



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

# Year 4 Spring Term Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school in the New Year and decade, 2020. Thank you very much for your very generous gifts and your continuing support in your child's learning. It is greatly appreciated. Miss Hammersley will be teaching the class on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and Mrs Garland will teach the class on a Thursday to cover Miss Hammersley's PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment).

We will outline some key points in this newsletter but please do not hesitate to come and see us at any point should you have any queries. We much prefer to discuss things, big or small, as and when they arise, so please continue to see us after school if there is anything you wish to talk over.

## Maths

The children have worked so hard last term and there was a lot of focus on the core mathematics – place value, column addition and subtraction, multiplication and time. We are pleased to say that we are starting this term by giving the children a little break with turning our focus towards Graphs, Perimeter, Shape and Symmetry. We will then move on to looking at friendly fractions, delightful decimals and more measures (including money).

Next term, the children will be taking a national multiplication test. There will be more information coming later this term but in essence, the children need to be able to recall their times tables fluently (up to 12 x 12). We are working on this at school but any chance to practise using Times Table (TT) Rockstars or quick recall questions at home will really help build your child's confidence.

## English

The children will be learning how to write persuasively and in play script form this term, as well as writing their own poetry and recounts. SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and Comprehension will be taught both in isolated lessons and in context.

Guided reading groups will continue to meet weekly to read and discuss their texts. Regular reading at home, both your child reading to you and being read to by you, is hugely important, so please encourage your child to make full use of the school library and class book corner should they require extra reading material. There is a great selection to suit all tastes! Please refer to the Year 4 reading list on the website if you would like some inspiration as to what to read. The children are getting better at bringing in their reading records on the right day, though could we 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 we read with them is sometimes spent catching a couple of children up. The time we have with them is precious and so your continued support with this would be much appreciated.

Online Logins - As well as TT Rockstars, there are many other online websites that children can access from home. Don't forget Bug Club and Language Angels too!

## Homework

We have been really impressed with the high standard of the children's homework, from Alexander-Graham Bell posters, to Roman Shields and weekly Maths and English work. Thank you for your hard work and time in making this happen. Homework will continue to be set on Thursdays, to be returned the following Wednesday. A gentle reminder to encourage your child to remember to bring their folders in before Wednesday if possible. This ensures that there is ample time to mark it before it goes home again. It does make it more difficult when children don't bring it in on the correct day or if it is incomplete. The weekly homework tasks should take no more than 30 minutes for English (including 'Practising Language' and 'Thinking Task' activities) and 30 minutes for Maths to complete. If it is taking any longer, leave it and just send us a quick note to say why it is not finished. Similarly, if it is not taking long enough, speak to us and we can arrange some further extensions.

Spellings will continue to be sent home with homework on Thursdays for a test the following Thursday. Should your child have forgotten their spelling books, the new spellings will always be stapled to their spelling test from that week. There are also always spare copies of any homework and spellings at the front of the classroom, so if for any reason your child does not have their homework, please encourage them to collect a spare copy.

#### Here are a few notes about other areas of the curriculum:

- Our Science work this term will be around living things and their habitats, moving into states of matter. This will tie in nicely with our geography focus on weather / climates (in particular in the rainforest).
- In Art and DT, we will look at collaging, both in large scale and small scale. We will also focus on close observation drawing, mimicking other artists' work.
- Our Geography topic this term will focus on Rainforests, weather, climate and the water cycle.
- We will focus further on History in the Summer Term.
- In R.E, we will be focusing on the key elements of Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism. There will be a trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor (a Hindu Temple) at the very beginning of the Summer Term.
- In Computing, the children will create their own Wiki pages about animals in the rainforest, and after Half Term, will create their own weather forecasts using the green screen.
- PSHE will be held weekly to discuss important themes and issues.
- French will continue to be taught using the Language Angels Scheme.
- In Music, we will continue with the Charanga Music Scheme, whilst some children are rehearsing for the Young Voices Concert.

#### P.E

P.E will continue be on a Tuesday (indoors) and Wednesday (outdoors), along with the Daily Run. Please make sure that your child's clean, named Maple P.E kit is in school on these days. Please do ensure they have suitable layers and footwear, particularly over the coming months as we will still be doing P.E outdoors on a Wednesday. The class are now very used to running four laps of the field, but could you please ensure they have SUITABLE outdoor running shoes, as a few children's shoes haven't been suitable for running in.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and we hope that it helps to keep you in touch with your child's education at Maple. Please remember that to see on a more regular basis what is going on inside the Year 4 classroom, you can follow us on Twitter with MapleSchoolYr4.

Miss Hammersley, Mrs Garland and Mrs Mann