

Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

Maples class

Autumn 2022

Our Theme: European Explorers



Our Key Values:

Caring, Commitment to Achieve, Co-operation,
Happiness, Independence, Respect.



Welcome back to school after a gloriously warm summer holiday! The children have come back with a fantastic attitude and have settled into the daily routines brilliantly. We have been working hard so far, and pupils have demonstrated our school values well, particularly by being respectful and co-operating with each other superbly.

I would like to thank you in advance for your ongoing support, and if you need to speak to me about any questions or concerns you may have, please get in touch with the School Office and I will contact you by telephone or email. You can, of course, also see me on the school playground in the mornings and afternoons most days.

English

In English, we are already starting to enjoy our class text, 'The House with Chicken Legs' by Sophie Anderson, which is based on a Slavic folk-tale about Baba Yaga and her house that moves of its own accord! Our writing work will link to that text where appropriate, and will develop our knowledge of and skills in the following text types: stories from other cultures and traditions; narrative contemporary fiction; instructions; non-chronological reports; letters; and myths and legends. We look forward to seeing the pupils' creative skills in their writing flourish as we progress through the term.

We are also having a special focus on revising our knowledge of spelling rules and grammar structures. We will rehearse grammar points each day in our English lessons, and we use Read Write Inc to practise spelling skills. As ever, presentation of work is very important, so we practise handwriting skills most days, too. Pupils are urged to focus on their presentation in all lessons, so that their work is always of a high quality.

Finally, we will continue with our daily Guided Reading sessions, which give the pupils the opportunity to be taught and to apply reading comprehension skills, including retrieval, inference, deduction and evaluation of text. Pupils will also work on an unseen text each week to apply their learning from the week and to enhance their knowledge of a range of texts.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, we will focus on ensuring that the children's knowledge of place value is secure, as this provides them with fundamental skills in number that will help with much of the work we do in the year. We will also be working on our skills of applying the four key mathematical operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and rehearsing the mental and written methods that go with each. Later in the term, we will develop our knowledge of fractions and decimals, for example looking at equivalent fractions, comparing fractions and starting to calculate with fractions.

We continue to enjoy our daily Flashback Four sessions: short, sharp daily practice of key arithmetic skills, facts and procedures, which will help the children to feel super confident with basic calculation strategies. We will also work daily on Rapid Recall facts – times tables in the first instance. We will continue to use Times Table Rock Stars to secure knowledge of multiplication facts for all tables up to 12x12, and we strongly encourage the children to practise these at home, as fluent recall of multiplication tables is essential to the maths pupils will study in years 5 and 6.

Science

Our topic this term is Evolution and Inheritance, in which we will develop our knowledge of how to classify organisms based on their characteristics. We will use comparative skills by looking at the similarities and differences of plants, animals and micro-organisms. Our scientific enquiry skills will focus on seeking patterns and conducting research using secondary sources.

R.E.

In RE, we will be focusing on 'Understanding Christianity', developing our reflection skills when considering questions about what it means to belong and what Christians believe about God. Our key question to further our knowledge is, 'What does it mean if God is loving and holy?'

Geography

In this subject we will undertake a virtual tour of Europe! We will develop our map skills to know and remember the names of the countries of Europe and their capitals. We will develop our knowledge of the human and physical geography of several European counties and develop the skill of comparison, identifying similarities and differences with Lincolnshire. By the end of this unit children will also know the location and names of the major rivers of Europe.

Jigsaw / PSHE

Jigsaw will provide the backbone of our Wellbeing and PSHE curriculum. We will be using analytical and evaluative skills in our theme of 'Being Me in My World.' Pupils will know about their place in different communities, from our school community to the wider role of being a citizen in our country today.

French

We will use Rigolo resources to rehearse speaking and listening skills, in order to know how to talk about ourselves, our families, and what we like to do. We also develop our knowledge of French language about school.

Computing

This term, 'We Are Game Developers', and are using software skills to create simple games on Scratch. In the second Autumn Term we will be Cryptographers, from which we will know how to send and receive messages in cyphers, including Morse and semaphore.

P.E

In P.E., children will play Netball on Wednesdays. They will learn the skills and techniques needed in the game, then apply them while gaining knowledge of its strategies and rules. Pupils in Maples will have Swimming lessons on Thursdays, where they can continue to work on their technique and stamina in our pool.

Design & Technology

In Design and Technology this term, we will use design skills to create our own moving houses, related to our English text 'The House with Chicken Legs'. We will understand how to use programmable technologies to assemble moving parts, then know how to construct them and make them work!

Pupils are very fortunate to enjoy our Cooking in the Curriculum lessons, which form part of the Design and Technology curriculum. This term, pupils will use their developing baking skills to make Antarctic Sledging Biscuits – suitable for the time of year!

Important Information

As per the Federation homework policy, homework will be set on Friday and should be returned on Thursday. For homework, children will be given some spellings: please help your child if necessary to practise their spellings using the exciting tasks from our spelling task menu. Also, the children will be given some mathematics homework. This includes accessing Times Table Rock Stars and learning a set of mathematical facts that can be deployed across the Mathematics curriculum. Please contact me if there is ever a problem accessing Times Table Rock Stars.

Our P.E days are: Wednesday and Thursday (swimming until October half term).

Please listen to your children read at least four times a week, as per our homework policy. This reading can include stories and reference books, newspapers and sports reports, recipes and instructions, websites and magazines – anything where they are reading! Record your child's reading by signing their Reading Record Book: this will mean your child will be able to attend the exciting termly reading challenge reward.

I look forward to speaking with you in person at the Parent Consultations later in the term; however, please feel free to contact me in the meantime if you wish.

Kind regards,

Mrs Parry

Maples Class Teacher