



P.P.S. Maple Class

January 2025
Spring Term

Mountains / Vikings and Anglo-Saxons

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Spring term. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

This term, in maths, we will be continuing with multiplication and division. Children will learn about using place value to multiply and divide by 10 and 100, and will then progress to calculating 2 and 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers. They will begin by looking at informal written methods and move onto to expanded, and then formal, written methods. After this, we will look at perimeter.

In the second part of the term, we will move on to fractions and decimals.

Times tables remain a focus for year 4 children, who are beginning to see the benefit of knowing them, as they start to focus on the formal, written method of multiplication. Times table knowledge will prove invaluable as they move onto the trickier concepts in maths and into upper key stage 2. We would appreciate your support in helping your child to learn their tables—children have access to Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) too, which supports their learning in this area and forms part of their homework each week.

In English, we will be creating a fact file on an historical figure. Children will be choosing a person, from the past, who has had an impact on our lives today, or was a person of significance within their chosen field.

Children will be generating their own questions as they find out more about their person of interest, and will be conducting their own research. We will look at

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.

the importance of reliable sources online, as well as discussing paraphrasing to prevent plagiarism.

We will then be writing a diary entry based on Hillary and Norgay's climb of Everest. We will look at the perilous journey and the momentous achievement of being the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

In geography, we will focus on mountains. We will explore mountain ranges from around the world and will look at how mountains are formed. Children will learn about topography and develop their skills using coordinates and compass points.

For the second half of the term, in history, we will be exploring the Viking and Saxon invasions of Britain, and will look at the impact these had on modern Britain.

In Science, we will continue to look at 'Animals including humans', looking at the structure and functions of our teeth, and exploring the human digestive system.

In the second half of the term, we will be looking at 'Electricity'. We will learn about circuits and how we use electricity in our everyday lives.

Our P.E. lessons will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This term we will be looking at invasion games. The children will learn about, team sports—tag rugby and netball. We will look at different types of passes as well as the skills needed to play well as a team—these include effective passing, dodging, marking and rules of play.

Children will continue to learn computing, French and music with Miss P-H. In computing, they will be learning about programming—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.



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In music, children will be looking at classical music including the works of Beethoven. They will be focusing on what a 'Sonata' is and using Beethoven's famous Symphony No.5 to inspire their own symphony. They will be using glockenspiels and body percussion to create their music.

In French, children are looking at 'Where we live' - a unit that covers various areas of the house. Children continue to focus on vocabulary acquisition and pronunciation.

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.

Art lessons will focus on improving the children's mastery of the use of watercolour paints. We will use watercolours 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.

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 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.

Maths homework tasks will continue to be set each week. Spellings will follow the National Curriculum spelling patterns, through the Spelling Shed scheme. Both times tables, and spellings, will be tested every week, on a Friday and Tuesday, respectively.

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 Rock Stars (TTRS) and regular reading, 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 in the school's newsletters over the coming weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns please do speak to me at the end of the school day, on the gate.

Stephanie Mayne

