



P.P.S. Maple Class

September 2020
Autumn Term

Awesome Egyptians

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Autumn term as we try to embrace the “new normal”. I am excited to begin this new academic year which will be packed full of engaging learning opportunities. We will be starting the year by using the book ‘The Time Travelling Cat’ as a tool to help us begin learning about ancient belief. We will then spend the majority of the Autumn term learning more about the historical significance of the ancient Egyptian era, the importance of the river Nile and the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb.

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.

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

Our **P.E.** lessons will take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. In P.E, the children will develop their flexibility and control in gymnastics, focussing initially on single movements and then building these into sequences and routines. They will also learn the skills of invasion games (specifically hockey) before applying these skills in competitive contexts.

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 be taught through our historical work on sources and our PSHCE work on keeping ourselves safe. The children will learn to be discerning about information they find on the internet and to use search engines safely and effectively. They will use a range of software to create timelines and presentations about their research into Ancient Egypt.

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 regions.

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 Egyptians' beliefs about the after life and even have a go at mummifying our own apples!

Art lessons will focus on improving the children's mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing and sculpture. by exploring hieroglyphics, using texture in collage work and creating Canopic jars with clay. Later in the term, children will produce Egyptian death masks by combining a range of different materials.

In **Design and Technology** children will design, make and evaluate an Egyptian shaduf. They will also be cooking a variety of Egyptian food, using legumes and vegetables.



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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.

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 will be developing our understanding of place value, representing numbers up to 10,000 in a variety of ways. The children will consolidate their understanding of methods for addition and subtraction and will build their fluency with calculation through problem solving and investigative work.

During our **English** lessons, we will be writing as journalists documenting the discoveries of Howard Carter. We will also be creating riddles using descriptive language and non-chronological reports about mummification. The children will 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.

English and Maths will continue to be taught daily and will, wherever possible, be linked to

the topic to give the children's learning cross-curricular context.

We always value the support you give your children at home and the work you do with them to consolidate their learning. We continue to have a heavy focus on reading in school and believe enjoyment of reading is of primary importance. It would be helpful, if you could listen to your child read regularly at home and record this in their Reading Records.

Maths homework tasks will continue to be set each week on Prodigy. Regular practice of rapid times table recall using Times Table Rockstars is also highly encouraged to help the children become more fluent with this vital part of their maths learning. Spellings will follow the National Curriculum spelling patterns and weekly lists will also include two words from the Year 4 statutory list. Times tables and spellings will be tested every week.

Finally, a weekly update will be posted on the Maple class blog (<https://mapleclasspetworth.edublogs.org/>). Here you will be able to read a summary of what the children have been learning throughout the week and see some photographs of their learning in action!

I look forward to sharing the children's learning with you over the coming weeks.

Rachel Harris