

Maple Newsletter Spring Two

Welcome back!

I hope that you have all had a fantastic half term break. Last half term was a busy but successful six weeks! The children enjoyed learning all about the Vikings. Earlier this week, Maple enjoyed a visit from a real life Viking who showed them all about battle tactics, and shared some traditional Viking sagas with them! There is a lot to look forward to this half term. We have World Book Day during the first week of this half term, for which children can come dressed as their favorite book character. Our new topic is 'Ain't no mountain high enough!'

We will be learning all about the location of the highest mountain peaks around the world, as well as finding out about famous mountain explorers. Homework will continue to be set every Monday, and is due in each Friday.

LITERACY

In Literacy this half term, Maple will be using the book 'The Abominables' by Eva Ibbotson as a basis for Guided Reading activities. This will be read alongside non-fiction texts and newspaper articles.

In English, we will be learning about the features of autobiographies and biographies. Children will find out facts about the life of Sir Edmund Hillary, to enable them to write autobiographical extracts in role. Following the work on autobiographies, children will write biographical extracts about one of the main characters from our class text 'The Abominables'.

For the final two weeks of half term, children will move onto exploring journalistic writing. They will plan and write newspaper articles about avalanches and become experts at writing in this genre.

Spellings will continue to be handed out on Mondays and a spelling test will take place each Friday.

Mathematics

At the end of last half term, children were introduced to the concept of fractions. They began to explore: equivalent fractions; cancelling fractions down to their lowest form; finding common denominators; changing improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa and adding and subtracting fractions where denominators are multiples of the same number.

This half term, we will be continuing to learn more about fractions, by comparing and ordering them. Children will then move into multiplying and dividing fractions, before comparing fractions, decimals and percentages.

In our Geography work, children will be introduced to comparing mountain heights and they will also become familiar with temperature.



SCIENCE

In Science this half term, our topic will be **Living Things in their Habitats**.

Children will explore life cycles of mammals, amphibians, bird and insects. They will describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.





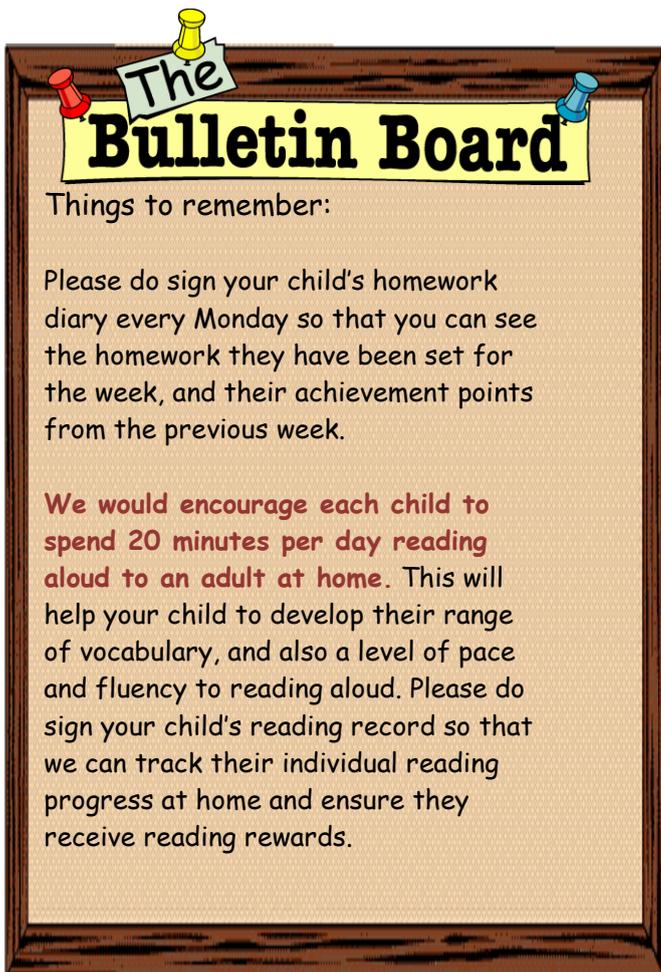
Other Curriculum Areas

PE - In PE, we will continue to follow the 'REAL PE' scheme of work for year five. Children will also continue to develop cooperation in team games. PE will continue to be every Thursday and children should ensure their PE kit is in school each Thursday.

RE and PSHE - RE and PSHE will be taught by Mrs Conboy this half term, on Monday afternoons.

Computing - Children will use Google Earth to explore and compare mountain village settlements in the developed and the developing world.

MFL - Maple will continue to be taught specialist Spanish lessons every Friday.

