

Maple Class Newsletter – Summer 1

Our topic this half term is: **Extreme Earth**

Staffing in Maple Class:

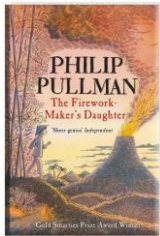
Teacher: Mrs Mucklow (Mon, Tues, Wed)

Mrs Hurst (Thurs, Fri)

LSA: Mrs Pickwell and Mrs Greenwood

English:

Our English learning will begin with our focus on themes within stories. This will predominately be based on the book 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman. We will also have a non-fiction focus on instructional texts and descriptive texts, which links to our Science learning about Plants.



Reading

Reading books can be changed as and when the children have finished their book, please encourage your children to let us know so we can help them choose a new book.

As a school, we will be continuing our reward system. **Children will need to have read on 4 separate days (in one week) for staff to update the register towards their reward** (this will be checked on a Friday morning).

Writing

This half term we are focusing on creating interesting and detailed adventure stories based on 'The Firework Maker's Daughter'. We will be thinking about exploring themes of family, perseverance and following our hopes and dreams within the adventure genre.

Then, we will be using our knowledge of instructions to write a formal instructional text about how to look after plants. We will be focusing on imperative verbs, descriptive vocabulary and sequencing.

During both units we will continue to develop the complexity of our sentences by using fronted adverbials, prepositional phrases and conjunctions, while placing particular focus on building a rich variety of descriptive vocabulary which includes personification, similes and metaphor use.

Maths:

This half term we will be focusing on:

- Fractions
- Decimals
- Shape

We will continue to work with practical resources and equipment in order for children to become secure in a concept, before moving on to written and mental methods. The children extend their understanding by using their knowledge in a range of situations and problems.

Please encourage your child to practise their times tables on TT Rockstars regularly so they can become fluent up to 12 x 12. These skills are essential for our learning.

We will update and review their times tables set accordingly.

Science

This half term, will continue with our Science unit of **Plants.**

After finding out about the functions of each part of a flowering plant, including how different plants are adapted to a range of habitats, we will look at plant needs and grow our own plants, observing how they change over time.

After this, we will think about how flowering plants reproduce and disperse their seeds.

Reading Challenge in Maple:

If children successfully **read four or more times** in one week, then they will earn a reward from our prize raffle box which will be awarded the following Monday.

Reading records must be signed by an adult and handed in on Fridays for checks.

Important Dates Next term:

PE is every Monday and Thursday.

Wednesday 17th June – Class Photos

Monday 6th July - Maple Class trip to Beth Chatto

Geography – Extreme Earth

We will continue learning about Naples, with a look at the key aspects of volcanoes and earthquakes in relation to the eruption in Pompeii 79AD. We will then further our learning about this by studying the North American region of California. We will investigate the physical and human geography of this area, investigating the aspects of volcanoes and earthquakes once again, in this different place.

Design Technology – Bendy Bags

In this unit children learn how simple textile containers can be designed and modified for different purposes and different users. They will decide what will be kept in their bag and calculate dimensions suitable to meet their chosen purpose. They will cut rectangular patterns/templates and join fabrics by stitching. They will also see how other materials can add further properties to textiles when they use plastic strips to stiffen and close their bags.

Computing – Computational Thinking and Data handling

We will complete our computation thinking unit then move on to data handling, using the weather as a subject.

We will collect data about the weather and use a spreadsheet to present and analyse this data. We will also use the internet to search for further data about the weather in different cities/countries.

PE

On Mondays, Maple will learn athletics with the sports coach. On Thursdays they will have gymnastics with Mrs Hurst.

We will be outside on the field on Mondays so please ensure children are dressed appropriately including wearing a sun hat and sun cream when suitable. Please make sure that children come into school dress in their PE kit on these days. Items should follow the PE uniform policy and be clearly labelled.

Music

We will begin by finishing our unit of singing where we listen to, appraise and perform the song 'Lean on Me' by Bill Withers. Our learning will take us on a musical journey where we will experience other gospel inspired songs and compositions by artists including Elvis Presley, Mary Mary and Beethoven. We will then focus on one song: Bringing Us Together - a Disco song about friendship, peace, hope and unity.

PSHCE – Rights and Respect/being my best

We will finish off our 'Rights and Respect' topic and then move on to 'Being My Best'. We will learn about how we can keep our bodies healthy by choosing food wisely, looking after ourselves when poorly and we will also explore our own special talents and uniqueness.

French – In this unit, pupils will learn how to recognise, recall and spell up to 10 instruments in French with their definite article/determiner. We will also learn to say and write 'I play' + an instrument in French using '*je joue*' (I play) with up to 10 different instruments.

Religious Education:

In RE, we will be studying the diversity of Christianity as a religion across the whole globe. We will develop an awareness of the concept of denominations within Christianity e.g. Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Free Church, Salvation Army and the diverse ways in which people celebrate festivals such as Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

Christian Value: Our value this half term is 'Service', through Collective Worship the children will begin to explore its meaning and value. Please see the worship newsletter for additional information.