

# Maple Class – Spring Term 2024

## Class Newsletter

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas holiday and managed to celebrate with your families. Many thanks for the cards and gifts that we all received. The term ahead, as always, will be a busy one with lots of interesting learning opportunities.

We are writing to give you an outline of the plans for the spring term. This term our project is a Geography-based one and is called '**Protecting Our Planet for The Future**' with our key concepts being: **Choice, Responsibility and Sustainability**. Initially, we will be exploring the position and significance of the equator, line of latitude and longitude and the different hemispheres. Then, exploring the different biomes around the World helping us make a comparison between the UK and Brazil (in particular the Amazon Rainforest. In addition to this, we will be looking at how we can make better choices in order to achieve sustainability on Planet Earth.

### Homework

As with the rest of the school, the expectations for homework in Maple Class consist of:

**Reading:** reading to an adult at least 3 times per week and recording this in their reading record book (these must then be handed in on Monday morning for checking) Please note, that unless the book is signed by an adult, it will be assumed that your child has not completed this homework.

**Spelling:** each child has been issued a list of weekly spellings to learn (which has been attached inside their Reading Record). A list of different strategies to use to support your child with spelling is available on our school website.

**Times Tables:** a set of weekly times tables to learn including associated division facts will be sent home weekly. For those children who have already achieved their Gold and Platinum times tables badges, there will be an opportunity to be tested for the diamond badge. It is important to still practise the skills to ensure rapid recall of multiplication and division facts in any order. Please encourage your child to use their Times Tables Rockstars account to build up their speed of recall.

**Termly Project Task:** each child in school is being asked to produce one project-related task per term which you can work on at home each week. Please select one task from the following list and hand in during the week beginning **18th March:**

#### Task 1

Draw, paint or create a collage of a South American or European flag.

#### Task 2

Design and make a product from recycled or reused materials.

#### Task 3

Research an animal that has been affected and is at risk of extinction due to climate change. Create a powerpoint or word document about the animal which includes details of how it has been affected by climate change and what is being doing to protect it.

In addition to this, to support children to make progress and achieve end of year outcomes in English and Maths, we will set the children additional tasks following their **Booster Club** session on a Wednesday after school. The children will be set a small homework e.g. CPG SATs booklets, worksheet or on SATs Companion (for Year 6). This will be in either English or Maths.

#### P.E.

Our P.E. lessons will still be on Monday and Friday afternoon every week which will be taught by a coach from Premier Sport. As previously, we are asking children to come into school dressed in their kit on the days that they have PE.

In line with the information on our school website, the P.E. kit **must** consist of the following:

- a plain round-necked house colour t-shirt
- a pair of black shorts
- a pair of trainers (if PE is outdoors)
- a pair of black plimsolls (with non-marking soles)
- a plain black sweatshirt and jogging bottoms (for outdoor PE lessons when the weather is cold).

All children whose hair is past shoulder length **must** have it tied back on P.E. days. Please remember that earrings **must be removed** for any P.E. lessons.

If your child **cannot** take part in P.E. for whatever reason, then this **must** be put in writing via email to the school office.

### **Coats and Water Bottles**

All children should have their own water bottle in school. All children should also have a coat, preferably a waterproof one for wet weather. Both of these must please be named.

### **Healthy Snacks**

Please ensure that the snack you give your child for break time is a healthy one. Examples include:

fruit	dried fruit	plain crackers	rice cakes
vegetable sticks	plain popcorn	dry breakfast cereal e.g. Cheerios	cereal bars

### **Keeping in touch, assessment and important dates for this term:**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January** – Inset Day

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January** – Inset Day

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January** – Children return to school.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February** – Wear Yellow for 'Well-Being Week' & Y6 Cyber Safety Talk

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – Essex Therapy Dogs

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February** - Parent Consultations 5.00 – 7.30pm

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February** – Last day of Half term

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February** – Inset Day

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February** – Return to School

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March** – Author Visit & Parents Evening 3.40-5.40pm

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day & Parents Evening 5-7pm

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March** – Last Day of term

Other dates may be added so please continue to check our school website and Twitter page.

### **MarvellousMe**

Thank you to those of you who have already signed up to our new, online reward and communication system – MarvellousMe. Please can we encourage those of you who haven't yet signed up to please do so. We look forward to sharing your children's successes with you and hope that you find it useful. We very much look forward to working with you and your children again this term. In the meantime, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind regards

Mr Byford