

Home Learning

Reception children will bring home wordless books to 'read' at home, developing their storytelling skills. Towards the end of Term 1 they will bring home sound flashcards from phase 2 in their phoneme pouches. Please review these regularly. Please read to and with your child regularly - **ideally everyday**. This allows them to build their reading fluency and stamina, as well as talk about the book they are reading and ask any questions about unfamiliar vocabulary. **It is the single most important thing you can do, to support your child's learning.** Please record this in your child's reading .

Dates for the diary

PE day - Mondays and Fridays from 14th Sept

Reminder - Please email in a photograph of your child as a baby

INSET day - Friday 23rd October

Reception: Autumn Term 1

Any questions please email: maple@penshurst.kent.sch.uk



English

Communication and Language

This term, we will focus on developing children's confidence as speakers and careful, attentive listeners. Through stories, discussion, play and everyday classroom experiences, children will learn new vocabulary, ask and answer questions and talk about their ideas and experiences. We will encourage children to take part in back-and-forth conversations, retell familiar stories and begin to use longer, well-formed sentences to communicate their thoughts clearly.

Literacy

Our literacy learning will be rooted in a rich selection of picture books, including *Me, Myself and I*, *Family and Me*, *Enemy Pie*, *You Can't Taste a Pickle with Your Ear*, *Ruby's Worry* and *The Squirrels Who Squabbled/Pumpkin Soup*. These stories will help us explore ourselves, our families, friendships, feelings and senses while developing vocabulary, comprehension and storytelling skills. Through Drawing Club and purposeful opportunities to make marks and write, children will begin to see themselves as readers, storytellers and writers.

Phonics:

We will start their journey to becoming readers and writers! We will begin the term by revisiting Phase 1 phonics, developing the essential listening and sound-discrimination skills that underpin successful reading and writing. We will then move into Phase 2, where children will begin learning individual letter sounds, recognising their corresponding graphemes and using their growing phonic knowledge to blend sounds for reading and segment words for spelling.

Our class texts



Mathematics

Our Maths learning begins with lots of opportunities to get to know one another and explore mathematics within our new classroom environment. We will then develop children's ability to match, sort and compare, noticing similarities and differences and explaining how objects can be grouped. Later in the term, we will explore measures and patterns, using practical activities, stories, games and our continuous provision to build mathematical language, reasoning and confidence.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

A major focus this term is helping every child feel happy, safe and that they belong in Maple Class. We will learn our classroom routines and expectations, build positive relationships with adults and friends and develop increasing independence. Through our stories and play, we will talk about what makes each of us unique, explore different feelings and begin to develop strategies for managing them. We will also think about friendship, kindness, sharing, turn-taking and how we can solve small problems together.

Understanding the World

Our learning begins with the world closest to the children: themselves, their families and their community. Children will talk about the important people in their lives and learn to name and describe familiar people, recognising that every family is different. As autumn develops, we will also spend time exploring our immediate environment and the natural world, observing plants and animals and noticing how the changing season affects the world around us. Children will use first-hand observation alongside stories, non-fiction texts, discussion and simple maps to help them make sense of what they see.



Religious Education

In RE, we will begin by introducing children to the idea that people have different beliefs and belong to different faith communities. We will then begin our Understanding Christianity: Creation learning, exploring the Christian belief that God created the world. Through stories, discussion, creativity and opportunities to explore the natural environment, children will begin to think about the wonder of the world around them and what Christians believe about caring for creation.

Expressive Arts and Design

This term, children will have lots of opportunities to explore and express their own ideas through drawing, painting, making, music, movement and imaginative play. A particular focus will be on representing ourselves, including creating self-portraits and looking carefully at our own features. Alongside adult-led experiences, our continuous provision will give children freedom to experiment with different materials and techniques, develop their imaginations and begin to make purposeful creative choices.

Physical Development

As children settle into Reception, we will develop both their gross and fine motor skills through PE, outdoor learning and daily classroom provision. In PE, the focus will be on moving safely in a space, developing balance and coordination, following instructions and playing cooperatively. Fine-motor activities will help strengthen the hands and fingers needed for writing, while children will practise using pencils, scissors, paintbrushes and other tools with increasing control. We will also encourage independence with everyday skills such as putting on coats, managing shoes and looking after our own belongings.

Computing

children will develop early computational thinking through play, stories and practical activities, exploring instructions, patterns, sequencing and simple problem-solving. We will also introduce **online safety**, helping children understand how to use technology safely, sensibly and kindly and the importance of asking a trusted adult for help.

Music

In Music this term, we will be exploring music through singing, listening, movement and play. Children will learn and perform a range of songs and nursery rhymes, explore the pulse of music and begin to respond to different sounds through movement. They will experiment with classroom instruments, develop their listening skills and build confidence in joining in and performing together. Our focus will be on making music enjoyable, playful and accessible while beginning to develop the foundations of musical understanding.