



P.P.S. Maple Class

September 2017
Autumn Term

Mummy Mania / Road trip USA

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the autumn term. We hope you had a fun-filled summer break and are ready for the exciting term ahead. We will be starting the term by heading back to Ancient Egypt. We will then spend the second half of the term touring the United States of America.

In **science**, we will be gathering, recording, classifying and presenting data in a variety of ways to help us to observe how some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C).

We shall also be learning to identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle. We are going to explore the rate of evaporation with temperature by setting up our own simple practical enquiries.

Our **P.E.** lessons will take place on Mondays and Fridays. If your child has pierced ears they must be able to remove the earrings themselves or have tape to cover the earrings during the lesson. In PE will be taking part in dance focussing on using a range of movement patterns, considering height, movement and audience. They will also be developing their flexibility and control in gymnastics.

This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this topic. We are using these newsletters to give you information about your child's education as this will replace the foundation subjects comments on the annual report.

Computing lessons will start by playing and analysing educational computer games, identifying those features that make a game successful. They will then plan and design a game, with a clear target audience in mind. They will create a working prototype, and then develop it further to add functionality and improve the user interface. They will test their game and make any necessary changes.

This term, in history and geography, we are researching the Ancient Egyptians. We shall begin by exploring where in the world Egypt is and how the country's physical features differ from others. We will explore the human and physical features of the area and why settlements were built in certain areas.

During the topic we will be developing our chronological knowledge and place Ancient Egypt on a timeline. We shall look into the daily life and roles during this period and how these differ from today. Finally, we shall look into the Ancient Egyptian's after life and even have a go at mummifying our own pepper!

Art lessons will focus on improving their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, and painting by exploring hieroglyphics. Later in the term, children will record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas based on the different landscapes across America.

In Design and Technology children will design, make and evaluate an item based on the Egyptian shaduf. Children will design, make and evaluate an item they have chosen to make that uses a lever to improve modern living.



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Our **R.E.** lessons will look at the Gospel and the world Jesus wanted. The children will have the opportunity to explore different bible stories and compare them to everyday life to help their understanding of how Christians live. After half-term the children will learn about what does it mean to belong to a religion, which will focus on Hinduism.

This term in **French** children will learn about 'Back to School' in France. They will read a poem and take part in a languages detective activity. They will learn to say what they like or don't like doing and they learn strategies for writing from memory. Children will learn to ask for items and for help in the classroom and work in groups to read, edit and perform a play script.

In **maths** we shall be doing more investigations to develop the children's understanding of their own methods and thinking. We shall also be developing our understanding of place value and how different numbers can effect the value of the number. The children will also be developing their measuring skills by calculating and measuring different perimeters. We shall then use this to help us design a garden for King Tutankhamen!

During our **English** lessons we are hoping to transport ourselves back to Ancient Egypt through our story writing. We shall be planning, editing and writing our own portal stories that help us to explore life during

that period. The children shall be focusing on the description in their writing, using adjectives and alliteration to help the reader feel as if they are stood in Ancient Egypt.

As a school we are continuing our focus on reading and we are inviting parents in to school for a reading showcase. This is designed to give parents ideas about how to support their children's reading at home and to provide an opportunity to see how reading skills progress over different year groups.

There will also be an opportunity to attend a maths calculation workshop in the second half of the autumn term, focussed on fluency, problem solving, reasoning and the four operations.

Spellings will follow the National Curriculum patterns along with two words from the statutory list. Timetables will be tested through our five minute challenge on a Monday and Wednesday and spellings will be tested on a Tuesday.

Homework will continue to be set weekly with a renewed focus on using Mathletics at home, to support your child's learning. Homework will be handed out every Wednesday but it can also be found on the class blog (www.petworthmapleclass.primaryblogger.co.uk) The logins for this can be found in the homework books, although you do not need the login to access the homework.

I have lots of exciting and challenging things planned for this year and I am looking forward to working with you all. If you have any concerns or feel that you need to talk to me please feel free to catch me at the school gate or make an appointment at the office.

Ella Whitchurch