



P.P.S. Maple Class

September 2022
Autumn Term

Grand Tour of Europe and Roman Britain

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Autumn term, which I hope will be an exciting and engaging one for the children as they begin their Year Four journey. I am excited to begin this new academic year, which will be packed full of learning opportunities. We will be starting the year by using the book 'The Adventurers and the Continental Chase' as a tool to help us begin learning about European countries and different cultures. We will then spend the Autumn term learning about the location of significant cities and geographical features before moving onto learning about the historical significance of the Roman invasion of Britain.

In **science**, we will be gathering, recording, classifying and presenting data in a variety of ways to help us to observe how some materials change state when they are heated or cooled. We shall also be learning to identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle. We are going to explore how the rate of evaporation changes with temperature by setting up our own simple practical enquiries.

Our **Physical Education** lessons will take place on Mondays and Tuesdays. In P.E, the children will develop their flexibility and control in gymnastics, focussing initially on single movements and then building these into sequences and routines. They will participate in lessons led by a specialist gymnastics coach and have the opportunity to apply their skills on a range of apparatus. They will also learn the skills of invasion games (specifically hockey) before applying these skills in competitive contexts.

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.

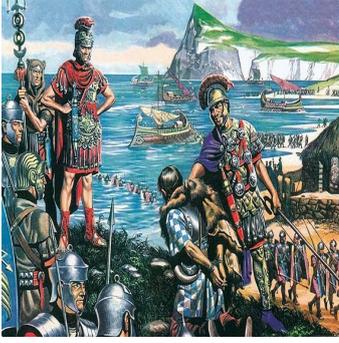
Computing lessons will be taught through our historical work on sources and our **PSHE** work on keeping ourselves safe. During the first few weeks of the term., the children will be revisiting how to use Office 365 for emailing, saving and sharing work and accessing files. The children will also learn to be discerning about information they find on the internet and to use search engines safely and effectively. They will use a range of software to create timelines of key Roman dates and presentations about their research into European countries.

This term, in **geography**, we are learning to use atlases and globes to locate countries and cities in the UK and Europe. We will consolidate our understanding of compass directions and then use them to describe where the key topographical features of Europe are located. We will learn about settlement and power sources, and discuss the difference between imports and exports.

Our **history** lessons will focus, in the second part of the Autumn term, on the impact of the Roman invasion of Britain. We will use sources and enquire as historians to answer the question: 'What did the Romans do for us?'

Art lessons will focus on improving the children's mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing and sculpture. We will explore the work of John Miro and use this as a stimulus for learning different drawing and line making techniques using HB and 2B pencils..

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



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Our **Religious Education** lessons 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?'

This term in **French** children will learn about 'Back to School' in France. They will read a poem and take part in a languages detective activity. They will learn to say what they like or do not like doing and they learn strategies for writing from memory. Children will learn to ask for items and for help in the classroom and work in groups to read, edit and perform a play script.

In **maths** we will be developing our understanding of place value, representing numbers up to 10,000 in a variety of ways. The children will consolidate their understanding of methods for addition and subtraction and will build their fluency with calculation through problem solving and investigative work. We will regularly revisit each times table to consolidate the children's understanding and help them to develop efficient and rapid recall of multiplication facts. This times table knowledge is a core foundation for all of the children's mathematical learning.

During our **English** lessons, we will be writing non-chronological reports about countries in Europe. We will also be writing adventure narratives using descriptive language. The children will be focusing on the description in their writing, using adjectives and alliteration to help the reader feel as if they are stood in particular settings. We will use the core

text 'Escape from Pompeii' in the latter part of the term as a stimulus for more narrative writing.

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 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. Times tables and spellings will be tested every week.

Finally, a weekly update will be posted on the Maple class blog (<https://mapleclasspetworth.edublogs.org>). Here you will be able to read a summary of what the children have been learning throughout the week and see some photographs of their learning in action! I look forward to sharing the children's learning with you over the coming weeks.

Rachel Harris