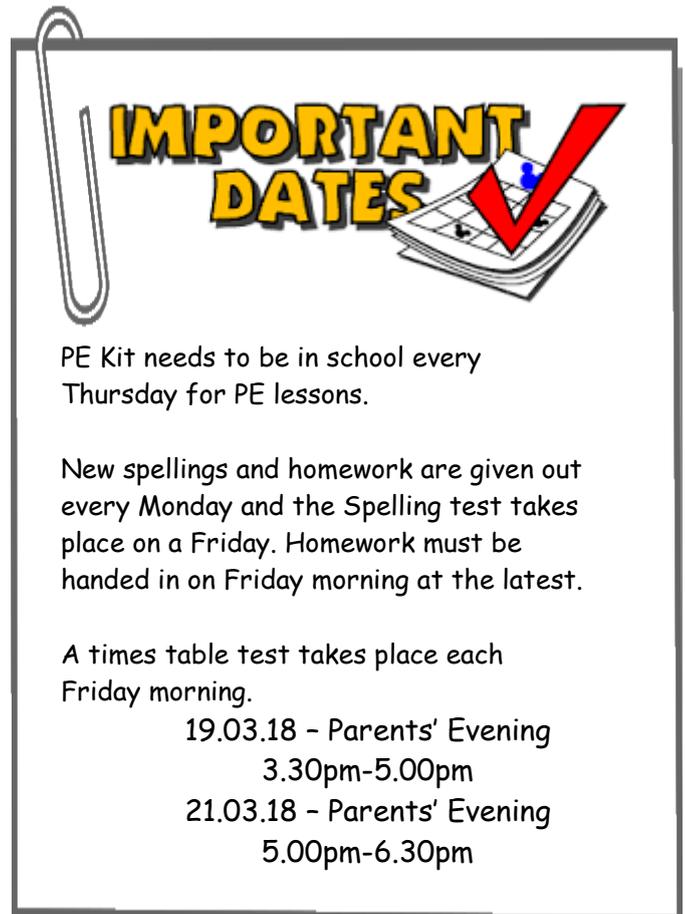


The Bulletin Board

Things to remember:

Please do sign your child's homework diary every Monday so that you can see the homework they have been set for the week, and their achievement points from the previous week.

We would encourage each child to spend 20 minutes per day reading aloud to an adult at home. This will help your child to develop their range of vocabulary, and also a level of pace and fluency to reading aloud. Please do sign your child's reading record so that we can track their individual reading progress at home and ensure they receive reading rewards.



IMPORTANT DATES

PE Kit needs to be in school every Thursday for PE lessons.

New spellings and homework are given out every Monday and the Spelling test takes place on a Friday. Homework must be handed in on Friday morning at the latest.

A times table test takes place each Friday morning.

19.03.18 - Parents' Evening
3.30pm-5.00pm

21.03.18 - Parents' Evening
5.00pm-6.30pm

Maths link: <http://uk.mathletics.com/>

Literacy link: <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar>

E-safety link: <http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/personal-safety/staying-safe-online/>

Topic link: <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/mountains.htm>



It's time to find out about

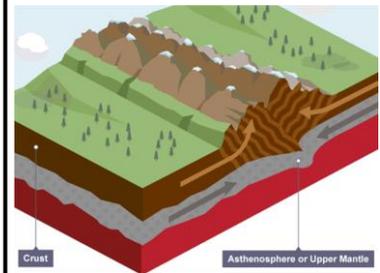
Mountains

Where are the mountain regions across the world?

Mountainous regions exist across each continent. We will be learning about the French Alps and the Himalayas in Nepal and Tibet, to name just two.



How were mountains formed?



Fold, fault-block, dome and volcanic are all different mountain types. Children will learn about how these different mountain types are formed.

What life exists in harsh and hostile mountain environments?

Many mammals call the mountain habitat their home. From snow leopards, to mountain hares, to golden eagles - all have a place in the mountain food web! Many plants have adapted to live in this difficult terrain.

What impact does tourism have on the mountain landscape?

Many settlements grow near mountains to support tourists who enjoy the challenges of climbing the world's highest peaks, or who enjoy snow sports. Tourists bring income to the area and jobs to local people, but they can also have a negative impact on the environment and create problems such as litter and deforestation on the mountain slopes.

Who are the most famous mountaineers?

Sir Edmund Hillary and his companion Tenzing Norgay are famous for being the first mountaineers to conquer the highest mountain peak in the world: Mount Everest.

Many other mountaineers have sacrificed their lives taking on the same challenge. It is incredibly difficult due to the lack of oxygen at such high levels.

Mountain disasters

Avalanches and landslides are serious hazards for tourists and locals alike. We will be investigating the causes of these disasters and the severe impact they can have.