



P.P.S. Maple Class

January 2019
Spring Term

Wild Weather/ Earhart Adventures

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Spring term. We trust you had a restful Christmas break and are ready for the busy term ahead. We will be starting the term by learning about different kinds of extreme weather and will then spend the second half of the term learning about the explorations of Amelia Earhart.

In Science, we will be researching how and why different types of weather occur and recording weather using different scientific equipment. The children will have opportunities to ask their own questions and design their own experiments to answer them. We will consolidate our understanding of states of matter before explaining how water changes state in the water cycle within an explanation text.

Our P.E. lessons will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays for Maple Explorers and Tuesdays and Wednesdays for Maple Investigators. In P.E., the children will continue to develop their flexibility and control in gymnastics, focussing on building balances and movements into sequences and routines. They will also learn the skills of net and wall games (specifically tennis), namely agility, co-ordination and control.

Computing lessons will be taught through our

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.

English and geography work on weather. The children will use green screen technology to record their own weather reports and they will word process their scripts for these. As part of Safer Internet Day 2019, we will be exploring the dangers of internet use and will design posters for how to stay safe online.

This term in history and geography we will locate different climactic zones, compare and contrast weather types around the world, explore weather closer to home using homemade weather recording equipment and, after half term, research Amelia Earhart's adventures.

We will also be making many cross-curricular links with maths as we learn to read and interpret weather graphs and to use co-ordinates and atlases to locate different regions around the world.

Art lessons will focus on improving the children's mastery of art and design techniques, including using a variety of mediums to produce outcomes. We will use watercolour paints to produce images that portray different types of weather and use different techniques, such as straw blowing, to put paint onto paper. Later in the term, we will explore pointillism and paint ocean scapes using this style when learning about Amelia Earhart's trans-Atlantic flight.

In Design and Technology children will design, make and evaluate a diorama of the water cycle. They will also construct model planes after half term.



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Our R.E. lessons will look at Hinduism and will encourage children to explore the question, "how can Brahman be everywhere and in everything?" After half term, we will seek to understand the meaning of salvation and what its significance is for Christians.

This term in French children will learn to listen to and give instructions in the classroom. They will read different passages of text and begin to use simple adjectives to describe characters. There will be a phonic focus on silent final consonants.

In maths we will be using a range of different strategies to help us multiply and divide. We will use concrete apparatus and visual methods to consolidate our understanding of these concepts before learning to use written methods efficiently. Later in the term the children will explore the difference between area and perimeter and will learn to accurately calculate these measurements.

During our English lessons, we will be writing as weather reporters, scripting our own news updates. We will also be writing non-fiction explanations about changes of state within the water cycle. After half term, we will be writing biographies about the journey of Amelia Earhart and discussion texts considering the different theories surrounding her life.

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.

It goes without saying that 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 Mathletics. Spellings will follow the National Curriculum spelling patterns and weekly lists will also include two words from the Year 4 statutory list. Times tables, children have access to Times Tables Rockstars (<https://play.ttrockstars.com/>), and spellings will be tested every week.

Lastly, we would welcome any volunteer parents who are able to listen to children read during the week. Please let one of us know if you feel you may be able to support us with this.

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

Rachel Harris and Amie Langham
Maple Class Teachers