



Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

Maples

Summer 2023

Our Theme:

Why do the Mountains Roar?



Our Key Values:

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

Welcome back to school after the Easter holidays. We are very much looking forward to a busy and productive summer term. As always, there is a full schedule ahead, including sports day and the end-of-year show for year 5/6. Thank you for your ongoing support of school, particularly with reading and homework, and of course the fundraising efforts this year. 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 also see me on the school playground in the mornings and afternoons most days.

English

In English, we will develop our knowledge and skills for writing poetry, narratives, explanation, journalism and persuasion, largely within our theme of mountains and volcanoes. We will also be looking at a text by Shakespeare later in the term, which will develop our children's cultural capital and build our knowledge and skills in drama. We have a new class text, 'When the Mountains Roared,' by Jess Butterworth, which will link life in the Indian mountains to our work.

We will continue to improve our knowledge of spelling rules and grammar structures, as part of our daily and weekly routines. Our daily Guided Reading gives children the opportunity to apply reading comprehension skills, including retrieval, inference, deduction and evaluation of text. At the same time their vocabulary knowledge will grow from exposure to different content and text types. Pupils will also work on an unseen text each week to apply their learning from the week and to build their knowledge of a range of texts.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, we will focus on our knowledge of properties of shape, including angles, then learning about position and direction in Geometry. This allows us to improve our skills in areas such as co-ordinates, too. This will be followed by consolidation of learning about the Four Operations and of any other areas required; this knowledge can then be used in our maths investigations towards the end of the year, when we will hone our problem-solving and reasoning skills.

We continue to practice key arithmetic skills daily which helps the children to feel confident with core methods and strategies. We regularly revise our knowledge of the times tables, including by using Times Table Rock Stars. As ever, we strongly advise pupils to keep practising these facts at home, to ensure swift recall of knowledge, which helps them build their skills across the maths curriculum.

R.E

In RE, we will explore the topic of 'Life Journeys'. This will take in journeys across a range of religions, so will develop the children's knowledge of how people of different faiths undergo different life journeys. It will allow us to practise the skill of comparing and contrasting religions around the world, helping to foster tolerance and understanding.

Science

Our first topic in science this term is Light. We will build our knowledge of how light travels, reflection, refraction and the light spectrum. We will use our enquiry skills to observe these different phenomena and to explain our findings, as well as to investigate shadows.

Our second science unit is Forces, and we will improve our knowledge of gravity, air resistance, water resistance, magnetism and friction. Again, we will use our investigation skills to seek patterns and conduct fair testing in order to apply our knowledge whilst working scientifically.

Geography

We will be learning about the Earth's crust, mantle and core, and gaining knowledge of plate tectonics, including the formation of volcanoes and the generation and impact of earthquakes and tsunamis. We will use geographical skills, including by using maps, atlases and digital mapping to locate the areas we'll be studying in more detail. We will compare life on a volcanic island with our own country and county, in order to understand our context better.

PSHE/Jigsaw

We will be working through two more of our Jigsaw units. The forthcoming themes are 'Relationships' and 'Changing Me'. We will discuss areas such as how personal circumstances can change, including grief and loss, bullying and general well-being. We will go on to build our knowledge of how we change as individuals, as well as helping to prepare children for transitions at the end of the summer. As always, these will be taught with sensitivity and mutual respect for others, which are both part of our key values, and are key skills needed in the PSHE curriculum.

P.E

In PE, we will cover cricket and athletics, helping the children to build knowledge of strategy and technique in fielding and striking, as well to explore a range of different athletics events. In the process, they will develop their skills across different disciplines in sport. We are looking forward to the re-opening of the school swimming pool, at which point children can resume their swimming lessons, acquiring more knowledge and skills in different swimming strokes and water safety.

Design & Technology

In DT this term, we will design and make a working model of a volcano, which will incorporate a cam mechanism and programmable lights. Based on the knowledge gained in the geography curriculum, children will use research and evaluation skills to consider models against a design specification. They will develop their DT skills by making and manipulating a cam on a stationary model, and they will build a programmed light array, as well as decorating the model. Finally, they will evaluate their own completed model against the design specifications, to round off their DT skills for the unit.

Computing

Our units this term in Computing are 'We are Web Developers' and 'We are App Planners.' Children will develop their knowledge and skills simultaneously when building a web page on a given theme. They will also be given the task of developing an app similar to the Flappy Bird game. Children will use a variety of different software and resources in order to enhance their knowledge, understand and skills across them.

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 spellings to practise using the 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 when on)

Please listen to your children read as regularly as you can. 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.

As ever, please contact me if you need any help or support, or with any other questions.

Kind regards,

Mrs Parry

Maples Class Teacher