

# Maple Class Spring 1 Curriculum Newsletter

## English

Our English for this half term will be based around the book 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit. The writing outcome will be to write the story from the point of view of one of the children. The children will be learning to use present and past tenses consistently and correctly including the progressive form and present perfect form, group related ideas into paragraphs, use inverted commas to punctuate direct speech and use standard English for verb inflections. In their independent piece of writing, the children will be aiming to add historical detail to describe characters, setting and events, write a sequence of events to follow the structure of the model story, write an opening paragraph and further paragraphs for each stage, create dialogue between characters that shows their relationship with each other, use 3rd or 1st person consistently and use tenses appropriately.

## Science

In Science, our unit for the Spring term is Living Things And Their Habitats. The children will be learning how to group living things, classify vertebrates, complete an invertebrates hunt, use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things, complete a local habitat study and look at environmental changes and how these changes may cause living things to become endangered.

## Religious Education

Our question in R.E this half term is 'What do Christians Learn from the Creation Story?'. By the end of the unit, the children will be able to place the concepts of God and Creation on a timeline of the Bible's Big Story, make clear links between Genesis 1 and what Christians believe about God and Creation, describe what Christians do because they believe that God is creator (for example follow God, wonder at how amazing God's creation is, care for the earth in specific ways) and ask questions and suggest answers about what might be important in the creation story for Christians living today and for people who are not Christians.

## History

Our history topic for this half term is Ancient Greece. The children will be learning about who the Ancient Greeks were, Alexander the Great's empire, daily life in Ancient Greece, Athens and Sparta, discovering the Ancient Olympics, The Olympic games now and then, Greek Gods and Goddesses and the Trojan war.

## French

In French, our unit is French playground games: number and age. The children will be learning to recall all numbers one to six, join in with a song using actions, respond to numbers by showing fingers or ticking on whiteboards, ask and answer a question about their age, change their answers and recognise number words, listen carefully and relate sounds to a written phoneme and recall numbers one to 12 with increasingly accurate pronunciation.

## Maths

Multiplication & Division and Length & Perimeter are the units we will be focusing on in Maths this half term. The children will be learning how to multiply and divide up to a 3-digit number by a 1-digit number both with and without exchanges as well as multiplying 3 numbers and looking at efficient methods. In the Length and Perimeter unit, the children will be learning how to measure in cm, mm, km and m as well as working out the perimeter of both rectilinear shapes and polygons.

## Art

In Art, our unit is Surface and Colour: Exploring still life. In this unit, children are introduced to the genre of still life as an old art form and also one which is still enjoyed by many contemporary artists. Pupils revisit and develop their drawing (and looking) skills using observational drawing of physical objects, and then go on to explore a project. The children will consolidate and develop their understanding of how we can use line, shape, colour, texture, form and composition to make their work.

## P.E

P.E will be on **Tuesdays and Fridays**. On Tuesdays, our unit will be gymnastics 1 and on Fridays, our unit will be tag rugby. In gymnastics 1, the children will be learning how to perform a combination of actions with a change in speed, level and direction and find ways to travel between levels, develop flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance, learn and develop the quality of a Front Support Roll, perform a turn in the air whilst jumping, perform a range of actions with consistency, fluency and clarity of movement and finally to devise and perform a gymnastic sequence, showing a clear beginning, middle, and end. In tag rugby, we will be focusing on following the rules of a tag game, tactics with attacking and defending, decision making and finishing with playing a simple tag rugby game.

## Computing

In computing, our unit is Online Safety. The children will be learning what cyberbullying is and how to address it, understand how websites use advertisements to promote products, create strong passwords and understand privacy settings, safely send and receive emails, explore different ways to communicate online as well as looking at online interactive resources to teach the children to make smart decisions about staying safe online.

## Home support

**Reading** – The children will bring home a 'free read' book home from school. The children have all been given a reading record where any reading at home can be recorded.

**Times tables** – Please continue to practice times tables with your children at home. Weekly challenges are set on TTRS with certificates and dojos available! The Multiplication Tables Check for year 4 is in June. The link to practice for the MTC and other useful Maths resources can be found on the Maple class page on the website under the homework tab.

Happy New Year! If you have any questions about the upcoming term, please see us at the classroom door at the end of the day.

Miss Nagington (Class teacher)  
Mrs Mavin (Class teacher)