



Maple Class newsletter



24th February 2020

Year 5

Dear Families,

Maple Class have had a busy and progressive start to the New Year. There are again lots of exciting things planned for this half term and the children will have an action-packed timetable. The accompanying curriculum map will help you to know what the children will be focusing on and help to support their learning at home. I look forward to sharing your child's progress with you later on in the term at parent's evening.

Here are a few things for you to note about Year 5:

Independence:

Independence is something which we are always encouraging and developing. To help with this, I would like to ask that in the morning, you drop your child off so that they come into class on their own. As Year 5s now, they need to be organising themselves, ready to start the day. Any messages for teachers will now be taken by either me or Miss Thornton to be passed on and we will stand just inside the glass doors.

Reading records:

Each child has a reading record book. Please ensure they write in this each night when they read – one or two sentences to summarise what they've read is perfect. This does not mean that they do not get to read with you as it is still so important that your child has the opportunity to read to an adult each evening and that discussion of their book, the characters and events in the story take place.

PE:

We will be having PE on Friday afternoons this term. This day may be subject to change but we will give plenty of notice if so.

Snack:

Please send in a snack with your child to eat at break time as we do not provide the children with a snack now that they are in Key Stage 2. As we are a healthy school, the snack they bring in must be a piece of fruit or a vegetable and please remember that we are a nut-free school.

Homework:

The children will be given homework books and their homework grid is attached to this letter. This explains what they need to do, but please do ask if you have any questions. These activities are in addition to reading, spellings and times tables activities. They will also have some pieces of homework set on Purple Mash which the children can access through home devices that enable them to gain internet access. It is not expected for the children to complete all pieces of homework and they are given a variety to enable them to select those pieces which interest them. Also, please note that weekly spellings and the spelling patterns around them will be practised regularly throughout the week in class but any extra practise at home will be beneficial.

Parent helpers:

Please let me know if you are keen to come in to listen to children read during the school day. Any volunteers would be greatly appreciated.



Maple Class Curriculum Map

February – April Spring (2) Term 4

English – This term we will be continuing with Pie Corbett's Talk for Writing and we will start off with non-fiction writing of a recount (diary entry). This will be supported by the class book 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman, about a young girl who wants nothing more than to be a Firework-Maker who must make a perilous journey to the terrifying volcano they call Fire-Fiend. Our fiction writing will be characterisation in the form of a monologue from the perspective of the main character. A model text about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius will also be used as a stimulus. In grammar, punctuation and spelling, we will continue to look at spelling patterns and sentence structure whilst using accurate and appropriate punctuation for our genres of writing. Our poem this term will be 'I wandered lonely as a cloud' by William Wordsworth which will be performed in a collective worship assembly later in the term.

Maths – We will start this term by looking at properties of shapes where we will build on our previous learning and draw angles and measure them in degrees and distinguish between regular and irregular polygons based on reasoning on equal sides and angles. We will then move on to position and direction of a shape where we will follow the reflection or translation, using appropriate language and know the shape has not changed. Our term will finish by looking at time and money where we will solve problems and reason using real-life contexts.

Science – In science this term we will continue with properties and changes in materials and will move on to carrying out our planned investigations to look at types of metal that rust, conditions which cause metal to rust and if metal rusts in all liquids. This will involve us carefully observing and recording our findings and considering reasons for any changes observed. We will also look at how to separate mixtures and solutions.

Topic – In geography this term we will be looking at trade and what better time to do this as it will be FairTrade fortnight. This will involve understanding key aspects of physical geography particularly volcanoes and the water cycle. In human geography, we will look at types of settlement and land use, economic activity, including trade links and the distribution of natural resources, including energy, food, minerals and water.

PE – In PE on Friday afternoons we will be working with our PE specialist 'Premier Sport' to hone our skills in outdoor adventurous activity.

