



Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

Maples

Autumn 2023



Our History Theme:

Here Come the Invaders

Our School Values:

Caring

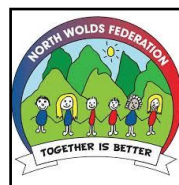
Commitment to Achieve

Co-operation

Independence

Happiness

Respect





Welcome back to the new school year, and I hope that you and your families had a fun and relaxing summer break. I have been enormously impressed by how well the children in Maples have returned to school. Their attitude and eagerness to learn have been superb, and I am looking forward to an excellent year with the class.

During this Autumn Term, we will consider the question, 'How did invaders and settlers change Britain after the Romans?' This will cover Anglo-Saxon and Viking history, up to the Norman invasion in 1066. We have already started exploring the topic, and children have asked lots of great questions for our historical enquiries.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support, and if you need to speak to me about any questions or concerns, 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 will develop our knowledge and skills for writing legends and historical narratives, by using Michael Morpurgo's retelling of the Saxon tale of 'Beowulf' and Tony Bradman's 'Viking Boy' as inspirations for our creative writing. We will go on to look at report writing and instructions, including writing instructions on how to build a Viking long ship!

We will continue to improve our knowledge of spelling rules and grammatical 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, children's 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 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 will enjoy our daily Flashback Four sessions: covering key points from a broad range of Maths topics, these short sessions aim to keep the children's knowledge and skills fresh when they are covering other topic areas in their main Maths lessons. We will also work daily on Rapid Recall facts – short, sharp daily practice of key Arithmetic skills - 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

This term in science, we will learn about Living Things and Their Habitats. To build our knowledge of this topic, we will learn about how flowers are pollinated and how seeds and fruits are produced. We will then examine different animals' life cycles and how metamorphosis occurs in some of them. Finally, we will compare how different animals reproduce by laying eggs or giving birth. Throughout the science curriculum, we always apply our skills of working scientifically and using scientific enquiry methods to frame our learning.

History

In our history lessons, we will focus on events and life after the Romans left Britain in the early 5th century CE, up to the Norman Invasion in 1066. We will understand the settlement of the Saxons and the invasion of the Vikings. Through historical enquiry and skills, we will look at their settlements, transport, food, crafts and lifestyle, and then know more about how both groups integrated with the people of Britain. This knowledge will be built on an understanding of the key events and people of the times.

R.E

Our topic in RE this term is Being Human, with a focus on the religion of Hinduism. We will learn more about the principles and duties that underpin Hindu life, and explore examples of how notable Hindu people led their lives. In the second half of term, we will consider what the Qur'an says about how Muslims should treat others and how they should live their lives. This involves learning about the five Pillars of Islam. Our RE skills will allow us to make comparisons and see similarities between how people of different faiths live their lives.

PSHE

In PSHE we are learning about 'Being Me In My World,' and we will base our work on the Jigsaw resources. We will know about goals, rights and responsibilities, and we will apply our skills of empathy to consider how the lives of other children can be radically different to our own, and well as listening well to the viewpoints and ideas of other children in the class.

Art

In Art, we will gain knowledge of various styles within Viking art, and how those styles have been reproduced by famous artists such as Escher; we will then practise and refine our drawing techniques in order to recreate different Viking art styles. In addition, we will learn how Vikings constructed their jewellery and we will use our own art skills to make reproduction Viking jewellery!

Music

In Music, we shall gain knowledge of how the pulse, pitch and rhythm of different pieces of music affects the listener, and we will use our singing and playing skills to perform 'Livin' On A Prayer!'

P.E

Our PE topics this term, will be Swimming, Football, Rugby and Outdoor Adventurous Activities. Knowledge and skills gained in practice will be applied in game settings. Wednesday and Thursday are PE days in Maples class. We will have Swimming lessons on Thursdays up until October half term, where they can continue to work on their technique and stamina in our pool at Market Rasen. After half term, they will have PE lessons in school on Thursdays, as well as their usual Wednesday slot.



Important Information

In line with the Federation homework policy, homework will be set on Friday and should be returned on Thursday. Children will be given some spellings: please help your child if necessary to practise them using 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.

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 enable your child 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