



P.P.S. Maple Class

January 2022
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 learn about the functions of the organs of the human digestive system and compare these with the digestive systems of other animals.

Our P.E. lessons will take place on Wednesdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, the children will be learning striking and fielding skills and have the opportunity to practice these in different competitive cricket contexts led by Sussex Cricket Club. 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.

Computing lessons will be taught through our

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.

literacy and geography work. The children will use green screen technology to record their mountain discussion texts. They will use a range of apps and software to create their own videos and will also use programming software to create and debug algorithms. As part of Safer Internet Day 2022, we will be exploring the dangers of internet use and "phishing."

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 lessons will focus on improving the children's mastery of art and design techniques, including using a variety of mediums to produce outcomes. We will use watercolour paints to produce images that portray mountains and use different techniques, such as straw blowing, to put paint onto paper. Later in the term, we will explore the work of Hokusai and create work inspired by his paintings of Mount Fuji.



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In Design and Technology children will design, make and evaluate a garden lantern which uses electricity to light up. They will use annotated diagrams and detailed plans to help them make a prototype of their designs.

Our R.E. lessons will look at Hinduism and will encourage children to explore the question, "how can Brahman be everywhere and in everything?" After half term, we will seek to understand the meaning of salvation and what its significance is for Christians.

This term in French children will learn to listen to and give instructions in the classroom. They will read different passages of text and begin to use simple adjectives to describe characters. There will be a phonic focus on silent final consonants.

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 adventure narratives on the theme of mountains. We will also be writing discussion texts about whether mountains should be climbed and poetry about Mount Everest. After half term, we will be writing diaries from the perspective of a Viking invader. 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 and Spelling Shed, 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.

Rachel Harris
Maple Class Teacher