



Maple Infants' School

December 2017

Newsletter No. 3

Diary Dates:

INSET DAY:

- **Wednesday 3rd January 2018**

Muffi Day

Save the Children

Christmas Jumper Day

Children and staff are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers to school

- Friday 15th December

Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 19th December

SCHOOL FINISHES AT 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER

Please be aware that the last session for afternoon nursery will be on Wednesday 20th December

SPRING TERM 2018

DATES:

SPRING TERM 1:

Wednesday 3rd January - Friday 9th February

SPRING TERM 2:

Monday 19th February - Thursday 29th March

HALF TERM:

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February

INSET DAYS:

(school closed for pupils)

Wed 3rd January 2018

Friday 25th May 2018

Friday 20th July 2018



The festive season is now truly underway at Maple. The choir have performed beautifully at various events and successfully opened our Christmas Fair on Saturday with Mrs Brookes. Each class is thoroughly enjoying learning their Christmas songs and this week they are polishing their performances ready to share with you at each year production over the next 2 weeks.

We are really proud of how hard the children have worked throughout the term and are looking forward to another wonderful term after the break.

Mrs. Barwell

Staffing Vacancies at Maple

We are currently seeking to recruit 2 School Meals Supervisory Assistants and a full time TA to work within our Early Years team. If you are interested in any of these positions then our advert and application process is via the website ETEACH – please have a look online – if you have any other questions then a member of our Office Team would be very happy to help.

Message from the Chair of Governors (Geoff Hilliard)

New Parent Governors

Thank you to all parents and carers who voted in the election to elect our new parent governors. Stuart Bennett and Christopher Lis have now joined our Governing Body and they will serve for 4 years from the date of their election.

Co-opted Governor Vacancy

One of our co-opted governors, Jaime Renvoize, is sadly unable to continue in this role, due to work commitments and is leaving us at the end of the term. I would like to thank him for the great contribution he has made to the school since he joined as a governor with lead responsibility for finance early last year.

This means that we will have a vacancy on the Governing Body for a co-opted governor. We would welcome applications for this role from any parent or carer of a child at Maple. (Please note that there is a difference between parent governors and co-opted governors. A parent governor must be a parent or carer of a child at Maple at the time of election; a co-opted governor may also be a parent or carer but this is not a requirement for the role and so we may also consider applications from candidates not connected with the school.)

The prime requirement for any candidate is a strong background in **finance** or **accounting**.

If you would be interested in applying for this role, please send your application to the school office, giving relevant background information about yourself.

Heating

Thank you for all of your support whilst the heating system was being repaired. The children stayed warm with their extra layers alongside portable heaters which were provided by the local authority. The heating is now functioning fully and keeping us warm and toasty in school, especially during this cold spell.

Our School Priorities

We are continually evaluating the success of our school and alongside consultation with various groups and detailed data analysis we have identified 6 broad strategic priorities which will support the school to continue to develop even further over the next 2 years. Our priorities fall under the following headings;

- To improve achievement in writing
- To improve the effectiveness of interventions
- To further develop subject leadership
- To continue to develop outdoor provision
- To improve communication with parents
- To improve rates of attendance

We look forward to sharing details of our school development plan in more depth with you in the new year.

Donations to Charities

We have had a number of fund raising events over this last term and we would like to thank our pupils and their families for all of your support. These events have helped to raise money for a number of charities.

- October - Harvest donations to our local food bank were greatly received
- Jeans for Genes Day - £201.95 raised
- November - The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal this year raised £286.30
- Tuesday 14th November - World Diabetes Day raised £230.75

THANK YOU!

Our final charity event of the term will be in support of Save the Children – we would like to invite all children, staff and families to wear their Christmas Jumpers to school on Friday 15th December and bring a suggested donation of £1 to raise money for Save the Children.

School Parliament

Our members of the School Parliament have begun their term of office and are currently supporting the SLT to help the children to think about how important friends are and to decide what makes a good friend. They will also be spending some time with Mrs Barwell during lunchtime play to see how we can continue to make our outdoor provision at playtimes even better. This will be a strong focus for our School Parliament and links to one of our school development priorities.

Reception

Reception classes have thoroughly enjoyed finding out about people who help us within our local environment. They have welcomed visits from the Met Police, a local vet and dentist. They also took a trip to Surbiton Library and were able to borrow some books to share with each other in their classrooms.

They have also begun a programme of exciting outdoor learning. Their first visit took them to St Andrew's Square where they enjoyed activities which included leaf identification, a scavenger hunt, bark rubbings and leaf threading.

PE

On Thursday 30th November nine Year 2 pupils took part in an event organised by Kingston Schools Spots Partnership at Chessington Community College which enabled the pupils to develop their cricket skills. They took part in a carousel of activities during the session and worked alongside each other as well as pupils from other schools. Miss Blocksidge went with the children and was particularly impressed with how well Maple pupils demonstrated effective teamwork, especially when working with pupils from other schools who they had only just met.

Year 2

Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Natural History Museum on Friday 8th December to support their topic based learning. There was great excitement on their return to school and they shared some of their exciting adventures including taking part in a simulated earthquake and seeing just how big a whale really is! Their visit really supported their learning within school and they demonstrated themselves to be exceptional ambassadors for our school with excellent behaviour from everyone – well done year two.

FESTIVE EVENTS



On Saturday 18th November Mrs Brookes and the Year 2 choir sang at St Andrew's Church Christmas Fair and then again at the Surbiton Lights On event in the high street on Thursday 23rd November. They also opened our Christmas Fair on Saturday. Their song choices for all of the events were perfect and the children sang beautifully! Thank you to Mrs Brookes for directing and leading our choir. Well done everyone!

