



Maple class

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely break with your family and friends. As always, a busy term lies ahead...

This term in **History**, Maple class will be immersed in the fascinating world of the **Shang Dynasty**, a pivotal era in ancient Chinese history full of innovation and technological advances. The children will explore what life was like in Bronze Age China by examining archaeological finds and consulting ancient texts. Through this, they will develop their **historical enquiry skills**, learning to compare sources of evidence and draw conclusions about everyday life, beliefs, inventions and leadership in early Chinese civilisation.

In **Geography**, our journey continues to a completely different part of the world as we explore **South America**. Children will learn about the countries, culture and geography of this fascinating continent. They will learn about the climate, the geographical features, the industries and the people of South America, gaining an insight into how life in South America is different to life here in the UK.

Our **Art** unit, *Trees in Art*, builds beautifully on our geography work. Children will develop their drawing skills by observing and sketching trees from both our local environment and faraway places. They'll study how artists such as **Piet Mondrian**, **Vincent Van Gogh**, and **Claude Monet** interpreted trees and nature in their own styles.

In **Design and Technology**, it's time to get creative in the kitchen! The children will be researching, designing, cooking, and evaluating their own **burgers**. They will practise essential food preparation and cooking skills while thinking about nutrition and flavour combinations. This DT unit links with Geography as children explore food production and ingredients sourced from South America, such as **avocado**, **beans**, and **spices**, encouraging discussions about food miles and sustainability. They will also consider what makes a **healthy, balanced meal**, reinforcing their understanding of science and wellbeing.

In **PE**, children will develop their teamwork and coordination through **cricket and rounders**, taught on Thursdays. They will also enjoy their **Yoga lessons**, which support their focus, flexibility and wellbeing. Additionally, **Year 5s** will have a **Dance session on Monday afternoons**, offering another opportunity for physical expression and creativity.

Every **Wednesday afternoon**, Maple Class will continue their **Philosophy for Children (P4C)** sessions, where they practise speaking, listening, reasoning and developing their own ideas in response to thought-provoking questions.

In **Science**, Year 4 children will be exploring how animals (including humans!) eat, digest food, and how they fit into food chains. We will learn about the different types of human teeth—incisors, canines, premolars, and molars and the role of each one. Highlights will include carrying out practical experiments to explore how tooth decay happens – a lovely link to dental care and hygiene practice! Through model making and role play, we will follow food on its journey through the digestive system, from the mouth to the stomach and intestines and learn the role each part plays in breaking down food to help our bodies get energy and nutrients.

Year 5 children will be exploring the exciting topic of forces. They'll investigate how gravity works, experiment with air and water resistance, and discover how simple machines like pulleys, levers and gears help us in everyday life. Through practical experiments and scientific enquiry, the children will develop a deeper understanding of how forces shape the world around them.

In **RE**, the year 4 children will explore two enquiry questions this term: *What is the best way for Jews to show their commitment to God? Do Christians need to go to church to show they are Christians?* The children will be able to use their prior knowledge and understanding to help them form their own views and opinions and will share their understanding through posters, debates and diary entries. They will also consider their own commitments and important values.

This half term, Year 5 children will explore how Sikhs put their beliefs into action and reflect on how faith can guide the way people live. They'll look at Sikh customs and values, and discuss big questions about commitment and forgiveness, including the story of Easter. After half term, they'll focus on Christianity, learning how Christians show their commitment to God through prayer, church, and living by values like kindness and honesty.

In **PSHE**, our Summer term units are *Being My Best* and *Growing and Changing*. Through these topics, children will explore the importance of making informed choices and taking responsibility for their own **health and wellbeing**. They will learn how their actions can positively impact both themselves and the **environment**, and develop strategies for **managing difficult emotions**.

In **Computing**, our Spring term units are *Web Designer* and *Binary Messages*. These exciting topics draw on both **Computer Science** and **Information Technology** skills. As digital creators, children will learn how websites are built and structured and they will explore the basics of **binary code**—the language of computers. Computing will continue to be meaningfully **linked with topic work and other subjects** across the curriculum. Children will regularly use the Internet for **research** and present their learning using a range of **Microsoft tools** enhancing their digital literacy and communication skills.

In **Music** this half term, Year 5 children will take on the role of songwriters! Using iPads, instruments, and their voices, they'll create original lyrics, melodies and song structures, leading to a final performance of their own compositions. After half term, they'll explore how music tells a story through the work of Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos, using 'The Little Train of the Caipira' as inspiration. They'll develop their skills in listening, composing, and notation, creating mood-based music using instruments, symbols, and technology.

In **French**, our Summer term units are *The Tea Room* and *Pets*. By the end of these units, pupils will have developed the language skills needed to perform a short **role-play** set in a French tea room. They will also be able to **present information**, both **orally and in writing**, about pets they have—or do not have—using appropriate vocabulary and sentence structures.

In addition to these exciting topics, children will continue to take part in **daily Maths and English lessons**. In English, they will use a variety of **fictional and non-fictional writing styles** for different purposes and audiences. Wherever possible, their writing will be meaningfully **linked to the wider curriculum topics**, allowing them to apply their literacy skills across subjects.

Home Learning is set as follows:

ENGLISH HOME LEARNING

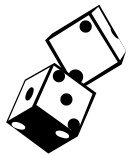
English Home Learning will keep on focusing on reading and spelling, punctuation and grammar (spag.com). SPAG Online Home Learning activities reinforce work taught in class. When set, SPAG Online Home Learning activities will be set on a Monday and should be completed by the following Monday.

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 ~ Spelling in Years 4 and 5 focuses on exploring common patterns, tricky letter-sound relationships, and word endings, helping children build confidence with more complex vocabulary and spelling rules. 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 helpful. The term ahead promises to be a **busy, exciting and enriching** one, filled with wonderful learning opportunities. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping your child reach their full potential.

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

We're also looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events:

- **Learning Together Morning** - Thursday 22nd May
- **Maple Class Performance on Ancient Greeks** - Tuesday 20th May

We hope you can join us!

Yours sincerely,

Maple Class Team

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