



P.P.S. Maple Class

September 2024
Autumn Term

Grand tour of Europe and Roman Britain

Dear Parents,

We hope your children feel settled in their new class and are enjoying their learning so far!

During the Autumn Term, the children will be exploring Europe. This geography topic will involve using globes and atlases to identify and name the countries, capital cities and major cities in Europe. We will then focus on Italy, finding out more about its physical features (including **topography**) and culture. To link with this, I have arranged a trip to Pizza Express - this will enable the children to learn about the history of pizza in Italy and give the children the opportunity to create their own margarita pizza using freshly selected ingredients.

In science, we will be learning about living things and their habitats. This will include the classification of living things - both animals and plants - which can be grouped (**classified**) according to their features. Children will learn how to use classification keys and how to design their own dichotomous classification key to determine what living things can be found around us. They will also look at how humans impact the environment and the living things within it.

During the week commencing Monday 23rd September, the whole school will focus on an area of history and/or geography relating to Petworth. 'Petworth Week' will see Maple Class visiting Petworth House and will include a visit from local historian, Miles Costello. Our focus will be on the history of schools in Petworth. We will look briefly at the Victorians, as it was Queen Victoria who

introduced the first Education Act (1870), which stated that all children between the ages of 5 and 10 must attend school. We will look at the lives of the children of Petworth - from the jobs they would have done at Petworth House before school became compulsory, and what Victorian schools were like compared to schools today. I intend to set up a 'Victorian style' classroom on Friday 27th September, where children will have the opportunity to dress up in Victorian outfits and experience being taught 'the 3 'R's' by rote! Rest assured - no canes will be used in the lessons!

In the second half of the term, we move to our history topic, which will focus on the Romans. We aim to visit Fishbourne Roman Palace during this topic to bring the learning to life and allow the children to experience what life would have been like as a Roman.

Computing lessons will focus on using Microsoft Office 365, children will also learn about how to stay safe online (**e-safety**) and what to do if they encounter unsuitable material online.

In music, children will be learning to play the Ukelele with Miss P-H - following this, they will have the opportunity to play at the Youth Music Festival at MRC in November.

Children will begin to learn French this term. We will begin by looking at phonics and move on to describing ourselves and others during the term.

Design and technology will take part in the second half of the term; children will be exploring mechanisms - specifically, pneumatics.

In PSHE, this term's focus is on families and friends, and how to maintain positive relationships. We will look at what makes a good friend and ways in which we can deal with conflict whilst developing resilience. Drama and oracy tasks will also be part of this unit.

In R.E., children will be looking at the gospel - comparing Bible stories with everyday life and answering questions such as: 'What does it mean to follow God?' and 'How and why do Christians act as fishers of men?' under the overarching question, 'What kind of world did Jesus want?'

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.



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P.E. will be predominantly outside (weather permitting), so please ensure your child wears appropriate kit on these days. We will focus on **invasion** games (including hockey and netball) during the first half term. P.E. will initially be on Mondays and our second session is incorporated through Forest School provision. The last Forest School session will be on the 10th of October and our P.E. days will change at this point.

Beginning on Tuesday 15th October, the children will have the opportunity to take part in gymnastics. Led by gymnastics coaches from 'Victory Gymnastics', they will be using equipment such as the bars, vault and beams. From Wednesday 6th November, children will also have their dance sessions, therefore, P.E. days will change from the week commencing 14th October, to Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Art lessons will link with the Victorian element of our 'Petworth Week' topic and children will research different patterns and prints focusing on William Morris. They will also be looking at British artist Maria Eliza Simpson's Victorian miniatures and creating one of their own.

Mathematics will continue to be taught daily. Children will begin with place value, and this will be followed by addition and subtraction calculations.

During Year 4, children will also take part in the statutory multiplication tables check; they will continue to practise their times tables regularly - not just for the check, but because fluency in multiplication tables is beneficial to children as they move into years 5 and 6, where the maths content is heavily reliant on this foundational knowledge.

English lessons are also taught daily. Our first text-based unit is based on the book, 'Escape from Pompeii' and children will be creating a setting description. Daily English lessons will also include elements of spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG).

In Year 4, spellings will follow the National

Curriculum spelling patterns and children are encouraged to use their EdShed logins to practice these spellings daily, ready for weekly testing on Tuesdays.

Times-tables will be tested on Fridays and regular participation on TT RockStars (TTRS) both at school and at home, will help to improve children's fluency and recall. It is for this reason that these are included every week as part of the homework.

Homework will be set weekly, on Wednesdays, and will include the new spellings for that week, a reading comprehension task and some maths practise. Homework will be due in the following Tuesday, and we would really appreciate your support in encouraging your children to complete this each week.

If you have any concerns or feel that you need to talk about your child's learning or well-being, please feel free to catch me at the school gate at the end of the day or make an appointment at the office.

I am delighted to be teaching your children this year and supporting them to feel inspired, nurtured and challenged in school.

Stephanie Mayne
(Class Teacher)

Claire Abbott and Marie Diaper
(Teaching Assistants)

Reminder: P.E. to change to Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 14th October