



# P.P.S. Maple Class

September 2023  
Autumn Term

## Grand tour of Europe and Roman Britain

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Maple class, I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday.

This term we are beginning with a focus on Europe. Through **geography**, we will learn more about different cultures in Europe and use atlases to identify the physical features of countries and significant buildings. After half term, the children will begin their learning about the significance of the Roman Empire. Prepare your shields!

In **art and design**, the children will be studying Joan Miro; the children visited his exhibition last year. We will use his work as a stimulus for learning different drawing and line making techniques using HB and 2B pencils.



In **computing** the children will use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content. E-safety is very important to us in a digital world and therefore the children

This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this topic. We are using these newsletters to give you information about your child's education as this will replace the foundation subjects comments on the annual report.

will recognise how they can use technology safely and respectfully. They will understand that it is important to know where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact from strangers on the internet.

In **music** this term, the children will have music lessons with Peter York as they learn how to play the guitar and will be building on their guitar skills from last year. They will focus on using the correct cords and strumming techniques.

In **French**, the children will learn about school and school items. They will learn to say what they like or do not like doing and will learn strategies for writing from memory. Children will learn to ask for items in their pencil case.

In the second half of the term, the children will learn how to say what sports they like and dislike playing. They will create a diary of activities using the phrases they have learnt.

In **Design and Technology** children will learn about levers and linkages and complete a design project to create Roman catapults.

In **Religious Education** lessons, we will look at the gospel and the world Jesus wanted. The children will have the opportunity to explore different Bible stories and compare them to everyday life to help their understanding of how Christians live. Our learning in this curriculum area will equip the children to be able to respond to the key questions: 'What does it mean to follow God?' and 'How and why do Christians act as fishers of men?'

In **PSHE**, we will be focusing on families and why they are important to each individual. After half term, we will focus on friendships and how we can be a good friend to somebody.



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In **Science** the children will be finding out about 'Living things and their habitats'. We will be learning that living things can be grouped (classified) in different ways according to their features and use classification keys to record this.

**P.E.** lessons are on a Tuesday and Forest School is on a Thursday up until half term. This half term, the focus is invasion games, where we will learn to defend, practise passing techniques and working in a team. Beginning Tuesday 17th October, the children will be participating in gymnastics sessions and the second lesson of P.E. (OAA) will be on a Friday.

We have started the term in **English** lessons with narrative writing using the text 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'. In the first few weeks, we will focus on recapping adjectives, present perfect tense and fronted adverbials as well as thinking about how to create an effective setting description.

In **maths**, the children will be beginning the school year by developing their understanding of place value, recognising the value of each digit in a 4 digit number and understanding the role of 0 as a place holder. They will apply this knowledge when comparing numbers using the  $<$  and  $>$  symbols and when solving place value problems.

We will move onto using place value to help solve the operations of addition and

subtraction using apparatus and written methods after half term.

Maths homework tasks will continue to be set each week and will take the form of practising calculation methods. Regular practice of rapid times table recall using **Times Table Rockstars** is also highly encouraged to help the children become more fluent with this vital part of their maths learning. Spellings will follow the National Curriculum spelling patterns and weekly lists will also include two words from the Year 4 statutory list.

Finally, any time the children can spend consolidating their learning, either independently or with an adult at home, will greatly benefit their progress. Little and often practise on Times Table Rockstars and Spelling Shed, for example, is crucial and really does help the children to build their fluency with these core skills.

Please feel free to drop a note into school should you wish to speak to myself or Mrs Abbott. I am available for any important hand-over information each morning and anything that may take a little longer, please catch one of us at the end of the school day or pass on via the office.

Thank you very much.  
Miss Ayres

Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Units/Ones
Cube	Flat	Rod	Unit
			