

Maple Class Newsletter – Autumn | Term One | 2026

English

In English, we are exploring our whole school text 'The Dam by David Almond.' We will be developing our descriptive writing skills by creating two contrasting settings. We will experiment with rich and precise vocabulary, expanded noun phrases, similes, metaphors and personification to create vivid images for the reader. We will also consider how our choice of words can create different moods and emotions.

Later in the unit, we will step into the perspective of the characters and write a first-person letter, exploring their thoughts and feelings about leaving the village behind and witnessing the changes taking place around them. This will allow us to develop our understanding of character, emotion and viewpoint.

Throughout the term, there will be a strong emphasis on grammar, punctuation and spelling, as well as planning, drafting and editing their work to improve accuracy and creativity.



Art

In Art, we will be exploring the Renaissance period, making links to our History learning while developing our own artistic skills. We will look at how Renaissance artists used colour, light, perspective and detail to create expressive and realistic artwork.

Alongside our work on *The Dam*, we will create sketches inspired by the story, exploring the contrasting images of the fading village and the newly formed lake. We will experiment with watercolours, focusing on colour mixing, tone and washes to capture the mood and atmosphere of the setting.



History

In History, Maple Class will be focusing on the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain and the rest of the world. We will be discovering why the Ancient Romans were such successful conquerors and what life was like for them. Analysing their lasting impacts and greatest legacies, the children will gain sound knowledge on the significance of the Roman Empire on our society and infrastructure. Keep your eyes peeled, as a trip is currently being planned for this topic!

Science

In Science, we will be focusing on Sound, Vibrations, Pitch and Volume. Children will begin to understand sound by observing concrete examples of how sound is made, then progressing on to how sound travels and through which mediums. This term, we will be investigating whether or not you can feel sound, exploring questions such as, "Why do things sound different under water? How do we manipulate sound?" Through investigations, media and theory, the children will broaden their vocabulary, being exposed to words such as source, vibration, pitch, and insulation – eventually being able to write about their experiences with these key terms.

Additional Information

- **P.E** will be on a **Wednesday (outdoors) and Friday afternoon (indoors)** Please ensure your child has the correct kit which meets our school guidelines.
 - Children are expected to read every night and record what they have read in their reading record, being signed by a parent/guardian. Also, please ensure your child is completing their homework weekly.
 - **To prepare for the Multiplication Test in June, please encourage your child to practise on www.timestables.co.uk and timestablerockstars.co.uk (or whichever method suits them best) as this will improve their speed and confidence!**
- If you have any questions on anything above, please let me know 😊**

Maths

In Maths, we will work on place value and numbers up to 10,000. We will be looking at mental calculations involving all four operations to develop mathematical fluency. The children will also be expected to justify and reason with how they got their answer.

This term, there will also be lots of opportunities for the children to draw on their metacognitive skills when problem-solving. There will also be a sharp focus on times tables practice.

Computing

In Computing, we will be learning about the importance of staying safe online and different ways that we can protect ourselves.

R.E



In RE, we will be focusing on Hinduism and the beliefs that help them navigate through everyday life.