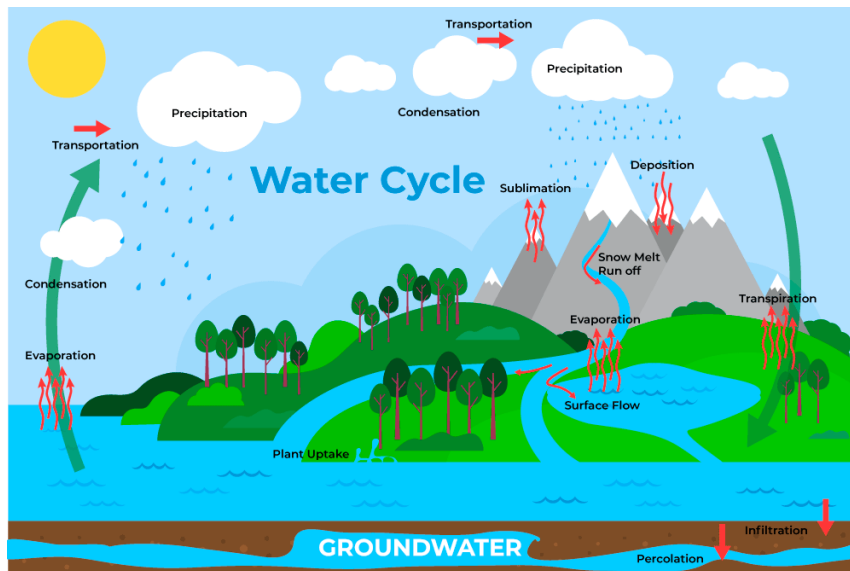




# Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

## Maples

Spring 2024



Our Geography Theme:

Why Does It Always Rain On Me?

Our School Values:

Caring      Commitment to Achieve Co-operation  
Independence      Happiness      Respect



Welcome back to school! We hope that you and your families had a lovely break, and we wish you all a joyous New Year. The children in Maples made super progress last term, due to their hard work and positive attitude. Spring Term promises lots of exciting and interesting learning, which has already begun with our Wow Day this week, when we undertook a Geography field trip in the local area.

As ever, I want to thank you for your ongoing support: the commitment from parents towards reading and homework is much appreciated, as it helps the children enormously. Thanks, too, for embracing the reading dogs – the pupils are very keen on taking them home! 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.

### **Spring Term 2024**

#### **Our theme is 'Why Does It Always Rain On Me?'**

For our WOW activities, we will undertake a field trip to the local river, where we will complete various observations, measurements and recording activities. We will consolidate this back in the classroom by looking at some digital mapping, as well as enjoying some tasks related to the water cycle.

#### **English**

In English, we will develop our knowledge and skills for writing across a range of text-types, including diaries, non-chronological reports, letters, explanation texts and narrative. Our linked texts this term are 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgwick and 'Holes' by Louis Sachar, both of which offer ample opportunities to inspire our creative writing. We will also work on cross-curricular writing, for example by completing explanation texts about the circulatory system (links with Science) and the water cycle (links with Geography).

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. We intend for all children to read for pleasure regularly, both at home and at school, and there are always many books in school for them to choose from. 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.

Spelling and handwriting continue to have great importance. The children will learn a spelling rule each week and practise this rule as part of their class work and homework. They will also learn a handful of words from the Y5 and Y6 list. All of these can be found in their Reading Record.

### **Mathematics**

In Mathematics, we will move on to decimal fractions and percentages. Children will learn key knowledge about the relationships between fractions, decimals and percentages, and they will gain the skills to convert between them. We will also learn to calculate with decimals and percentages, which builds on prior knowledge and skills from last term. Later in the Spring term, we will look at converting measures, using our knowledge and skills when multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000. We also apply our problem-solving skills to algebra and geometry (perimeter, area and volume). Finally, we will look at statistics, where pupils can use their knowledge of graphs and charts, as well as their skills at interpreting them. We continue to enjoy daily practice of key arithmetic skills, facts and procedures, which will help the children to feel confident with basic calculation 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 quick recall of knowledge, which helps them build their skills across the maths curriculum.

### **Science**

This term in science, we will learn about the Circulatory System in humans. To build our knowledge of this topic, we will learn about the components of blood and the functions of the heart, lungs and blood vessels. We will then examine the impact of diet and lifestyle on the human body. After half-term, we will explore Electricity and we will learn about electrical components by investigating variations of circuits. Throughout the science curriculum, we always apply our skills of working scientifically and using scientific enquiry methods to frame our learning.

### **Geography**

In Geography, we will cover both physical and human Geography, by learning about the Water Cycle and the impact of water on land formation. We will learn about the local waterways, the principal rivers of the UK and the World (enabling us to use our comparison skills in Geography), and the key features of a river system. We will also examine the environmental impact of climate change, including the impact of global warming on the ice caps and flooding. Our Geography field trip gives us the opportunity to practise our Geography skills of observing, measuring and recording, and using digital mapping devices to trace the routes of our local waterways.

### **R.E**

In R.E., we will focus on Christianity, particularly learning about the Christian belief of Salvation, that Jesus died to save us. For example, we will know about the Fifteen Stations of the Cross from the teachings in the Gospels. We will understand the importance of the Eucharist, or Holy Communion, and its role in Christian services. We will also explore Incarnation, and that Christians believe that Jesus's birth, life, death and resurrection were part of a longer plan by God to restore the relationship between humans and God. Throughout the topics, our RE skills will help us to understand how people of faith view the significance of Salvation and Incarnation in everyday life.

### **Computing**

In Computing this term, our topics are 'We Are Connected' and 'We Are Advertisers.' In the first topic, we will learn about web logs (blogs) and we will apply our knowledge and skills to create our own. Within that, we will also understand about 'fake news' and bias, and how to be discerning consumers of information online. After that, we will learn about techniques and tools to produce engaging and persuasive adverts using digital media, and we will apply these skills to create our own adverts. Within these units, we will review our E-Safety learning, so that all children have the knowledge and skills they need to keep themselves safe online.

### PSHE

Jigsaw will provide the backbone of our Wellbeing and PSHE curriculum. We will be using goal-setting skills in our theme of 'Dreams and Goals,' which is well-suited to the start of a new year! Pupils will also consider their own wellbeing in 'Healthy Me', where they will build knowledge and skills of how to maintain their physical and mental wellbeing.

### Art

We will be developing our knowledge and skills in painting to begin with. We will compare and contrast the work of Katsushika Hokusai and David Hockney in our Artist Study, and will incorporate their styles into our own works involving water. Beyond half term, we will work with a different medium by learning about the skills and knowledge required for tile printing, and we will apply those techniques in our own work.

### P.E

In P.E., children will cover netball, gymnastics, hockey and dance. They will apply prior knowledge of invasion games, as well as new knowledge specific to the games played. They will practise and apply the skills needed to pass and receive, attack and defend; they will also use their knowledge and skills in manipulating their bodies when performing gymnastics and dance.

## 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 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. Year 6 pupils will also continue to receive grammar and arithmetic tasks.

Our P.E days are: **Wednesday** and **Thursday**.

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! Please record your child's reading by signing their Reading Record Book.

I look forward to speaking with you again 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