Computing – In computing this term we will be using Purple Mash to explore 'Game Creator' where we will learn to review and analyse a computer game, describe elements of a game and begin to design our own. We will learn how to successfully create a game environment and a game quest and we will finish by sharing our game and evaluating it and the games of our peers, making suggestions of how the games could have been improved.

RE – We will re-visit Christianity and the key belief and concept of pilgrims. We will explore why Christians think that being a pilgrim is a good analogy for life itself and use Christian narrative to explore ideas about pilgrimage.

Art/DT – In DT this term we will be looking at the subject kites. We will design our own kite and consider the purpose for it and then draw up the specification. We will develop a clear idea of what has to be done, planning how to use materials, equipment and processes. We will need to measure and mark out accurately and use tools safely. At the end, we will evaluate our kites against the original specification and we will do this personally as well as seek the evaluation of others. If parents can collect any newspaper, tissue paper, dustbin liners, plastic bags, wrapping paper, wallpaper, lollipop sticks, wooden skewers, ribbon, dowel, bamboo or straws for us to use to make our kites it would be most appreciated.

Music – This term we will be learning the about rap and old-school hip hop. The song 'The Fresh Prince from Bel Air' by Will Smith will be our chosen song to analyse and we will have the opportunity to write lyrics to our own rap and improvise rhythm patterns.

MFL – Les animaux! In our French lessons we will be learning to speak about animals and pets, numbers from 11-20 and start to describe someone else. Our language of the term as a whole school is Finnish and we will answer the register and meet and greet one another in this language as well as have opportunities to learn about Finland, its language and some of its culture.

PSHE – This term in PSHE we will be looking at the topic 'Healthy Me' where we will look at the health risks of smoking and too much alcohol and continue to practise emergency aid procedures with our qualified nurse who has been working with us. We will consider body image and learn further ways to keep ourselves safe online as well as consider how a balanced diet will have a positive effect on our physical and mental well-being. In addition, we will continue to learn about a variety of job roles in our weekly careers collective worship.

Homework

Term 4

Choose one piece of homework from the list below to do each week. You are not expected to complete all pieces. Please continue to read at home and write a short review of what you have read. Maths homework will be given out weekly as well and you all now have your Times Tables Rockstars logins to practise these at home. Your poem to learn this term is called 'I wandered Lonely as a Cloud' by William Wordsworth. There will also be additional homework set on Purple Mash which can be done instead of a piece chosen from the list below. You are not expected to do everything, just pick some from the list below and some from Purple Mash.

- Collect materials such as newspaper, tissue paper, dustbin liners, plastic bags, wrapping paper, wallpaper, lollipop sticks, wooden skewers, ribbon, dowel, bamboo or straws and bring them into school to use to make your kite
- Write a poem about a volcanic eruption (it could be Mount Vesuvius in Pompeii)
- Draw and label a diagram of a cross section of a volcano
- Research Orville and Wilbur Wright and how they used kites to help design airplanes (also known as aeroplanes)
- Research how kites helped one of the three famous people in history below:
 - *Benjamin Franklin*
 - *Alexander Graham Bell*
 - *Leonardo Da Vinci*
- How did Homan Walsh use a kite to help build Niagara Falls Bridge? Write a small piece to explain
- Watch Mary Poppins DVD with someone in your family and write a short review on the scene 'Let's Go Fly a Kite'
- Research an example where Fairtrade has benefitted a community
- Make a healthy smoothie using Fairtrade ingredients (take a picture and/or list the ingredients that you used)
- Design a Fairtrade poster
- Create a presentation about Fairtrade (this could be a brief talk or a PowerPoint presentation which you can share with the class)
- Create your own rap about any of the topics this term (you may wish to get together and do this with one of your friends in your class and then perform it to us)
- Draw a picture of a volcano erupting, use whatever media you like
- Bring in your all-time favourite book and read an excerpt from it to your class
- Complete a piece of homework based on your own idea about any of the topics you have been learning about this term, be as creative as you like