



# Maple Class Newsletter

## Autumn Term 2017



I hope that you have had an enjoyable Summer break, and welcome to Year 1. We certainly have an exciting year ahead of us! Hopefully you will find your child's topic letter for this term both informative and helpful! This letter should supplement your child's newsletter and share with you what will be happening in Maple Class this term. Should you have any problems, queries or questions then please drop me a note via your child's book bag, or through the office, and I will get back to you as soon as I can. Or of course, catch me at the end of the day! We look forward to a productive term of fun-filled learning.



Our aim is to ensure that the children experience a smooth transition from the Foundation Stage to Key Stage One. The Year 1 curriculum builds upon and extends the experiences that the children have had in Reception. Learning through play will continue to be an important part of the school day to begin with, and the children will, over the course of this first term, be eased into more formal learning so that they remain motivated, enthused and eager learners.

Home Learning will be **issued on a Friday** and collected in on the following **Wednesday** and will comprise of a general 'Our learning this week' guide. An extra activity from another subject will be introduced later in the term. Spellings will be set on a termly basis until Christmas, when they will become weekly. Home-learning is an essential element in your child's progress and we appreciate your support in ensuring that your child completes the given activities to the best of their ability. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.



Progression in Phonics forms an important part of the year, as the children come to grips with trickier reading texts and producing longer pieces of writing. Additionally, all children of this age group will be assessed across the country in June 2018 for their Phonics skills. The children will therefore be in a small phonics group on most days (on the days they are not, they will be working on their spelling). Maple Class will also receive a daily burst of phonics in class. Regular reading continues to be an important part of your child's learning journey and our whole school RED TED scheme will continue. Your child will no longer have a set reading day but will read with an adult at least twice a week (once individually and once in a guided group session). In order to facilitate this please could you ensure your child has their reading book(s) in school everyday. Maple Class children will be encouraged to hand their reading record in every morning so that RED TED stamps may be awarded. Please could you also give your child a gentle reminder each morning as to whether they need to change their reading books.



Maple Class will continue to use the Zone Board, where children stay on green for good behaviour, or are moved up to silver or even gold for exceptional behaviour. The children will also be rewarded with dojos for good behaviour. On a Friday the child with the most Dojo points will be crowned our Dojo Champion! Dojos will be taken away from individuals for poor behaviour, and they may be moved down the Zone Board to orange (or even red). At the earliest possible opportunity of good behaviour they will be moved back up to green. All Dojo points will be converted to House points at the end of the week in order to contribute to our whole school house system.

The children will be doing PE on **Mondays** and **Thursdays**. Please ensure your child has their PE Kit in school and that all items are clearly labelled. Long hair should be tied back, earrings removed. We encourage children to practise getting dressed at home to help them get changed quickly at school! Thank you.



Just to let you know we start to encourage more independence in Year 1 and so we do not check bookbags on a daily basis. This is something we encourage the children to do for themselves. If something is of importance, please either hand it in to the office or remind your child to hand it in as they come into class.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to approach me at the end of the school day or pop a note in to the school office.

Claire Sharp

# MAPLE CLASS AUTUMN TERM 2017 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW



## LITERACY

In Literacy this term, we will begin to retell familiar stories using actions in order to fully embed a range of story language and descriptive phrases. We will be looking at Traditional tales focussing on the text 'The Little Red Hen'. We will look at stories with familiar settings, finding out about how writers use language to describe events and characters. We shall also read and enjoy a range of stories with predictable and patterned language and use them as a model for our own writing. We shall go on to work with non-fiction texts, mainly instructions. Poetry units will foster teamwork and collaboration skills as well as enrich and extend our vocabulary and word choice. Early sentence writing skills will become embedded where capital letters, finger spacing and full stops will be reinforced. Spelling, grammar and handwriting will also be an important focus.



## RE

Our focus this term will centre around the question 'What do Christians believe God is like?' We will look at the parable 'The Lost Son' and begin to understand that it teaches us that God is both loving and forgiving. We will also think about the ways Christians show that they love God. We will also think about our own personal experience of forgiving others and how we feel when we either forgive someone or when we don't.

## PSHE

Our topic this term will be 'New Beginnings'. We will think about and agree our class rules and appreciate that everyone is individual but together make a class. We will focus on our feelings as we begin a new chapter in our learning journey and discuss ways we can shape the classroom environment to promote positive friendships and positive learning.

## GEOGRAPHY

We will begin our topic discussing our Summer holidays and the places we have visited. We will use world maps, atlases and globes to become familiar with the world we live in, identifying the UK and its coastline. We will learn a range of geographical vocabulary linked to our seaside topic and use these new words when discussing and comparing town, country and seaside localities.

## PE

Children will develop their ball skills in Games lessons with a focus on throwing and catching as well as aiming skills. Gymnastics will also become a focus where children will explore different ways of travelling and jumping, balancing on different body parts both on the floor and simple equipment, and turning, twisting and spinning.

## SCIENCE

Our Science Topic this term is 'Sorting Materials'. We will look at types of materials and their physical properties. We will undertake a scientific investigation where the concept of waterproofing is explored as we find the best material for teddy's umbrella. We will also begin our ongoing topic of 'Seasonal change' where we will look at changes across the seasons (particularly Autumn into Winter), observing and describing the weather associated with each season.



## Seasides

## Then and Now



## NUMERACY

In Numeracy we will be developing our understanding of place value as the children spend time looking at numbers up to 30 and introducing the concept of tens and ones (or 'units'). We shall be developing strategies for addition and subtraction using practical and informal methods. Your child will be working to understand how numbers affect their lives as we take part in problem-solving activities and real life problems. We will also be focusing upon shapes. We will investigate both 2d and 3d shapes and their properties. We will use them to make patterns and models. We will also be investigating measures, including length and height. We will go on to develop our understanding of position, direction and movement.

## MUSIC

Pupils will be given the opportunity to listen and appraise songs, learn songs and improvise with voices and instruments within the song. An integrated approach to music will be adopted where games, the interrelated dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch etc.), singing and playing instruments are all linked.

## ICT

Pupils will become familiar with a painting program to produce topic linked pictures. They will experiment with changing colours and sizes of brushes as well as creating shapes and filling areas. ICT will also be used across the curriculum and purposeful use will be encouraged whenever possible.



## HISTORY

Seaside photos will be studied and comparisons between then and now will be made. Features of seaside holidays in days gone by will be identified and discussed. These will include Punch and Judy shows, bathing costumes of the past and the old-fashioned bathing hut. As History forms part of our topic work much of the teaching will be cross-curricular, work will be of a creative nature and ICT will also be used to reinforce and enhance teaching and learning where possible.

## ART / DT

This term we will be creating Art and DT pieces related to our Seaside topic. One of our first projects will be a seaside landscape using water colours. After half-term we will be thinking of some healthy options for Mr. Grinling's lunch and making 3D lighthouses. Throughout the year, we will be using a range of techniques, including collage, printing and painting. Any spare pringle tubes (with lids) would be greatly appreciated! Thank you.