



P.P.S. Maple Class

January 2023
Spring Term

Mountain Adventure / Vikings and Anglo-Saxons

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Spring term. We trust you had a restful Christmas break and are ready for the busy term ahead. We will be starting the term with a focus on significant mountain ranges around the world and how mountains are formed. Then we will explore the Viking and Saxon invasions of Britain and the impact these had on modern Britain after half-term.

In **Science**, we will be exploring how sounds are made and how we can change the pitch and volume of different sounds. We will look at wavelengths and discover that sound can travel in different directions. We will continue to use different types of enquiry to ask and answer scientific questions and use a planning template to help us plan fair tests. After half-term, we will start to learn about electricity. They will be identifying things that run off electricity and constructing circuits.

Our **P.E.** lessons will take place on Thursday and Fridays. On Thursdays, the children will be doing dance, where we will be completing a mountain inspired dance to Miley Cyrus' 'The Climb'. On Fridays, we will be taking the children swimming at Billingshurst Leisure Centre, so please ensure your child brings in the correct clothing for these lessons on Friday mornings.

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.

In **Computing** the children will be programming. The children will learn how to write basic code to create repetition. After half-term the children will be learning about data-collection and logging. In this unit, children will consider how and why data is collected over time. The children will have the opportunity to collect and record data using sensors.

This term in **Geography**, we will locate different mountain ranges across Europe and then around the wider world, comparing and contrasting types of mountains and their features. We will investigate how we can measure the heights of mountains and the environmental issues that surround climbing them. We will also be making many cross-curricular links with maths as we learn to read and interpret graphs and to use co-ordinates and atlases to locate different regions around the world.

History, after half-term, will focus on the significance and impact of the Viking and Saxon invasions on Britain. We will explore settlements, culture and empires and revisit our understanding of chronology to place these historical events on a timeline.

Art and Design lessons will focus on improving the children's mastery of the use of watercolour paints. We will use watercolour paints to produce images that portray mountains and use different techniques to create different textures. The artist that we are focusing on is Hokusai and the children will create work inspired by his paintings of Mount Fuji.



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In **Design and Technology**, we will be creating a Roman Garden herb, in relation to last term's history focus. The project will be led by the children as they will research, design, make and evaluate the garden as a class. This project also allows us to focus on retrieval of knowledge from our previous topic.

Our **R.E.** lessons will look at Hinduism and will encourage children to explore the question, 'Why does a Hindu want to collect good karma?' After half term, we will seek to understand the meaning of salvation and what its significance is for Christians.

Our **Music** lessons will be focusing on answering the question "How does music bring us together?" We will be completing listen and respond activities using glockenspiels. We will be thinking about how music is used in different cultures to unite us.

In **Maths** we will be using a range of different strategies to help us multiply and divide. We will use concrete apparatus and visual methods to consolidate our understanding of these concepts before learning to use written methods efficiently. Later in the term the children will explore the difference between area and perimeter, and will learn to accurately calculate these measurements.

During our **English** lessons, we will be writing a diary based on the first two people to climb Mount Everest. We will also be writing persuasive texts about why Yetis need protecting, based on our class reader 'Abominables' by Eva Ibbotson. After half term, we will be writing poetry about electricity and instructions on how to invade the Anglo-Saxons. Our reading lessons will focus on the core reading skills inference and prediction.

English and Maths will continue to be taught daily and will, wherever possible, be linked to the topic to give the children's learning cross-curricular context.

It goes without saying that we always value the support you give your children at home and the work you do with them to consolidate their learning. We continue to have a heavy focus on reading in school and believe enjoyment of reading is of primary importance. It would be helpful, if you could listen to your child read regularly at home and record this in their Reading Records.

Maths homework tasks will continue to be set each week. Spellings will follow the National Curriculum spelling patterns and weekly lists will also include two words from the Year 4 statutory list. Times tables and spellings will be tested every week.

Lastly, 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 practice on Times Table Rockstars (<https://trockstars.com/wp-login.php>) and Spelling Shed (<https://www.edshed.com/en-gb/login>), for example, is crucial and really does help the children to build their fluency with these core skills.

We look forward to sharing the children's learning with you over the coming weeks.

Megan Lenharth
Maple Class Teacher