



Year 6 Spring Term Newsletter

January 2020



Welcome back and Happy New Year! Firstly, we would like to thank you for your very thoughtful Christmas gifts and messages at the end of term which were a wonderful surprise and was very generous of you. We hope that you and your families have had a fun but healthy and restful two week break. Hopefully the break and additional sleep have killed off some of the bugs that were circulating at the end of last term.

We are really looking forward to another action packed and hard working term with the class, containing lots of learning and laughter!

In Maths we will be further revising the four rules of number, alongside ongoing mental maths, problem solving and specific topics in order to cover the necessary concepts before the SATs tests in May; including negative numbers, percentages, ratio/proportion, 2D and 3D shapes, to name but a few. Mental Maths skills, word problems and investigations will also continue to feature. Part of our focus will also be on the Arithmetic test.

In English we will be focusing on a range of fiction and non-fiction texts and examining the key features of various types of writing. As well as the ongoing comprehension skills part of our weekly work also involves aspects of Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, in preparation for the National tests. Your child should be reading regularly, making use of the school library for both fiction and non-fiction books. Do look at the reading list for Year 6 on the school website. Our Guided reading focus after half term will be stories from Shakespeare and other classics. Weekly spellings will be given on a Friday and then tested on the following Thursday of the next week. The spelling is tested alongside the meaning of the word. As part of speaking and listening, each child will be asked to prepare and present a short talk to the class about their personal topic based on a European country. Short, spontaneous talks will also be encouraged and we will of course be continuing with the very popular Reception Reading weekly session!

Small group work will continue with Mrs Angel, and Mrs Turley. Mrs Turley will continue the work on "Goodnight Mr Tom" whilst Mrs Bowen, who will be teaching Thursdays and Fridays, has PPA time (Planning, Preparation and Assessment time). Mr Rakind will teach some aspects of Computing to Year 6 on Friday afternoons from 1.15-2.15pm for this half of the Spring Term. Mrs Kemp continues to teach

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Year 6, with Thursday and Friday being a combination of SEN time, management and PPA.

Weekly homework, consisting of both Maths (online) and English alternately in homework books/ online SPAG, will be set on Fridays, and is to be handed in on the following Wednesday at the latest. The children will also need to complete their personal History topic this term. This is a fantastic opportunity to further develop their understanding and interest in a specific country through fun, interactive activities and research. There are many on-line resources which can also really support the pupils in specific areas of Maths and English that they are personally finding tricky - the more they practise the better they will get and their confidence will increase!

Please ensure that you sign your child's homework book each week, regardless of whether they have been supported at home or not, as this is a requirement at Secondary School and we want the children to get into good habits. Also, whilst signing the book, it is the perfect opportunity for you to see the quality of their homework and how hard they are working. Please encourage good presentation as well as the children trying their best.

The long-term personal topics are due in by **Friday 28th February** (the first week back after half term) however they may be given in to us as soon as they are complete. Please make sure that the children use their own words, as opposed to just cutting and pasting from a website - understanding the information is crucial to their learning. We really appreciate the huge effort that many of the children are putting into them - not to mention all the parental help and support! Thank you.

Our Science work will include the topics of Body parts, Light, Keys, Habitats and the Environment. As part of our Science/ PSHE we will be visiting the St Albans Fire Station for Crucial Crew which covers various aspects of safeguarding.

Practise SATs papers in Maths and English will start this half term to help the children prepare for the timed conditions that they will have to work in. These will be marked and scored by us and the results will be privately shared with the pupils, in order to help them understand where improvements can be made. The levels of the first papers will be communicated to you during Consultation appointments in February. Alongside our SATs preparation, we are very keen to ensure that a well-rounded and rich curriculum continues for the class.

In Art our theme is "Artists of the 20th Century" where we will be looking at our observational drawing and painting skills, alongside experimenting with different media. Towards the end of this half term we hope to complete our D&T and History

project, doing our bit for *make do and mend*, designing and making a bag and using the sewing machine. Thanks to Mrs Sykes, the bags are progressing well. Then, to support our Computing learning, we have organised for the children to take part in an Animation Workshop, where they will create a short cartoon using plasticine models. Animation and creating presentations will be our main ICT focus, alongside App designing. Remember to check out Twitter and the school website on a regular basis! Our address is [Twitter.com/mapleschoolyr6](https://twitter.com/mapleschoolyr6).

We will be continuing with our weekly French lessons, developing vocabulary, comprehension, oral skills and learning French songs and rhymes.

Friday 6th March is the date for our class assembly, so please do come and support your child at 9 a.m.

PE will be a combination of Basketball, fitness training and Yoga, both indoors and outdoors, dependent on weather. Please provide appropriate clothing for PE and indoor/outdoor shoes. The daily run will continue, so let's hope the weather enables us all to keep up the good practice. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate footwear, enabling all pupils to improve their fitness level. PE continues to play a very important part in our curriculum, as the fitter and healthier the children are then the better they will do academically. They will hopefully also feel positive and cope better with the demands of the next 2 terms, and secondary school.

In RE we will be developing a deeper understanding of Buddhism alongside Christianity.

We will be continuing our study of Britain since the 1930s in History. The children have their visit to The Imperial War Museum at Duxford on February 28th and a visit to the Anne Frank workshop at St Albans Cathedral has been planned.

Parents can find extra curriculum information on the Maple website under 'Classroom' and 'Curriculum'.

Finally, we will also be celebrating our annual Special Events week in the last week of the term which will be based on "The Sixties and the history of Maple School". Further details of this event will be sent home at a later date.

Please accept our very best wishes for the year ahead. We're very keen for the children to talk to us if they have any worries, queries or concerns. With secondary transfer looming, this term can be difficult due to the nature of the many changes ahead. Should there be anything you wish to discuss with us before parents'

evening, our classroom doors are always open! Please do not hesitate to contact us or pop in to arrange a time.

Here's to a great term ahead and thank you for your full support.

The Year 6 Team

Dates to make a note of:

SATs practice papers will be the weeks of 20th Jan, 9th March and 27th April

28th January - Visit to the Houses of Parliament

29th January - Animation workshop, in class

4th February - Visit to St Albans Cathedral for Anne Frank workshop

6th February - O2 Young Voices concert (choir members)

10th Feb - Feeling Good week

11th and 13th February - Consultations

25th February - Maths lesson at Verulam School 11.00-12.00 noon

28th February - Visit to Duxford and Personal topics due in

5th March- World Book Day

6th March - Year 6 Class assembly

18th March - To visit Crucial Crew at St Albans Fire Station

23rd March - Chick eggs arrive at school

30th March- 3rd April - Special Events Week