

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 Ms Afenti-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 how to stay safe and responsible online. They will explore strong passwords, online scams, phishing, fake images, positive communication in group chats, and how to report concerns.

In the second half of term, children will learn how computer systems work, exploring inputs, processes and outputs, as well as how information is shared between devices and how search engines help us find information online.

In **Music**, the children will be exploring music through the song *Dancing in the Street*. The learning brings together musical games, singing, movement and playing instruments, helping children develop their understanding of pulse, rhythm and pitch in a fun and practical way. After half term, the children will be developing their singing voices and building confidence through a range of vocal activities. They will learn to sing together as an ensemble, focusing on phrasing, accurate pitch and musical style.

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.

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 **15 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,

Ms Afenti-Sassis, Mrs Dyson, Ms Evans, Mrs Silva

Maple Class Team