

Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

Maples

Autumn 2025

Our theme: Here come the invaders



Our Core Values:

Caring	Commitment to Achieve	Co-operation
Happiness	Independence	Respect



A warm welcome back to school! After a lovely summer break, it's been great to see the children return with such a positive and enthusiastic attitude. They've settled into our daily routines beautifully and have embraced the new term with confidence and joy. We've already been busy with our learning, and I'm so proud of how well the children are living out our school values—especially in the way they're showing respect and working together so thoughtfully. It's been a wonderful start to the year!

English

This term, pupils will be studying *Beowulf* by Michael Morpurgo, a compelling retelling of the classic Anglo-Saxon legend. The text offers rich opportunities for exploring themes of heroism, bravery, and myth, and will serve as a foundation for our writing work. As part of our English curriculum, children will be developing their skills in historical narrative writing. They will focus on crafting detailed character descriptions, creating vivid settings and using dialogue effectively to enhance their storytelling. In addition, pupils will be working on persuasive writing, where they will create their own myth or legend and use persuasive techniques to present it convincingly. We are also having a special focus on revising our knowledge of spelling rules and grammar structures. We will rehearse grammar points each day in our English lessons, and we practise spelling skills. As ever, presentation of work is very important, so we practise handwriting skills most days, too. Pupils are urged to focus on their presentation in all lessons, so that their work is always of a high quality. Finally, we will continue with our daily Guided Reading sessions, which give the pupils the opportunity to be taught and to apply reading comprehension skills, including retrieval, inference, deduction and evaluation of text. Pupils will also work on an unseen text each week to apply their learning from the week and to enhance their knowledge of a range of texts.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, we will focus on ensuring that the children's knowledge of place value is secure, as this provides them with fundamental skills in number that will help with much of the work we do in the year. We will also be working on our skills of applying the four key mathematical operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and rehearsing the mental and written methods that go with each. Later in the term, we will develop our knowledge of fractions and decimals, for example looking at equivalent fractions, comparing fractions and starting to calculate with fractions. We continue to enjoy our daily Flashback Four sessions: short, sharp daily practice of key arithmetic skills, facts and procedures, which will help the children to feel super confident with basic calculation strategies.

Science

Our science topic this term is *Living Things and Their Habitats*. Pupils will group and classify animals, explore life cycles, and observe changes in different environments. Through fair tests and pattern-seeking, they'll investigate how living things respond to habitat changes and deepen their understanding of ecosystems.

RE

In RE this term, we will be focusing on Being Human through the lens of Hinduism and Islam. This unit builds on children's prior learning about Hinduism, Islam and Judaism throughout their time in school. Pupils will explore how religious beliefs can influence the way people live and make decisions.

History

This term in History, our topic is Invaders. We'll be learning all about the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons—who they were, when they lived and where they fit into Britain's historical timeline. Pupils will explore how these groups settled in Britain, what their communities looked like, and how their justice systems worked.

To start the topic, we'll be holding a WOW Day where the children will have the exciting opportunity to meet and speak with a real-life Viking! It's a fantastic way to bring history to life and spark curiosity as we dive into this fascinating period.

PSHE

In PSHE this term, we'll be following the Jigsaw curriculum with a focus on *Being Me in My World* and *Celebrating Differences*. These units help children explore their identity, understand their place in the school and wider community, and appreciate what makes each person unique. Pupils will reflect on their own strengths, learn about empathy and respect, and develop skills to build positive relationships.

French

We will use Rigolo resources to practise our speaking and listening skills in French, focusing on how to talk about our homes and the towns we live in. Pupils will learn vocabulary to describe where they live, the types of houses and places in a town and how to give simple opinions.

Music

In Music this term, pupils will be using the Charanga unit *Living on a Prayer* to explore rock music and develop their performance skills. They'll learn to sing, play instruments, and listen critically to the song, while also discussing its structure and style. Alongside this, we'll be getting started with music technology—introducing pupils to digital tools for creating and editing music. This will give them the chance to experiment with sound, layering, and composition in a fun and creative way.

P.E

In P.E., children will play Football, where they will learn key skills such as passing, dribbling, shooting, apply them while gaining an understanding of tactics, teamwork and the rules of the game. Pupils in Years 5 & 6 will also enjoy Swimming lessons, where they can continue to develop their technique and build stamina in our school pool.

Art

In Art and Design this term, our work will be closely linked to our History topic on the Vikings. Pupils will explore Viking artefacts and artists, using these as inspiration to create mixed media collages that include drawing, stitching, and layering techniques. They'll experiment with textures and materials to reflect Viking themes and symbolism.

In addition, we'll be studying the work of M.C. Escher, focusing on his use of pattern, symmetry, and perspective. This will give children the chance to develop their drawing skills and explore mathematical ideas through art, encouraging creativity and precision in their designs.

Important Information

As per the Federation homework policy, homework will be set on Friday and should be returned on Thursday. For homework, children will be given some spellings: please help your child if necessary to practise their spellings using the exciting tasks from our spelling task menu. Also, the children will be given some mathematics homework. This includes accessing Times Table Rock Stars and learning a set of mathematical facts that can be deployed across the Mathematics curriculum. Please contact me if there is ever a problem accessing Times Table Rock Stars.

Our P.E days are: Wednesday and Thursday (swimming when on)

Please listen to your children read as regularly as you can. This reading can include stories and reference books, newspapers and sports reports, recipes and instructions, websites and magazines – anything where they are reading! Record your child's reading by signing their Reading Record Book: this will mean your child will be able to attend the exciting termly reading challenge reward.

I look forward to speaking with you in person at the Parent Consultations later in the term; however, please feel free to contact me in the meantime if you wish.

Kind regards,

Mrs Parry

Maples Class Teacher

Our class readers this term will be:

