

Year 4 Summer Term Newsletter

Dear all,

How has it got to the Summer term already?! I hope you all had a lovely break and enjoyed the Easter holidays. Thank you for all your kind well wishes with regards to my Easter wedding. We had a fabulous day up in Snowdonia, North Wales, where the sun didn't stop shining all day!!

This term is slightly longer than the last one, and it's looking to be a very busy one too. Like usual, I will outline key points in this newsletter, but please do not hesitate to come and see Mr Dowsell or myself at any point should you have any queries.

In Literacy, all KS2 classes are continuing to work from the Literacy and Language scheme (written by the authors of the Read, Write Inc. scheme used by the Infants). For the first half of the term we'll be focussing largely on fiction writing, including playscripts and stories with historical settings. For the second half, we'll be having a go at writing persuasively, before finishing the year looking at stories from other cultures. SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) and Comprehension will continue being taught both in isolated lessons and in context, to heighten the children's skills in these areas.

Reading groups have been changed slightly at the start of this term, so please don't be surprised if your child tells you they've moved groups. Of course, these will remain flexible over the term. They will continue to have a variety of activities during their Guided Reading sessions, to include reading a novel with me; independent comprehension; free writing; spelling and/or book corner activities and a trip to the library with Mr Dowsell to help with choosing their own books to take home to read. Please continue to read with them at home, both by listening to them read but also by reading to them occasionally. The children are getting very good at bringing in their reading records on the right day, though **could I ask you to initial the weekly entries just to show that they have read that week's section.** A few children haven't been doing so and it means that the session I read with them is sometimes spent catching a couple of children up. The time I have with them is precious and so your continued support with this would be much appreciated.

In maths, much of this term will be focussed on revisiting and consolidating areas that we have looked at through the year. They will still be doing mental maths with Mr Dowsell for 20 minutes on Tuesdays, and times tables tests on Thursday mornings with me. By the end of Year 4, they are asked to know all tables up to 12 x 12. In Year 5, they will be doing Tables Torture each week, so learning them this year will give the children a really good head-start!

Homework is staying the same as it was last term, with approximately half an hour of both Maths and English. Most children are very good at bringing their folders in on a Wednesday, but there are a few who forget. We ask for it on Wednesday so we have time to mark it and put in the new homework for the next week, and it makes it more difficult when children don't bring it in on the correct day. The homework policy has been changed slightly and we have all agreed as a team that should homework not be brought in on time, the children will need to complete it during their lunchtimes. Spellings will continue to be sent home with homework on Fridays for a test the following Thursday. We've focused on lots of patterns this year and some of the ones they've previously learnt will be thrown in randomly to their tests to ensure that they are consolidating them.

Here's a few notes about other areas of the curriculum:

- Our Science work this term will be finishing off from last term's learning about the weather, water cycle and states of matter. We will then be moving into looking at the human digestive system, before finishing off the year focusing on dental hygiene. During that time, we will have a dentist visit the school to lead a session (date tbc)

- In Art and DT, the children will be doing two longer term projects this term. The first will be led by Mr Dowsell, making smaller and larger scale mosaics (to tie in with our learning about the Romans). After half term, we'll be doing a project making our own jams and chutneys.
- Our History topic for the term is the Romans. For the first half term, the children will be doing their own research project during the time that they are not swimming on Thursday afternoons. After half term, we will be focussing largely on the Romans and their impact on Britain, specifically in St Albans.
- During this local area study, we will continue to focus on mapping and orienteering skills, forming the basis of our Geography for the term.
- R.E will continue to be taught by Mr Dowsell, who will be focussing on the key elements of Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism.
- In Computing, the children will be looking at writing and editing HTML texts, before reviewing and creating their own online toys / games.
- Circle Time will be held weekly to discuss PHSE issues and to hear feedback from Eco and School Council.
- French will continue once a week and will cover basic conversational French.
- In Music, we'll continue with the Charanga Music Scheme, though much of our focus this term will be on learning songs for our class assembly. **May I remind you that this will be held at 9am on the 19th May.** Lines to be learnt will be handed out shortly.

Finally, I will go through some changes in our weekly routines this term.

P.E will change due to us having swimming on Thursday afternoons. The children will be grouped with similar ability children, and these groups will stay the same during the term. The coach may swap someone if they see fit. Please can I ask that you ensure that your children have the correct swimming kit (trunks for boys and swimming costumes for girls, swimming caps and towel). Goggles are optional though I've been warned that children will not be allowed to swim should they not have a swimming cap. This goes for boys and girls. Our class P.E lessons will be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at normal times. Because it is the Summer term, most lessons will be outdoors so again, if you ensure they have the correct kit, that'd be wonderful. P.E kits should go home regularly for washing. **Should your child not be able to take part in the daily run laps of the field or P.E lessons, please do make sure you've spoken to me either verbally or in writing.**

Please do feel free to discuss any important pupil issues with me before they become major. The best time to see me is immediately after school, though on Tuesdays and Thursdays I may need to rush off to Staff meetings. If for any reason we can't meet immediately then I will find time and arrange to meet as soon as possible.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this and I hope that it helps to keep you in touch with your child's education at Maple. This will be my last letter to you as parents so thank-you for your continued support with your child's learning. Please remember that to see on a more regular basis what's going on inside the Year 4 classroom, you can follow us on Twitter with MapleSchoolYr4.

Mrs Bethany Jackson and Mr Graham Dowsell