

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 details about what your child will be learning this term.

This term, in **History**, we will learn about 'Ancient Greece: a study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world'. Maple class will be taken back to one of the most fascinating civilisations in history as they explore ancient Greece and its many wonders. The children will discover the people, the inventions, the art, the technology and the mythology of the ancient Greek as well as the Olympic games. They will be also immersed in the wonderful world of Greek gods, mortal heroes and mythical beasts.

After half term, in **Geography**, we will learn about the key physical and human characteristics of **Greece**. Children will know where Greece is located within Europe will deepen their understanding of human and physical geography, by studying them in a new context.

Maple Class will be taught **PE** by our super sports coach, Matt on Thursday. They will also have a Yoga session and a PE session with Mrs Sassis on Mondays and on Tuesdays. This term, children will work on the tag rugby, hockey, basketball and football skills. Their Forest school session with Connor will be on Fridays.

In **Science**, the Year 5 children will study the life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects, and birds, exploring differences between them. They'll learn about reproduction in plants and animals and how species adapt to their environments, which can lead to evolution. Rainforest ecosystems are a key focus, where we will learn about biodiversity, food chains, and the impact of deforestation. They will study animals and plants from the Amazon rainforest, such as the jaguar and the cacao tree. The children will also revise life processes like growth, respiration, and reproduction, using the MRS GREN acronym to help recall these processes.

Year 4 children will begin by learning about vertebrates and invertebrates before exploring and using classification keys to help group animals. They will be exploring within our forest, identifying and naming a variety of woodland creatures, as well as learning that environments can change and sometimes pose dangers to them.

After half term, the children will delve into our physics unit on electricity. They will begin by identifying common appliances that run on electricity before getting hands on whilst constructing a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts. Children will investigate whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit and recognise the function of a switch. Through investigative work, they will identify some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.

In **RE**, Year 5 children will be learning about Sikhism and Christianity. In Sikhism, they will explore the commitment Sikhs show to their faith. After half term, they will learn about Christianity by examining different accounts of the Nativity, helping them prepare to celebrate Christmas.

Before half term, Year 4s will embark on a journey exploring the beliefs that make Jewish people feel they have a special connection with God. They'll be delving into the stories of Abraham and Moses, making connections and gaining insights into the rich history and faith of this community. After the half-term break, they will dive into the world of Christianity, asking thoughtful questions about what Christmas truly means to Christians. They will explore the symbolism and traditions surrounding this important holiday, helping them gain a deeper understanding of the diverse beliefs and customs.

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 an international project with a partner school in Europe and they will work on sharing their learning and ideas, write letters and collaboratively work with their penpals. These lessons also link with **PSHE and Citizenship**.

In **Art**, we will learn out about the life and the work of an artist, Wassily Kandinsky, who spent his career developing a 'language' for expressing sounds, ideas and feelings through his paintings. Children will practise their drawing skills using specific techniques and skills, then combine elements taught to create their own abstract piece of art. Children will be challenged to sketch and develop their ideas for an abstract work of art by simplifying drawings of people, animals, places and objects.

In **Design and Technology**, children will develop and use our knowledge of, and skills in, a variety of sewing techniques for joining and decorating fabric in order to design and make their very own Christmas stocking!

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**, children will explore how music sets the mood in films, focusing on key elements like timbre (instrument sounds), tempo (speed), rhythm, dynamics (volume), and atmosphere (mood). They will study The Pink Panther theme by Henry Mancini to understand how music tells a story. Through listening, they'll recognise how elements like rhythm create mood and character, and discuss how different instrument sounds (timbre) affect the overall atmosphere. Children will also compose and improvise their own music to match a scene, using a set of instruments to create different moods.

In **French**, our units are 'Presenting myself' and 'Olympic games'. Our pupils will acquire the knowledge and skills to present themselves and talk about the Olympic games both orally and in written form in French.

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

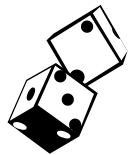
This term the English Home Learning will focus on reading and spelling, punctuation and grammar (spag.com). Each child will have spag.com log in details and will be able to access set activities, exercises and tests. SPAG Home Learning activities will be weekly, on a Monday and should be completed by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

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.

Spellings ~ The spellings to be learnt will focus on rules and patterns within words through discovery and exploration and we will also learn the words from the Year 3/4 and 5/6 Statutory Words lists. 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 **Friday** children will be given a short dictation to test their spellings.

MATHS HOME LEARNING

Maths Home Learning will focus on work taught in class. Each child will have **WWN** log in details. The WWN curriculum & learning platform will help our children become fluent & confident with number. **It is expected that Maple class pupils achieve 1-2 wins per week.**



Each child will also have maths.co.uk log in details and will be able to access set activities, exercises and tests, covering National Curriculum objectives and work taught in class. When set, Home Learning activities will be set on a Monday and should be completed by the following Monday.

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**'. **It is expected that Maple class pupils spend 20 minutes minimum on TTRockstars per week.**

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 updates and photos of the children's learning.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Afenti-Sassis, Mrs Martin, Mrs Gee, Ms Evans

Maple Class Team