



Maple class

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed a great Christmas with family and friends. A busy term lies ahead...

Our **History** topic for the Spring term is '**The History of Space - How did space travel change the world?**' The children will study the life of Neil Armstrong and will also be introduced to Buzz Aldrin and the Apollo Missions. Our class will look at everything from Galileo's discoveries made with his telescope to Mae Jemison, the first black woman in space, the Apollo 11 moon landing and the space race.

In **Geography**, we will be learning about '**The United Kingdom, and specifically East of England**'. We will learn about how the UK is organised into countries, counties and cities, as well as learning about the human and physical features of Great Britain, such as population, life expectancy, tallest mountains, longest rivers, coastlines and much more. We will then look at more detail at East Hertfordshire and discuss whether East Hertfordshire is a good county to live in.

In **Art**, Maple class will be introduced to one of the most famous artists of all time: **Vincent van Gogh**. Children will discover what **Post-Impressionism** is and what techniques Vincent van Gogh used in his paintings. Throughout this work, the class will explore his works and have a go at creating some art of their own! They will develop their ability to use the correct brush types and strokes to create desired effects. Children will also explore landscapes and differing backgrounds and how various hues, tints and tones can form the 'mood/feeling' of a painting.

In **Design and Technology**, we will learn about '**Simple circuits and switches**'. Maple class will explore different types of **torches**, the materials they are made out of and their varied uses, as well as investigating how torches work by creating simple circuits. After exploring which types of switches and casings are most effective and why, the children will then have the opportunity to design, make and evaluate their very own torches.

Maple Class will be taught **PE** on Wednesday (Gymnastics) and on Thursday (Dodgeball). Y4s will also have a Dance session on Monday afternoons. Maple class will keep on having a P4C session on Wednesday afternoons and a Forest School session on Friday afternoons with Connor.

In **Science**, the Y4 children will learn about **sound** by looking at the human ear, vibrations, pitch and volume. They will begin the unit by exploring different instruments to understand how vibrations produce sound. Children will learn about the ear in detail in order to be able to explain how we can hear sounds. The children will have lots of opportunity to practise their investigative skills by recording variations in pitch using musical instruments and will complete the unit by planning and conducting a fair test to explore whether distance has an effect on the volume of a sound.

The Year 5 children will begin the term by studying **Earth and Space**, discovering the Sun, Earth, and Moon as spherical bodies, understanding their movements, the causes of day and night, and the Moon's cycle, while exploring how ideas about the solar system have evolved over time. After half term, they will explore **Properties and Changes of Materials**, investigating hardness, solubility, and conductivity, while learning about reversible and irreversible changes and methods for separating mixtures.

In **RE**, we (Y4) will consider the enquiry question, 'How Important is it for Jewish people to do what God asks them to do?' Through this, we will gain an understanding of how celebrating Passover and keeping the Kashrut (food laws) helps Jews show God that they value their special relationship with him. During our unit, we will enjoy debating, planning a menu for a Jewish child's birthday party and act out the story of the Passover. We will complete our unit by re-enacting a Jewish Seder meal.

The Year 5 children will explore two key RE topics. In the first half, they will learn about Sikh stories, focusing on values like equality, honesty, and selfless service (Sewa), and the importance of the Guru Granth Sahib. After half term, they will study the Easter story, exploring events such as Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, and the resurrection of Jesus, while reflecting on themes of sacrifice, forgiveness, and hope.

Our **PSHE** units in the Spring term are '**Keeping Myself Safe**' and '**Rights and Responsibilities**'. Children will learn about habits, positive and negative risks and developing strategies to help themselves and others with face-to-face and online bullying. After half term, children will learn about the differences between rights, responsibilities and duties, and the impact on individuals and the wider community if responsibilities are not carried out. As a Rights Respecting School, our lessons are closely linked to several UN articles, encouraging children to consider how upholding rights and responsibilities fosters mutual respect, fairness, and equality.

Our **Computing** units in the Spring term are '**Fun with AR**' and '**YouTuber**'. Children will be introduced to the world of AR (Augmented Reality), they will film and produce short videos and record and produce podcast / audio clips. Children will also keep on presenting information using the Microsoft packages (Word, PPT) and they will be using the Internet to research information.

This term in **Music**, children will study 'Earth' by Hans Zimmer, focusing on listening, performing, and creating music inspired by his cinematic style. They will develop skills in dynamics, rhythm, and texture through singing, playing instruments, and composing motifs. After half term, they will explore 'Watermelon Man' by Herbie Hancock, focusing on singing, improvising melodies, and performing with accuracy and expression, while learning musical notations such as rhythms and time signatures.

In **French**, we will be learning about '**La famille & Les vêtements**'. Children will acquire the knowledge and skills to present both orally and in written form their family members and different types of clothing 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

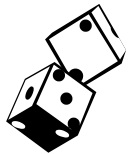
This term the English Home Learning will keep on focusing on reading and spelling, punctuation and grammar (spag.com). SPAG Online Home Learning activities reinforce work taught in class. SPAG Online Home Learning activities will be set on a Monday and should be completed by the following Monday.

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 prefixes and suffixes. It is expected that children will practise these spellings regularly. Each **Friday** 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'. **It is expected that Maple class pupils spend 20 minutes on TTRockstars per week.**



Maths Home Learning will also focus on work taught in class. Each child has maths.co.uk and 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 one win per week.** Maths Online Home Learning activities will be set on a Monday and should be completed by the following Monday.

We hope you find this information useful. 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. **Our next Learning Together Morning will be on ???^h January.** We hope to see you all!

Yours sincerely,

Maple Class Team

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