

# Maple Class Class Newsletter Spring Term

## WELCOME BACK AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*A big thank you!* The year 4 team would like to say a huge thank you for the lovely cards and gifts we received over Christmas. Your kind wishes and generosity were very much appreciated. We hope you and your children have had a lovely Christmas break and are excited to get stuck into a new year.

## HISTORY

### CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

In this topic, the children will find out about the legacy of the Roman justice system and crime and punishment through the Anglo-Saxon, Tudor and Victorian periods. We will then compare modern methods of crime prevention and detection to what existed in the past.

## GEOGRAPHY

### WATER

This topic is closely linked to our science this term. Once the children have a secure understanding of the water cycle, we will be considering water as a finite resource. The children will explore ideas of conservation and consider some of the issues surrounding supplying clean drinking water to a growing global population.

## MATHS

This term, we will be focusing on multiplication, division and fractions. Please continue to practise times tables at home using [trockstars.com](http://trockstars.com) and other strategies.

## READING

As part of developing reading in KS2, we will continue to read a range of text extracts to ensure children are exposed to different genres including poetry, song lyrics, web pages and both classic and modern literature.

Our class text at the moment is *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown and we will be answering a range of comprehension questions about this text with a focus on vocabulary, inference, prediction, retrieval and summarising.

## WRITING

In English the children are enjoying our robot themed writing. Using Ted Hughes, *The Iron Man* for inspiration, we will continue to explore and write in a range of genres including setting descriptions, diaries, persuasive writing and newspaper articles. The children will be taught how to use advanced punctuation (apostrophes, commas, inverted commas) while ensuring they have remembered the basics. We will continue to expand the children's vocabulary and encourage them to include ambitious words and sentence structures in their work. The children will be developing their planning and editing skills to further improve the quality of their writing.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In RE we will be thinking about what it means to be a Hindu in Britain today. The children will identify some Hindu deities, describe Hindu beliefs about God and explore how Hindus show their faith.

After the half term, we will be studying the question of why Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'? The children will describe how Christians show their beliefs about Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday in worship. They will make links between some of the stories and teachings in the Bible and life in the world today.

## SCIENCE

### STATES OF MATTER

This unit will teach the children about the differences between solids, liquids and gases. The children will learn about how water changes state, exploring melting, freezing, condensing and evaporation. Finally, we will learn about the stages of the water cycle.

### ANIMALS INCLUDING HUMANS

The class will learn about the digestive system in humans and animals. Children will learn more about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores in the context of teeth, digestion and the food chain. They will extend their understanding of food chains to more complex food webs.

## ART

We will be exploring how artists create sequenced drawings to tell stories. We will apply what we have learnt to create an accordion book to illustrate the poem *Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll.

## DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

We are looking forward to evaluating, designing and baking cookies. We will adapt a basic recipe to produce our own unique product. We're sure you'll look forward to sampling them - if there are any left!

## PE

PE continues to be on a Monday and a Wednesday this term. The children can come to school in their PE kit on these days. Please can hair be tied back and earrings removed. We will start the new year with netball and target games with a focus on tri-golf.

## HOMEWORK

Home work will remain the same as the autumn term with a focus on reading and the recall of multiplication facts. Please support your child to:

- Read daily for 15-20 mins. This is important even for accomplished readers to help improve fluency, accuracy and comprehension. Please remember to record in planners, pupils could write this themselves. Planners will be checked in school weekly on a Wednesday but please could children make sure they bring them to school every day.

- TTRockstars - regular practice will increase their confidence ready for the government multiplication tables check in the summer term. Log on details are in the front of your child's planners but if you have any questions or problems please let us know.

- Spellings

Children will bring home a list of spellings to learn on a Monday and will be tested on them at the end of the week. Spellings can be completed on the sheet provided. This sheet is to be kept at home. Please ensure children have their reading diaries with them on a Friday so we can stick in spelling results to share with you.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes,

Mrs Childs and Mrs Ollerenshaw