Christmas Fair - Saturday 9th December

It was wonderful to join lots of our families and staff at our Christmas Fair on Saturday. A little bit of Christmas magic had transformed the school into a Christmas wonderland- it really looked amazing! It was delightful to hear families enjoying all of the festive activities on offer. Following the performance of our choir, we were also amazed by the growing talents of the after school violin club which is run by Mrs. Shin. All of our performers were fantastic, thank you for helping to make the Maple Fair such a special event! We would also like to thank all of The Friends for their hard work in organising this wonderful event – we know just how much preparation and organising it takes. Thank you also to all of our families who were able to support our fund raising events this term!



UP AND COMING FESTIVE EVENTS!

Reception and Key Stage 1 Christmas Productions – please make sure that you have applied for your tickets.

Reception Classes	Thursday 14 th December at 9.30am Friday 15 th December at 9.30am Friday 15 th December at 2.15pm
Year 1	Tuesday 12 th December at 9.30am Wednesday 13 th December at 9.30am Wednesday 13 th December at 2.15pm
Year 2	Monday 18 th December at 9.30am Monday 18 th December at 2.15pm Tuesday 19 th December at 9.30am

Nursery Christmas Sing a-long

Tickets are not required for this event.

Willow Class Nursery Morning	- Thursday 14 th December at 11.15am	In Willow Class – all families with children in morning nursery are welcome to attend
Willow Class Nursery Afternoon	- Thursday 14 th December at 3.00pm	In Willow Class – all families with children in afternoon nursery are welcome to attend

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 15th December

Admissions

Admissions procedures are well underway for school places in September 2018.

- Children born between **1 September 2013** and **31 August 2014** are due to start primary school (Reception class) in September 2018
- Children born between **1 September 2010** and **31 August 2011** who currently attend infant school are due to start Year 3 and transfer to junior school in September 2018

If you live within in the borough, you can apply for a school place online using the eAdmissions system (www.eadmissions.org.uk). If you don't live in the borough, you need to apply through your own council and you can include Kingston schools on your application form.

Kington Primary School Admissions Brochure is available to guide you through this process – you should read this before making your online application.

https://www.kingston.gov.uk/downloads/download/217/primary_school_admissions_brochure

Please let the office, Miss Funnell or Mrs Barwell know if you would like any support with your application.

School Meals – ISS Catering

Could we please remind all families who currently order hot meals from ISS to remember to check that a meal has been ordered for your child/children at the beginning of **each** week and particularly at the **beginning of a half or full term**. Unfortunately the school has no way of alerting you if a school meal has not been ordered for your child until that lunchtime. The catering company only provide meals for the exact number of children who have pre-ordered meals.

Attendance

We are continuing to monitor the attendance and punctuality of all of our pupils in conjunction with the Education Welfare Officer. Mrs Barwell has recently received a number of absence requests and would like to remind all families that these will only be granted in **exceptional circumstances**. Poor school attendance leaves pupils vulnerable to falling behind and children with poor attendance often achieve less in school. At Maple we are continually striving to ensure that EVERY child reaches their full potential and ensuring that children attend school on time and regularly is part of our commitment in partnership with families.

Staying Safe

Our children live in a time where many different home computer games are available to them and children can have great fun playing these games. Although there are many online or gaming resources available which are devised specifically for primary aged children to use, there are also a wide variety of resources which are highly unsuitable for children to play or watch. All video, computer and downloadable games are given an age rating under the PEGI system (3, 7, 12, 16 and 18). The ratings mean that the content is unsuitable for anyone below that age.

At all times, but particularly as we approach the Christmas break , we urge you to be very aware of what computer games are being played at home and whether your school aged child is playing or watching an older family member play a game that is designed for an older audience.

Many families joined Miss Craik in school on 27th November for an e-safety workshop which was run by Peter Cowley (AfC ICT and Online Safety Advisor) who helped to identify how to keep our children safe online. Peter outlined the importance of setting parental controls on any devices to ensure that you are aware and have control of what your children are accessing online. This then supports parents to be able to assess that any content is age appropriate and safe. It is particularly useful to do this before a child receives a gift or begins to use the device, so to support families he has provided us with QR codes (see attached) which will direct families straight to the instructions for how to set parental controls for four of the main devices.

If you would like to discuss your concerns or receive any further advice regarding this matter then please contact either Miss Funnell (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Mrs Barwell via the school office.

PARENT WORKSHOPS

Thank you to all of our families who joined us for our e-safety parent workshop this half term.

FORTHCOMING WORKSHOPS

Year 2 Assessment

There will be a Year 2 Assessment briefing for all parents who have children within year 2. This will be held in the school hall at **7pm** on **Wednesday 10th January 2018** and will be repeated at **9.15am** on **Thursday 11th January**. This briefing will provide parents with an overview of the national assessments that take place for all year 2 pupils during the month of May and will outline how we approach these assessments at Maple. We will also include information about how you can help your child.

Phonics – we will also be re-scheduling our phonics workshop and will let you know the date as soon as possible.

INSET DAY

May we please remind families that we have an INSET day on **Wednesday 3rd January 2018** so school will be closed to pupils on this day.

End of the Autumn Term

Please be aware that school will finish at **12 noon** on **Thursday 21st December**. If you have a child who attends our afternoon Nursery, their last session will be on Wednesday 20th December.

*Just a reminder that the spring term begins on Wednesday **3rd January 2018**, however this is an INSET day and so we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Thursday 4th January 2018**.*



All of the staff and Governors at Maple Infants' School would like to wish all of our children and families a very safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!
