



P.P.S. Maple Class

January 2024
Spring Term

Mountain Adventure 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 invasions of Britain and the impact these had on modern Britain after half-term.

In **Science**, we will be learning about the human digestive system and how food is processed in the body. The children will also learn how to classify producers, predators and prey according to their place in the food chain. After half term, the children will start to learn about electricity. They will be identifying objects that run off electricity and constructing circuits.

Our **P.E.** lessons will take place on Wednesday and Fridays. On Wednesday, the children will be doing invasion games focusing on basketball and netball. 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.

In **Computing** the children will be programming, revisiting algorithms and they will learn how to write basic code to create repetition. After half-term the children will be learning more about repetition through games. They will be using the programme 'Scratch'.

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.

They will look at the difference between count-controlled and infinite loops, and use their knowledge to modify existing animations.

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.

After half-term, we will focus on the significance and impact of the Anglo-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. In **D&T**, children will focus on programming of electronics. They will use their knowledge from science (of building a simple circuit) to explain how electrical systems work and create handmade switches to evaluate their effectiveness.



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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 based around the question, 'Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'?'

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 build on their learning of fractions and decimals.

During our **English** lessons, the children will write a recount of their trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace. They will then be focusing on creating a fact file on a significant figure from History. Please do bring in any books that you may have that cover significant figures.

After half term, the children will write instructions on how to care for the School's sheep and goats. They will also learn about the Anglo-Saxon story of Beowulf to create a drama piece and write their own version.

Thank you for your support with your child's learning last term. We continue to have a strong 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 ask questions related to their understanding of the story.

Homework tasks will continue to be set each week on a Friday and due on a Thursday. 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 and Spelling Shed, for example, is crucial and really does help the children to build their fluency with these core skills.

I have been so impressed with children's determination and enthusiasm for practising their times tables last term. Please do continue to encourage them to practise to support their fluency.

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

Miss Ayres & Mrs Abbott