

## Autumn Term 2025 Newsletter

### Maple Class

Welcome back to the Autumn Term and welcome to Maple class; I hope you have all enjoyed the summer break and are feeling rested and enthusiastic about the term ahead.

We have got lots of lovely activities planned for Maple class and I am very excited to see all the children again. Our learning challenge question for this term is 'Why was Ancient Egyptian civilisation ahead of its time?'

The story we will be focussing on is The Egyptian Cinderella by Shirley Climo, we will also be exploring explanation texts based on the River Nile. These books link to the work that children will be exploring in their history lessons this term.

Please see the key objectives below:

## Ancient Egypt KS2 Knowledge Mat

Subject Specific Vocabulary		Egyptian Artefacts			
<b>archaeologist</b>	People who discover our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.		<b>scarab</b>		
<b>pharaohs</b>	The word pharaoh originally meant 'great house', but came to mean the person who resided in it.			<b>sphinx</b>	
<b>tombs</b>	Ancient Egypt is known for its magnificent and beautiful tombs. The most well known are within the pyramids in the Valley of the Kings.				<b>death mask</b>
<b>pyramid</b>	A geometrical term that refers to part of the burial complexes for Egyptian pharaohs.		<b>Sticky Egyptian knowledge</b>		
<b>hieroglyphs</b>	The term hieroglyph refers to the fact that it is carving for sacred things, but hieroglyphs were also written on papyrus.		<input type="checkbox"/> Cleopatra was the last pharaoh of Egypt before the Romans took over.		
<b>vizier</b>	The vizier in ancient Egypt was the most powerful position after the king. A vizier was the equivalent of a modern day prime minister.		<input type="checkbox"/> Tutankhamen was known as the boy king, famous because his tomb was found in 1922.		
<b>scribe</b>	A scribe recorded in writing the everyday life and extraordinary happenings in ancient Egypt.		<input type="checkbox"/> Egyptian men and women wore make-up.		
<b>sarcophagus</b>	Sarcophagus is a Greek word meaning flesh-eating and refers to the mummy case.		<input type="checkbox"/> The Egyptians were the first civilization to invent writing.		
<b>mummy</b>	Remains of a body found inside the carved and brilliantly painted burial case known as a sarcophagus.		<b>Exciting books</b>		
<b>papyrus</b>	An Egyptian plant whose reeds are slit and placed in layers in order to form paper.				
<b>scarab</b>	Scarabs are amulets formed to look like the dung beetle, an animal associated by the ancient Egyptians with life, rebirth and the sun god Re.				

## Science

In Science we are going to be learning about light and dark. Our Learning Challenge question is 'Why do we have light and dark and what is its impact on our everyday life?' After half term our learning question is, 'How is sound created and how does it travel?'

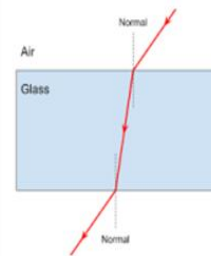
Please see the key objectives below:

### Science Year 3 Knowledge Organiser

### Science Year 4 Knowledge Organiser

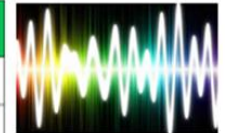
#### Main Learning: Light and Dark

Key knowledge	Vocabulary
Know why we have light and dark and its impact on our everyday life	<b>reflection</b> Occurs when a ray of light hits a surface and bounces off <b>shadow</b> Is formed when an object blocks out the light. The object must be opaque or translucent to make a shadow <b>opaque</b> Opaque objects do not allow light to pass through them, in most cases creating a shadow
Know what dark is (in relation to the absence of light)	
Know that we need light so we can see things	
Know that light can be reflected	
Know how shadows are formed and why they change shape	
Know the dangers of looking directly at the Sun	<b>refraction</b> It is the change of direction of a light ray as it passes through different surfaces, for example, from air to water <b>convex lens</b> These are lenses, also called positive lenses, that curve outward from the edges to the centre <b>concave lens</b> These are lenses where the centre of the lens is thinner than at the edges



#### Main Learning: Sound

Key knowledge	Vocabulary
Know how we get to hear things and how sound is created	<b>pitch</b> A high sound has a high pitch and a low sound has a low pitch <b>volume</b> Is the perception of loudness from the intensity of a sound wave. The higher the intensity of a sound, the louder it is perceived in our ears <b>vibrating</b> Sound is caused by the vibration of a medium (usually air) and it travels in waves <b>frequency</b> This is measured as the number of wave cycles that occur in one second <b>vibrating</b> Sound is caused by the vibration of a medium (usually air) and it travels in waves <b>hammer</b> The ear has little bones called ossicles that help you hear. They are called the hammer (malleus), anvil (incus), and stirrup (stapes). They amplify the sound or make it louder
Know how sound is made and what happens as sound travels away from its source	
Know how sound travels from the source to the ears	
Know to associate sound with vibration	
Know the correlation between pitch and the object producing a sound	
Know the correlation between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it	



## Reading

Reading is an essential part of children's educational development, and we expect children to read every day. They have the freedom to choose their own book from our collection (children are advised to read their book band level but are not limited to this, as we promote a passion for reading based on their interests). Each child has a reading diary to record each time they have read; this can be written by an adult or the child.

## Maths

In Maths we are using the White Rose maths scheme. This term we will be covering place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, and Area. Each morning Maple class complete short activities to practise their times tables which is an essential skill for all their maths learning. In the Summer Term, Year 4 children will be completing a Multiplication Tables Check (MTC), to test their knowledge and recall of their times tables. Mathletics is an excellent curriculum resource which we would encourage you to utilise at home with the children to complement work being taught in the classroom. Each child will have their own username and password to access Mathletics.

## PE

The children will have P.E every Thursday and swimming lessons every Friday so they must come dressed in their PE kits on both days. They will be outside, where possible, so please make sure they are dressed appropriately for all weather conditions.

## Spellings

The children will have a weekly spelling test on a Friday. They will spend some time learning the spellings in school but extra practise at home always results in better scores!

## Art

As part of our Art this term we will be looking landscape paintings by John Constable. The children will be creating their own landscapes of the local area. If they find inspiration from scenes they see while you are out and about and you can photograph these, please email them to me and I will print them off for the children to use. ([l.hammond@halamprimary.org.uk](mailto:l.hammond@halamprimary.org.uk))

Finally, don't forget to check our class Blog to see what we get up to and If you have any concerns or worries, please feel free to catch me either first thing in the morning or at the end of the school day.

Thank you for your continued support.

L. Hammond

