

CLASS/YEAR GROUP: Maple – Years 3 and 4

TEACHER: Miss Brown

DATE: Spring 2019

OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

Children will write to peers in a French school, over carefully planned sessions and discuss the lives they lead in French and English. We will respect and value the traditions and religions of other cultures.

INSPIRED LEARNERS

As scientists, we will look at light sources and shadows and how they are created. We will investigate sound sources, vibration and pitch, through the music they compose and listen to. They will develop their skills in PE and acquire more experience of applying them to game scenarios.

LEARNING FOR LIFE

They will learn about the fundamentals of electricity and circuits. Children will also consolidate their understanding of how to stay safe around electricity.

Geography: In our geography unit, we will be studying a European locality. We will be looking across the English Channel to discover the continent of Europe. Not only will the children be discovering some fascinating facts about Europe, but they will also find out the names, locations and features of European countries and capitals. In particular, we will make close links to a French village and compare and contrast to Thakeham, understanding geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography.

Maths: As a class, we will spend the first two weeks of the spring term continuing to develop our understanding of multiplication and division. Year 3 will be working on multiplication and division of 2-digit numbers, whilst Year 4 will be developing their understanding using numbers up to 3-digits. As we move through the spring term, we will consolidate and develop formal written methods for multiplication and division then look at measurement, including: Length, perimeter and area. Towards the end of the term, the focus will be on fractions and decimals and the links and comparisons between them. The children will also be developing their knowledge of times tables through weekly times tables rock star challenges, which will help them to move upwards in our school's rainbow times table chart.

English: Alongside the topic, we will start by looking at a short animation called The Lighthouse. We will be using the animation to create our own short stories linked to what we have seen. This term we will be focusing on portal and moral stories and we will move on by looking at a fantastic book by C.S Lewis called The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. The children will learn how to develop their independence in writing, as well as learning and understanding the different features that are used to open and end a story. Our focus this term will be to continue developing vocabulary and spelling, as well as being consistent with all handwriting and punctuation taught previously. The children will also be looking at writing a range of non-fiction texts, including instructional writing (How to make Turkish delight) and non-chronological reports linked to our class story. We will be using lots of drama, role play and speaking and listening through our talk for writing to help develop our ideas and understanding of the text we are learning about.

Science: The children will start off by looking at how vibrations are made, creating their own sound machines and understanding how these vibrations link to pitch and volume. We will then look at how sound travels and the children will investigate how sounds travel through solids as well as creating their own string telephones. Our next focus will be on recognising that we need light to see and that darkness is the absence of light. The children will be finding out about the dangers of sunlight and how best to protect themselves. They will also be looking at how shadows are formed and which materials reflect light and which do not.

RE: This term the children will be finding out the answer to the following questions; who were Jesus' friends? How did Jesus change lives? Why is Easter important to Christians? We will explore these questions by looking into the teachings of the Bible and what sacred texts and other sources say about Jesus.

Dazzle and Decibels

French: The children will be looking at correct adjective endings to describe their nationalities, as well as naming places where French is spoken. They will also be looking at how to give directions in French and use a compass to direct their peers.

Music: We will be looking at how to play the recorder after half term, learning the relevant notes and creating and playing musical pieces. We will focus on elements, in particular form and the shape of compositions.

PE: We will be developing our basketball skills in the first half term, looking closely at our footwork as well as attacking and defending. We will also be looking at dance in our indoor sessions and move onto racket sports and gymnastics in the second half of the term.

Art/DT: In Art, we will be looking at drawing and sketching through light and dark using a range of materials including oil pastels and charcoal. We will look closely at M.C Escher and the architecture he designed, looking at tessellations and shape, form and space used to create a wide range of structures. In DT, we will be following on from our science unit by creating our own musical instruments. Our instruments will need to be fully functional and will be designed from the knowledge we will have gathered in the first half term.

Computing: This term the children will become software developers. They will be looking at how to produce their own educational game and what is needed to ensure that they are safe when they are online. They will become familiar with the variables needed to produce a game, including potential problems associated and how to de-bug them. Alongside this, we will have a constant focus on e-safety. The children will learn how to stay safe whilst researching online games and how to make sure that the websites they are using are safe to be on. On Safer Internet Day (5th February) we will focus on using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.



Additional Information

Homework

The children will receive weekly spellings or spelling investigations on a Friday which they should learn at home/complete during the week. In addition they will be given one piece of maths homework per week which will reflect current learning. This will be set on a Friday and collected the following Thursday. This term the children will be set topic homework – this will be linked to the dazzle and decibels topic. Further details to follow.

It is also advised that the children should read at home at least three times per week – this can be anything that interests the children including magazines and comic books. Please record this in your child's reading diary.

Ways That You Can Help Your Child with Our Topic

Any additional reading/research/trips to the library will support our in-school learning. Help with practicing of times tables – at the end of year 4 all children are expected to know the multiplication tables up to 12 X 12.

We also welcome your support in class to help hear the fantastic reading of the children, just let me know if you are available, thank you!

Important Dates & Curriculum Visits

8/1/19 – Stunning Start Science Workshops

9/1/19 – Year 3/4 Football Tournament

05/02/19 Safer Internet Day

12/2/9 Science Day

12/2/19 – Dance Taster

18-22/2/19 – Half Term

7/3/19 – World Book Day

15/3/19 – Red Nose Day

18/3/19 – Parents Evening 3.30-6pm

20/3/19 – School Group Photos

21/3/19 – Parents Evening 4.30-7pm

2/4/19 – Tennis Taster

5/4/19 – Easter Service

5/4/19 – Fab Finish 2.30pm

8-22/4/19 – Easter Holidays

Stunning Start & Fabulous Finish

Stunning Start: We will start our topic by taking part in two workshops linked to our topic. The children will become illuminated as they split apart white light and create rainbows in the classroom. They will discover the wonders of UV when they make glowing potions and find invisible messages that are hidden in plain sight to keep them safe. In the Lend me your ear workshop, they will uncover the magic of music and turn up the volume!

Fabulous Finish: Games Testers! We will be inviting the parents in to test and play the educational games created by the children in their computing lessons.

PE/Games Kit/Days

Spring 1: PE will be on Tuesday and Thursday

Spring 2: PE will be on a Monday and Tuesday

Please can the children have their PE kit in all week in case this needs to change.

The children will be participating in both indoor and outdoor PE throughout the term and therefore their kit should include our PE kit: shorts, t-shirt, plimsolls/trainers and jogging bottoms - please check all items are named in case we need to re-home them!

Jewellery should not be worn during PE.

Thank you!