

Maple class

Welcome to Maple Class!

We hope you and your children enjoyed a wonderful summer and had a well-deserved rest. Below you'll find an overview of what your child will be learning this term.

In **History**, we will be exploring Crime and Punishment. The children will journey through British history to discover how crime and its punishments have changed over time. Beginning with the Romans and travelling right through to the present day, they will learn how changes in society have influenced both the types of crimes committed and the ways in which they were dealt with.

After half term, in **Geography**, our focus will be on The United Kingdom - National Parks. The children will begin with an overview of all the National Parks in the UK before studying two in detail: the Lake District and the Pembrokeshire Coast. They will compare the physical and human features of these contrasting parks and explore both the benefits and challenges of tourism, considering how sustainable tourism can protect these special environments.

In **PE**, Maple Class will be taught by our fantastic sports coach, Matt, on Thursdays. This term, the children will focus on developing their tag rugby and football skills. They will also enjoy a Yoga session on Mondays, alongside additional PE lessons with Mrs. Afenti-Sassis on Tuesdays, where they will work on hockey and basketball. To finish the week, the children will take part in their much-loved Forest School sessions with Connor every Friday.

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.

Year 5s will explore the diverse ways Sikhs practice their faith. We will appreciate these variations and understand that personal beliefs, cultural influences, and individual choices shape how Sikhs express their religion. After half term, we will look engage in a thought-provoking study of the Christmas story, learning to assess various accounts. We will discover that stories can hold different truths for different people, emphasising the importance of perspective and understanding in our diverse world.

In **PSHE** this Autumn term, our focus will be on friendships and learning how to maintain healthy relationships. The children will explore the importance of compromise, recognising emotional needs, being assertive and communicating in a responsible and respectful way. We will also celebrate individuality by looking at what makes us unique, as well as valuing cultural and religious differences within our society.

As part of their learning, the children will also take part in an exciting international project with a partner school in Greece. They will share their ideas and learning, write letters and collaborate with their peers abroad. These activities will support their PSHE learning and also link with Citizenship.

In **Art**, the children will learn about the artist Maurits Cornelis Escher and explore the mathematical elements in his work. They will develop their drawing techniques while studying tessellation, shape and pattern. Building on these skills, they will create their own tessellation images and apply shading to produce a final piece of artwork.

In **Design and Technology**, the children will develop their knowledge and skills in a range of sewing techniques. They will learn how to join and decorate fabric, using their creativity and practical skills to produce a unique piece of textile work.

In **Computing**, the two units children will be taught are: My Online Life - Digital Literacy and Games Designer - Computer Science. Children will improve their knowledge of the risks of their online lives and develop skills when using online services. Furthermore, children will learn about the career of a Games Designer. They will play games, write reviews and then design and prototype their own game. Finally, they will pitch their game idea to the class.

In **Music**, we will be focusing on the skills around 'timbre', 'dynamics', 'rhythm' and 'texture'. We will create short sounds inspired by colours and shapes. We will understand that instruments can be used individually and in combination to create different effects of timbre and texture. We will then structure our musical ideas into a composition, create and read graphic scores. After half term, we will study the song 'Kisne Banaaya', which originates from India and Pakistan. We will sing and play the melody which is a four-part round accompanied with a pitched ostinato. We will then compose a simple accompaniment using tuned instruments.

In **French**, our units this term are "Presenting Myself" and "At Home". The children will develop the knowledge and skills to introduce themselves in French, both orally and in writing. They will also learn how to say where they live and describe the rooms they have—or do not have—in their homes.

In addition to these topics, the children will continue with daily Maths and English lessons (Year 5 with Mrs Afenti-Sassis and Year 4 with Ms Connolly). In English, they will explore a wide variety of writing styles—both fiction and non-fiction—tailored to different purposes and audiences. Wherever possible, their writing will be meaningfully linked to our class topics, helping to make learning both engaging and relevant.

Home Learning

English Home Learning

This term, English Home Learning will focus on **reading, spelling, punctuation, and grammar (spag.com)**. Each child has their own login details to access set activities, exercises and tests. Tasks will be set 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 they finish a book, they are expected to write a book review in their journal. A model/example of what is expected can be found inside. We encourage children to continue reading aloud to adults whenever possible. Parents and carers are invited to ask questions about the text (see "A Quick Guide to Reading in Maple Class") and may also add comments in the journal.
- **Spellings:** Spellings will focus on rules and patterns, as well as words from the Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 statutory word lists. Children are expected to practise these regularly and, where appropriate, write sentences to show their understanding. Each Friday, there will be a short dictation to check their progress.

Maths Home Learning

Maths Home Learning will reinforce work taught in class.

- Each child will have **WWN** login details. This platform helps children become fluent and confident with number. Pupils are expected to achieve **1 win per week**.
- Children should also **practise times tables regularly**, aiming to recall them—and related facts—quickly and accurately. Pupils will have login details for **TT Rock Stars** and are expected to spend at least **20 minutes per week** on this platform.
- Each child will also have **maths.co.uk** login details, where they will access activities and tests linked to National Curriculum objectives and class learning.

We hope you find this information useful. We are excited to work in partnership with you over the coming year to provide your child with the very best learning experiences. The term promises to be busy, but also full of interest and excitement. Thank you in advance for your continued support in helping your child achieve their full potential.

Please do remember to check the **class blog** on the school website for fortnightly updates and photos of the children's learning.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Afenti-Sassis, Mrs Martin, Ms Lewis, Ms Evans, Mrs Silva

Maple Class Team