

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 **Ancient Egyptians**. Our class will be immersed in the interesting world of Ancient Egyptians. Children will locate the ancient Egyptians in time and place, and learn all about their fascinating lives and culture. From mummification to the River Nile, Maple class will find out all about life in ancient Egypt and what we can learn from the evidence the ancient Egyptians left behind.

Did you know that Ancient Egyptians used different types of vases for different purposes? Egyptian pottery was an important aspect of ancient Egyptian culture and art. In **Art**, we will be **Sculpting Vases**; we will start by looking at Ancient Egyptian vases and we will then explore a range of different everyday containers made from different materials before leading onto examining the vases of artists such as Henry Moore. We will experience hands-on activities so that we equip ourselves with a greater mastery over modelling clay and so as to develop control over a range of tools and techniques. Finally, Maple class will be designing, creating and evaluating their own artistic vases.

After half term, in **Geography**, our focus will be on **National Disasters**. Maple class will be introduced to the wilder side of the world and will find out all about the Earth's extremes, from raging tropical storms to violent erupting volcanoes to terrifying towering tsunamis. They will also explore how these extremes affect people, communities and landscapes through a series of informative and thought-provoking lessons.

In **Design and Technology**, the classroom will be turned into a toy workshop as Maple class will investigate cam mechanisms and toys that contain them. Children will discover how different shaped cams can alter the movement of the follower and how to create a sturdy structure using a variety of tools and techniques. The toymakers will then have the chance to design, make and evaluate their own moving toy with a cam mechanism.

Maple Class will be taught **PE** on Tuesday (Gymnastics) and on Thursday (Dodgeball, Netball / Handball). Y4s will also have a Dance session on Monday afternoons - Y5s will have a Dance lesson in the Summer term. 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 explore **Properties and Changes of Materials**, investigating hardness, solubility, and conductivity, while learning about reversible and irreversible changes and methods for separating mixtures. After half term, they will study **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.

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 '**Video Production**' and '**Selection in Physical Computing**'. Children will work in groups to create short videos and explore topic-based language while developing skills in filming, editing, and improving video content. They will also learn how to connect and program lights and motors, building on their existing coding skills. Children will use simple *if-then* commands to help control what happens, developing their understanding of how computers make decisions.

In **Music**, we will explore the famous orchestral piece Fanfare for the Common Man by Aaron Copland. Pupils will listen carefully and talk about how the music sounds and how it makes them feel, focusing on loud and quiet dynamics and powerful rhythms. Working together, they will create and perform their own short fanfares using instruments or body percussion, including composing a special fanfare fit for a pharaoh.

In **French**, our units are: '**Date**' and '**The classroom**'. Days of the week, months of the year and numbers 1-31 will be introduced, revised and consolidated so, by the end of this unit, pupils will have the knowledge and skills to say the date and when their birthday is in French. Children will then acquire the knowledge and skills to present both orally and in written form about what they have and do not have in their pencil cases and/or school bag in French. This is a unit that focuses on recycling previously learnt grammar, using it with new vocabulary and a better understanding of the negative form, demonstrating a growing ability to create independent responses.

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. 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 Lewis, Ms Evans, Mrs Silva

Maple Class Team