

# Maple Class Newsletter



Autumn 2 2023/24  
Miss Farmer and  
Miss Collin

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn 2, lets go! We are well rested and raring to go. Lots to learn and lots of fun things planned especially as we get in the run up to Christmas.

This term, Year 1 and 2 will be making a fairground wheels, we would really appreciate it if children could bring in clean, empty yoghurt pots or egg cartons (or similar in shape) to use as their fairground wheel pods. We will need these by 29.11.2023.

Reception will have a Christmas workshop in their provision towards the end of this term, therefore if anyone has any spare Christmas themed wrapping paper, tags or cards this year we would appreciate them to enhance and create the Christmas workshop. Please can we have any donations by 1.12.2023.

Please find us on Twitter to see what we get up to. I post pupils' work and in the moment photos of the day on [@MapleWSM](#) and [@WestonStMary](#) so please follow us. Additionally, Reception parents, please check Tapestry on a regular basis as this will be frequently updated during the week with individual and group observations/learning.

Please check your emails regularly as this is our main means of contact for any notices, reminders or events throughout the term. If there are ever any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you on parents evening.

Many thanks, Miss Farmer

## Key dates

- EYFS WOW day, week commencing 27th November - dress up as what you want to be when you grow up. (more details to follow).
- Pantomime Tuesday 12th December
- Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner day 15th December 2023.

## Things to remember

- **Daily**- named water bottle, healthy snack (fruit/vegetable or a small plain biscuit), warm coat, reading books, reading record. Milk is provided for children up to their 5th birthday.
- **P.E** - Tuesday and Friday. Please ensure P.E kits are brought to school in another bag. Ensure clothes are named and are appropriate for the weather. We may be inside or out. Please be reminded we have a P.E kit uniform (**plain** white or blue t-shirt, black or navy shorts or jogging bottoms, black or navy plain jumper).
- **Homework** - Homework will be sent home on a Friday and needs to be returned by the following Wednesday so I can mark it and give feedback to any work which has been done and ensure new homework is given in enough time.
- **Reading**- To promote good progress and enjoyment for reading it is recommended that your child reads regularly. We **expect** children to read **at least 4 times a week**. We have already filled our marble jar once, let's see if we can fill it again before Christmas. We have noticed a decline in the regular reading especially by year 1 and 2 pupils. This will impact on pupils progression many areas of the curriculum. Reading records are checked daily, if pupils have read their reading book from school or one from home they can put a marble in our class reading jar which will contribute to a whole class treat. **Children who are not regularly reading at least 4 times a week at home will miss their break times to read with a grown up to ensure good progress.**
- **Start of the day**- Children are expected to be on the playground in line with their teacher by 8:45am.
- Ensure all **long hair** is tied up. This is for safety and hygiene reasons.
- **Earrings** must be removed for P.E days. Staff are not allowed to physically help with the removal of earrings.
- This term our value is **Courage**.

## EYFS Curriculum this term

This term we continue our **Big Question** is "What makes me, me?". During this term there is a focus on festivals we and others celebrate, places around us and looking to the future and our aspirations.

In **Maths**, we follow the White Rose sequence of learning. This term we build on our number knowledge within 5 and learn about the shapes.

In **Technology**, this term we begin using technology in our environment for a purpose, like using a CD player, as well as iPads for drawing, playing games and taking photos.

The children have made a great start with their **Phonics** learning 26 individual sounds. This term we focus on securing those sounds so we can begin to spell and read CVC words. The children continue learning more sounds known as special friends which are multiple letters which when combined make one sound like th, sh and ch. As children learn more sounds and can blend words including those sounds they will begin bringing home phonetically decodable books which start with sound blending books. In **Literacy**, we are focusing on forming letters correctly, identifying and writing initial sounds in words, using the sounds we know to write words and with support writing captions for images.

**R.E** this term links well with our big question where we think about special people to us. We learn about the story Noah's Ark and special ceremonies to celebrate special people.

In **PSED**, the children will talk about Celebrating Differences where we think about our strengths and weaknesses, being unique and learning to respect that and how we can be good friends.

### Expressive Arts and Design

This term in **Art** the children will learn about colour and will explore mixing paints to create secondary colours as well as how we can darken and lighten colours. The children will also explore powder paints and design and make a Christmas card.

The children continue to learn the words and actions to well known nursery rhymes in **Music** this term as well as find the rhythm in songs.

Thank you for engaging with Tapestry, commenting and sharing things from home. I love seeing what children get up to at home as much as you love seeing what they get up to in school. It can inspire conversation and their learning and it allows me to get to know pupils even more.

To support pupils learning in their big question about aspirations and jobs the children will meet real life super heroes (service men and women) in the week commencing 27th November. Children will be asked to dress up as something they want to be when they are older if they wish to. It is not expected that you buy additional clothes or props for this occasion. More details will follow later this term.



## Year 1 and 2 Curriculum this term

The children have been working really hard in **Literacy** and their writing stamina is improving. This term we will write a traditional tale with a twist inspired by Little Red Reading Hood, Poems inspired by Firework night and at the end of term we will learn about writing letters inspired by the book Meerkat Christmas.

In **Maths**, the children begin the term learning about addition and subtraction. Then we learn to name, recognise and describe 3D and 2D shapes. Finally, year 1 come back to addition and subtraction building on strategies we have already learnt but with numbers up to 50.

We alternate each half term with a Geography or **History** unit. This term we have a **History** unit where the children will learn about Roman Britain.

In **Science**, we will learn about living things and their environments, with a focus on different habitats and animals living in them.

Mrs Halden continues teaching **Art**. The children will build on last term's learning about colour and shape linking with texture. The children's work will be inspired by Matisse and Jan Van Eyck.

Mrs Halden will also teach **Design and Technology**. The children will learn about mechanisms then design and make their own fair ground wheel.

This term in **R.E** we build on our learning on the religion Islam and think about how their beliefs help Muslims feel a sense of belonging as well as learn about how Muslims and Christians welcome new babies into their community.

In this term's **Music** lessons we will learn about Motown. The children will listen to a range of Motown songs and learn to sing and play instruments along to a song.

In **P.E** on Tuesdays, the children will learn dance, using movements to show themes. On Fridays children will learn gymnastics.

**PSHE** this term is a unit called Celebrating Differences. Children learn about how boys and girls are different and accepting differences, as well as looking at stereotypes and bullying.

In **Computing**, the children will begin to learn about programming and debugging.

I will be reading Gobbolino the Witch's Cat by Ursula Williams to the whole class the children will listen to the story for enjoyment. In our **Reading** sessions, year 2 will work through a series of books where they have the opportunity to develop their reading fluency and comprehension skills. They will answer a range of questions about the texts, pick apart author vocabulary choices and make links with other texts. The first book this term is The Emperor's Egg by Martin Jenkins. Year 1 will complete similar activities using books from our phonic scheme where the books are closely matched to their phonic ability. These reading lessons focus on reading speed and fluency and verbal comprehension.



