

Maple Class Newsletter



Spring 1 2023/24
Miss Farmer and
Miss Collin

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone had a well deserved rest over the Christmas holidays. However, I can imagine it was a very busy and exciting time. It was great to see how happy the children were when returning to school, telling me lots of happy and fun memories.

This is a shorter term than previous terms so good attendance is vital as we have lots of new learning to fit in with just enough time. It would be such a shame for children to miss the learning I have planned in our exciting topics this term. Please read the next page to find out about our learning this term.

The weather is very inconsistent at the minute with rainy and cold spells. Please ensure children come to school prepared for this as we do go outside in the rain and cold. Children should have hats, gloves, scarves and a warm coat. Please find us on X, formerly known as 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.

Many thanks, Miss Farmer

Thank-you to all all year 1 and 2 parents who have given their contribution and permission for our trip on Friday 19th January to Lincoln Museum. We will be leaving promptly in the morning so please ensure your child arrives at school on time in their uniform with a packed lunch (unless Willoughby are providing one) and a water bottle. All children need a water bottle regardless of who is providing lunch.

Things to remember

- **Daily**- named water bottle, healthy snack (fruit/vegetable or a small plain biscuit- digestive or rich tea sort), 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 filled it towards the end of last term therefore we had a movie afternoon with popcorn and marshmallows. **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. This is imperative as learning begins at 8:45am when children walk through the door.
- 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 **Hope**.
- Children's drinks bottles should only contain **water**. If children have juice or squash the children will be offered water instead. Thank-you all who have been putting water in your child's bottle.

EYFS Curriculum this term

This term we have a new **Big Question**, "What is happening outside my window?". During this term the children will learn about weather, seasons, what weather is like in other countries and outside other people's windows around the world and how we look after and grow plants from seeds.

In **Maths**, we follow the White Rose sequence of learning. This term we build on our number knowledge beyond 5 as well as learning about length, height and time.

This term in **Technology** we continue using technology in our environment for example the remote control cars, iPads, BeeBots, interactive whiteboard and light up drawing pads.

The children have made great progress in **Phonics**. This term we continue securing those sounds so we can spell and read CVC words, CVCC words progressing to short sentences. 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. To support children with their blending when talking to them, please break down the words and ask can you put the word back together. For example when getting ready for school can you ask your child to get their b-a-g. Can they tell you the word you used? Can they blend the sounds together to make the word bag. In **Literacy**, we are focusing on writing labels and caption using the sounds we know as well as the red words we now know. Red words are tricky words we can't sound out and we just need to learn to read and spell them. We have learnt I, the, love, my and put.

R.E this term is all about special books. We learn about how to look after their special books, how religious people look after their special books as well as some stories from the Bible like The Lost Sheep, Jonah and the Whale and The Good Samaritan.

In **PSED**, the children will talk about Dreams and Goals. The children will take part in challenges, develop their perseverance and be able to recognise and talk about tricky things and what they can do to be successful. They will also think about setting their own challenges they wish to achieve.

Expressive Arts and Design

This term in **Art** the children will be using different tools to create their own art. They will use pastels, cotton buds, collage, art pencils and chalk as well as explore joining materials in junk modelling.

The children continue to learn the words and actions to well known nursery rhymes in **Music** and listen to and find the beat in other songs.



TAPESTRY
ONLINE LEARNING
JOURNAL

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



Year 1 and 2 Curriculum this term

The children have been working really hard in **Literacy**. Last term they wrote a fantastic twisted tale, a firework poem and a letter. This term we will write an adventure story, information text and a set of instructions.

In **Maths**, year 1 and 2 are continuing to learn about addition and subtraction. Later, we will learn about money and length and height.

We alternate each half term with a **Geography** or History unit. This term we have a **Geography** unit where the children will learn about the British Isles this links with year 2's previous learning about the UK last year.

In **Science**, we will learn about electricity. The children will learn how to be safe when using electricity, make simple circuits and explore insulators and conductors.

Mrs Halden continues teaching **Art**. The children will learn about portraits and self portraits. They have already begun planning their own self portrait.

Mrs Halden will also teach **Design and Technology**. The children will learn about the importance of a balanced diet. They will be designing their own balanced diet menu and planning and making their own healthy wrap.

This term in **R.E** we are learning about thankfulness. We are learning how we show thankfulness, what we are thankful for and how religious communities show thankfulness.

In this term's **Music** lessons we will learn different genres of music and will be appraising these styles of music determining which is our favourite as well as improvising and composing our own parts to the song.

In **P.E** on Tuesdays, the children will complete many activities which develop their team work skills. On Fridays children will be improving their sending and receiving skills.

PSHE this term is a unit called Dream and Goals. Children learn about setting realistic goals and having success. Children will decide their own challenge to set themselves and persevere over several lessons to achieve that goal.

In **Computing**, the children will begin to learn about word processing.

I will be reading The Dragonsitter by Josh Lacey to the whole class. The children will listen to the story for enjoyment. We have started it already and it has already made lots of children giggle and wish they had a dragon. 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 text, pick apart author vocabulary choices and make links with other texts. The first book this term is The Story Machine, other books this term include Patta's Pumpkin, Dogger and Not Now Bernard. 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 speedily, fluently and their verbal comprehension.



