

Maths

At Great Horwood, we follow the White Rose maths scheme, using their mixed aged planning to support our pupils. Over the course of the Autumn term (1 and 2), Maples Class will be learning:

- **Number - place value**
- **Number - addition and subtraction**
- **Number - multiplication and division (A)**
- **Measurement - Area**

Religious Education

This half term in RE, Maples will be exploring Christian worldviews through the focus question:

How and why has Christian practice changed over time?

In this unit, pupils will investigate how the Church has developed through the centuries and consider some of the ways in which church practices have changed. The study will begin with the Early Church, which was rooted in Jewish traditions, and explore how adaptations were made as more non-Jews joined the Christian community. Pupils will also reflect on the Christian belief that God continues to speak and guide the Church today.

Physical Education

In PE, pupils will be developing their skills through **netball** and **dodgeball**.

In the netball unit, pupils will practice running, throwing, and catching both in isolation and in combination. They will learn the three main types of passing, develop correct pivoting techniques, and begin to understand the different positions used in Hi-5 Netball.

Back in Time!

Maples (Year 3 and 4)

Autumn 1 2025

English

The Place Value of Punctuation and Grammar (PVPG)

At the start of the year/term, we introduce The Place Value of Punctuation and Grammar (PVPG), a Grammarsaurus teaching approach that emphasises the structural components of sentences, such as nouns, verbs, and punctuation. By breaking grammar and punctuation into manageable “place-value” style units, we provide explicit, systematic instruction that builds a strong foundation for writing. This approach supports a whole school understanding of language structure, promotes consistency in teaching, and develops pupils’ long-term retention and application of writing skills.

Writing Text

As part of our unit on travelling back in time, pupils will study the novel **The Wild Way Home** by **Sophie Kirtley** in English lessons.

Writing Opportunity:

- Non-chronological report on Stone Age animals

Further writing opportunities linked to the text will continue into the next half term.



Science

This half term in Science, Maples will be learning about **Materials: Rocks and Soils**.

In this unit, pupils will:

- Compare and group different types of rocks based on their appearance and simple physical properties.
- Describe, in simple terms, how fossils are formed when living things become trapped within rock.
- Recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.

History

In History, we will be learning about **'Stone, Bronze or Iron Age?'**.

In this unit, pupils will compare life across three key periods of prehistory, focusing on how communities developed over time. They will be introduced to important vocabulary such as hunter-gatherers, settlement, trade, barter, archaeology, and tribe, while exploring the shift from nomadic lifestyles to organised settlements like Skara Brae. Pupils will also examine changes in technology, including the emergence of bronze and iron tools, and learn how trade developed from simple bartering to the use of coins.

Spanish

In Spanish, we will be learning about **'Spanish Greetings with Puppets'**. In this unit, pupils will form short phrases to say hello and introduce themselves, follow a sequence of phonemes and begin to notice key sounds in Spanish words. They will recognise and respond to different greetings, use actions to show their understanding of feelings phrases, and join in with a finger rhyme to support their learning.

Design and Technology

In DT this half term, Maples will be learning all about the 'Cooking & Nutrition: Eating seasonally'.

Pupils will explain why food comes from different places around the world and explain the benefits of seasonal foods. They will develop cutting and peeling skills, evaluate seasonal ingredients, design a mock-up using criteria and, finally, evaluate a dish.

Enrichment (Autumn 1 and 2)

- Harvest Celebration – Thursday 2nd October, 09:15 (whole-school event)
- Remembrance Service – Tuesday 11th November, 10:45 (school hall)
- Dressing of the Tree – Friday 5th December, afternoon
- Christmas Concert – Thursday 11th December, 18:00

Art and Design

In art, Maples will be learning about 'Painting and Mixed Media: Prehistoric Paintings'.

This unit explores prehistoric art, recreating the style of cave artists using charcoal and natural pigments. Pupils experiment with colour mixing, and creating large-scale artworks, enhancing both artistic skills and historical knowledge.

Music: Dynamics, pitch and texture (Fingal's Cave)

This unit supports pupils as they explore how classical music can depict natural scenes, focusing on Felix Mendelssohn's Fingal's Cave. Pupils examine how composers use the inter-related dimensions of music—structure, texture, dynamics, timbre, pitch, tempo, and duration—to represent the sea's movement and atmosphere.

Instrumental lessons (Autumn 1 and 2)

South Africa

This South Africa-themed unit develops pupils' rhythmic, singing and notation skills.

Music Listening

Mendelssohn: Hebrides Overture (Fingal's Cave)

Kodo Drummers

Gong Kebyar (Indonesia) – Gamelan

Queen – We will Rock you

Back in Time! Maples (Year 3 & 4) Autumn 1 2025

Sustainability

Throughout the Autumn term, Maples will be learning about 'What is Happiness?'

Pupils will explore what makes us happy, the idea that everyone has a right to be happy and healthy, and finally, find out what philanthropy is and how generosity can contribute to happiness.

Computing and Online Safety

In computing, pupils will be learning about: *Computing systems and networks 1* (Networks and the internet). Lessons will introduce the concept of networks, learning how devices communicate. From identifying components, learn how information is shared and deepen this understanding by exploring examples of real-world networks.

E-safety:

Our E-safety unit this half term is all about 'Beliefs, opinions and facts on the internet' - to understand how the internet can be used to share beliefs, opinions and facts.

PSHE

In PSHE this half term, Maples will be learning about 'Families and Relationships'.

This unit explores: respect and manners, healthy friendships, how my behaviour affects others, bullying, stereotypes with regards to gender and disability, families in the wider world and, finally, change and loss.

Character Education and British Values

Our character education values for Autumn 1 are: *courage, caring and helpfulness*.

The British Value we will be focusing on in Autumn 1 is *individual liberty*.

Diversity and Inclusion

Within our learning around diversity and inclusion, pupils will also be learning about 'Show Racism the Red Card' alongside Anti-Bullying.

Pupil Safety and Safeguarding (Autumn 1 and 2)

Across the Autumn term in our safety and safeguarding learning, Maples will be learning about schools' safety, playground equipment safety, forest school safety, fire safety and physical abuse.