

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

ANCIENT EGYPT

In this topic, the children will find out about the achievements of this ancient civilisation. They will learn about how and where the ancient Egyptians lived, what was important to the daily lives of ancient Egyptians, who Tutankhamun was and how mummies were made. The children will also learn about how Egyptian people used hieroglyphs to communicate and compare the powers of different gods.

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](https://www.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 *How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell 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 will enjoy our 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

SOUND

In this unit, children will explore how sound is made by vibrations. Children will also predict and compare how sounds travel through different mediums. We will also, investigate patterns between the volume of sound and the vibrations that made it.

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 will be on a Monday and a Thursday 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 hockey 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.

~ 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 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,

Mr. Patton

