



Maple Class

Autumn Newsletter



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Hello and welcome to/back to Maple Class. I (Mrs Shale) am the class teacher and Mrs Elstob is our amazing teaching assistant. Mrs Oliver will usually teach on a Wednesday afternoon. We are all really excited about the year ahead and intend to provide your child with a fun, engaging and impactful education and time. As we would like to ensure your child is happy in school, please let us know about any out of school experiences, good or bad, that may affect them. This can be done face to face or by emailing our class email address. Please contact the office regarding uniform orders, absences and appointments.

Maths

Place Value understanding is paramount in your child's learning of maths. They need to comprehend what each digit is worth and be able to explain their calculations. Numbers are everywhere - from buses to supermarkets - so there are lots of opportunities for children to read and discuss numbers. For example, the number 54. There are 5 tens which is 50 and 4 ones which is 4. Added together they make 54. We will spend the first half term ensuring children are secure with Place Value before moving onto adding and subtracting.


Little Wandle – Phonics and Reading

Both Year 1 and Year 2 children continue to learn and consolidate phonics from last year by following the scheme. Reading books will be shared with the children Monday to Thursday, where we will look at vocabulary, prosody and comprehension. This book should be read several times at home to showcase their reading and understanding to you. They will also bring a second book home to share which is not part of the Little Wandle scheme but just as important as it will help your child build their fluency and expression. For more information visit:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Drop in session

On Monday 16th October, there will be a short drop-in session for parents. It will be in Maple Class at 5pm to give parents/carers the opportunity to learn more about expectations in Year 1 and 2 and to meet both Mrs Elstob and I.

Due to limited space in our cloakroom area, we would like to request that children use a blue school bookbag rather than a large backpack. 

English

Our Autumn term sees us looking at books with a Heroes and Villains theme. We will begin with Cinderella. In Autumn 2, we will base our learning around books that focus on kindness and helpfulness. Writing a sentence which contains a full stop and capital letter is the focus for Year 1 children while Year 2 children are expanding their knowledge from last year to make their writing more coherent and accurate. We have undertaken an assessment this week and found that knowing the alphabet is a starting point for some so any practise at home would be wonderful. Forming letters correctly is key for both year groups and something we encourage them to practise at home. Year 1 will be printing letters and working on keeping the sizes of their letters the same while Year 2 children will begin to apply a pre-cursive style in preparation for joining at the end of the year.

History

Our first History unit is entitled *What was it like in the past?* where we are exploring what it was like in the Victorian era. We will learn about Queen Victoria, how machinery has impacted us today and what it was like in the North East. It can be hard for children this young to comprehend that their parents and grandparents were once young so if possible, please share old photographs and memories with them.

Geography

Geography is based around the local area and will allow children the opportunity to study different scaled maps and to understand how land use has changed over time. Talking to the children about village, towns and cities they have visited locally will help them grasp distances.

PE

Our PE days are Mondays and Fridays.



- Yellow Hunwick PE t-shirt
- Black/blue joggers, plain black/blue leggings
- Blue Hunwick PE shorts
- Trainers for outdoor
- Plimsolls to kept in school for indoor PE as we need to be able to swap from outdoor shoes.

Long hair is to be tied up for safety reasons and as we are unable to help with the removal and putting in of earrings, they should only be worn on PE days if the child can remove them independently.

PSHCE

We will be looking at different kinds of relationships we have with people this term and talking about the different family dynamics people have. This is done in an age-appropriate way but should there be any sensitive issues, please let us know.

Christmas

We know it is still a while off yet but in schools planning starts early! We will be beginning to rehearse our Christmas production after the holidays in October and will appreciate any help with learning lines and costumes.

Spellings

New spellings will be sent out for the half term, and will be available on the website class page. Children will learn the words as part of their phonics sessions before completing a spelling test the following Monday. Children will complete their test in a spelling book which is to be sent in with them on a Monday. You will find your child's computer login details for Spelling Shed in the front of their spelling book if they would like to log into this for any extra spelling activities.



Star of the Week

Moo-Rag, Fleur or Brax Bear will be joining the Star of the Week family for the weekend. Please look after them and we look forward to finding out what they have been up to.

Snack, Milk and Water Bottles

Children will continue to be provided with a fresh piece of fruit or veg each day while in KS1. Thank you for sending your child in with a water bottle. Please can we remind you that only water is allowed and not juice as we are trying to promote a healthier approach. School milk at breaktime is an important part of a child's diet. Milk provides a number of health benefits and social opportunities that ensure children get the most out of their school day. If your child would like milk in school, please register your child online at www.coolmilk.com/register.

Homework

Throughout the week, we will send home reading books, spellings, a maths activity (online via the Sumdog website or app) and an English or topic-based task. These are intended to support and consolidate your child's learning.

Colouring Book Appeal

To help us reduce the amount of printing and paper used, we would like to provide each child with a colouring book for free time. If you have any, unused, ones at home which are no longer in use, please send them our way. Thank you.

Science

Children learn the key skills that form the basis of their science education, including studying living things, changes of state and the practical skills of investigations and experiments. Our topic for Autumn Term is Animal Safari.

