looking at friendships and understand how to maintain healthy relationships through compromise, recognising emotional needs, assertiveness and communicating responsibly and respectfully. We will also look at celebrating ourselves, as well as celebrating cultural and religious differences in our society.

Children will also participate in our whole school project 'Cinderella then and now - Discovering values' and they will work on sharing their learning and ideas in twinspace, collaboratively working with other classes and schools from Greece, Croatia, Poland, Spain and Italy. These lessons also link with **PSHE and Citizenship**.

In **Art**, we will look at group portraits and we will study a variety of portraits and the relationships between the figures within them. We will examine how artists use various techniques to portray relationships in their work to use as a starting point for our own portraits. Known for his paintings in the 20th century, we will learn all about the British artist, Lucian Freud (1922-2011).

In **Design and Technology**, we will develop and use our knowledge of, and skills in, a variety of sewing techniques for joining and decorating fabric!

In **Computing**, children will learn about 'Online safety'. In this unit, children will learn about email safety with a focus on preventing and dealing with spam. They will consider the importance of strong passwords and learn how to create them. Children will build on their knowledge of plagiarism and fair use of people's work by learning how to write citations and references for websites they may use. They will scrutinise photographs that they see online and learn how easy it is to manipulate pictures and present them as reality. Children will also participate in various activities in a series of creative STEAM challenges. They will tackle code, maths, art, DT and lots of problem solving.

In **Music**, our units are called 'Doctor Who' by Delia Derbyshire (original theme composed by Ron Grainer) and 'Modest Mussorgsky - A Night on the Bare Mountain'. We will listen and reflect on a piece of orchestral music, create our own piece of music using instruments and voice, perform as an ensemble and learn musical language appropriate to the task.

Our **French** unit is called 'Shopping in France'. We will learn a simple conversation to introduce ourselves and then order a selection of typical foods, drinks and snacks from a French menu.

As well as these topics, children will continue to take part in daily **Maths and English** sessions. The children will keep on using a range of different styles of writing, fictional and non-fictional for a variety of purposes and audiences and the writing will be linked to our topics, whenever possible.

Home Learning is set as follows:

ENGLISH HOME LEARNING

This term the English Home Learning will focus on reading and spelling, punctuation and grammar (spag.com). Each child will have spag.com log in details and be able to access set activities, exercises and tests. Online Home Learning activities will be set on a Wednesday and should be completed by the following Wednesday.

Reading ~ Your child should record their daily reading in their Reading Journal. When your child has finished their reading book, they are expected to write a book review in their Reading Journal. A model / example of what is expected can be found stuck inside the Reading Journal. Children should still read to adults at home whenever possible and parents / carers should continue to ask children questions about the text their child is reading (see '**A quick guide to reading in Maple Class**'). Please try to read with your child often and add a comment in the Journal if you wish.

Spelling **Spellings** ~ The spellings to be learnt will focus on prefixes and suffixes and we will also learn the words from the Year 3/4 Statutory Word list. It is expected that children will practise these spellings regularly and write sentences for some of these words, as appropriate, to show their understanding of the words. Each **Wednesday** children will be given a short dictation to test their spellings.

MATHS HOME LEARNING

Children should regularly practise their times tables and be able to recall these and any related facts at speed. Your child will have log in details for 'TTRockStars' and will be set weekly challenges to complete online. It is expected that Maple class pupils spend 10-15 minutes on TTRockstars every day. We also encourage the use of 'Hit the Button' on www.topmarks.co.uk



A Home Learning folder will also be sent home on a Wednesday and it will need to be brought back by the following Monday. Home learning will cover and reinforce maths work taught in class.

We hope you find this information useful. We are excited to work together with you over the coming year to offer your child the very best learning experiences. The term promises to be a busy, but interesting, and exciting one. We thank you in advance for your help in supporting your child so they can achieve their full potential. Please, do remember to check the class blog on the school website for weekly updates and photos of the children's learning.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Afenti-Sassis, Ms Connolly and Ms Goodger

Maple Class Team