



# Maple Infants' School

December 2021

Newsletter No. 4

## Diary Dates:

### 2022

#### SPRING TERM DATES:

##### **SPRING TERM 1:**

Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Feb (Tue 4<sup>th</sup> Jan is INSET day)

##### **SPRING TERM 2:**

Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Feb – Fri 1<sup>st</sup> April

##### **HALF TERM:**

Mon 14<sup>th</sup> – Fri 18<sup>th</sup> February

#### SUMMER TERM DATES:

##### **SUMMER TERM 1:**

Tues 19<sup>th</sup> April – Fri 27<sup>th</sup> May

##### **SUMMER TERM 2:**

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
(Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June & Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> July are INSET days)

##### **HALF TERM:**

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> June

I would like to thank all of our families for your continued support throughout the term, but particularly in response to the need a few weeks ago to increase our safety measures in and around school in response to a significant increase in the number of covid cases within our school community earlier in the term. We are really pleased to share with you that the swift action and support from everyone successfully helped to reduce the transmission of the virus within our direct school community and the number of positive cases over the last couple of weeks have thankfully been lower than they were. We were advised by the Kingston Public Health team to continue with our increased safety measures until at least the end of the autumn term which we have continued to do. Having received the most updated information from the team, which we shared with you on Friday, alongside the communication the nation received from the Prime Minister over the weekend, we are pleased that we already have procedures in place to keep our school community as safe as possible.

I would like to continue to reassure families that the safety of our children, staff and our whole school community will always be a priority at Maple and so it will be no surprise to families to know that the advice of our health team professionals will always strongly influence our risk assessments and the decisions which we make. All of the difficult decisions which we have had to make, throughout the pandemic, have always been made based on the individual circumstances for our school.

This time of the year, for all of us, especially when working with young children is always very special. Alongside you, we particularly look forward to celebrating Christmas and it is typically a time when we welcome our community into school to share the festivities together. We are therefore as disappointed as you are that these special events have not been able to take place this year. In school, the children have really enjoyed taking part in the festivities within their classes which have continued to take place safely. These have included Christmas craft activities, Christmas jumper day celebrations and everyone really enjoyed our Christmas lunch and the individual class parties that took place yesterday.

Nevertheless, we really recognise that the children have missed the opportunity of performing to their families and all of the learning experiences which go alongside this. Although we all watch and wait to see what impact the new covid variant may or may not bring to the nation, we would like to reassure families that we are planning for the children to still have this experience but with a different theme later in the spring term. We are also continuing to plan the wider experiences, including trips, which we feel really supports the children's learning at Maple. We continue to hope that these will be able to take place as we move into a new year and we look forward to keeping you posted about these special events next term.

Once again, thank you all for your continued support.

Wishing you and your families a very safe and happy holiday.

*Mrs. Barwell*

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### **Starting Infant or Junior school in September 2022**

Children born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 start school in September 2022. The closing date for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.** This is also the closing date for applications for children starting junior school (Y3) in September 2022.

For information and advice contact School Admissions on 020 8547 4610, email: [kingston.admissions@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:kingston.admissions@achievingforchildren.org.uk).

We are holding a final virtual prospective parent meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 1:30am. A link will be available on our website for parents to access this meeting.

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### Starting Nursery in September 2022

We will be holding virtual prospective parent meetings for Nursery on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 9:30-10:15am and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022, 1:30 – 2:15pm. The links will be available on our school website for parents to access these meetings after the break.

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### Wrap around care provision at Maple

As you are aware, the team at Maple have been exploring our after school provision and have been particularly keen to develop on site after school care for Maple children. Unfortunately, despite extensive advertising for the staff required to provide this wider provision, we have not yet been able to successfully recruit for key roles required. We would like to reassure our families that this is still something which we would like to be able to provide for our children and therefore we will be continuing to explore this in the new year.

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### Staffing Update

We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Mason to Maple as our KS1 leader in the spring term. As well as leading across years 1 and 2, Mrs Mason will be teaching Silver Birch Class one day a week. We are also welcoming Mrs Abaida who will be teaching Silver Birch for the rest of the week. Mrs Lazarski will also be joining the Maple teaching team from January as Oak Class teacher.

We have some new members of staff joining our team of support staff. Ms Kudrina, who is currently one of our SMSAs, will be moving into the position of a teaching assistant from January; She will be joined by Mrs Cockram who will also be joining our Maple team as a teaching assistant.

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### Christmas Card Competition

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Seraphim from Sycamore Class who has won the 4-6 age range category for Sir Edward Davey's annual Christmas card competition. Well done Seraphim!

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### School Parliament

A School Parliament is a group of pupils who are elected by their peers to represent the views of all pupils to improve their school. School Parliaments can also propose and take forward initiatives and projects on behalf of their peers, and can often be involved in strategic planning and processes such as the School Development Plan and governing body meetings.

Next term we will be talking to the children about the qualities that they would need to be a member of our School Parliament. These qualities include the following:

- Be confident
- Enjoy activities
- Be sensible
- Be friendly
- Be good at thinking
- Be helpful
- Be creative
- Like talking
- Be a good listener
- Be interested in helping to make our school an even better place to learn

When we return to school after the break, class teachers will help the children to decide whether they would like to become MPs and representatives for their class. The children will then be asked to vote for two people to become their class MPs. This process really helps us to explain to the pupils at an age appropriate level what 'democracy' means as part of our work to promote our British Values. This round of MPs will remain in their roles until July.

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### Dates for your Diary:

#### END OF TERM:

#### **Whole School closes on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December at Mid-day**

(please note that the last day for afternoon Nursery will be Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December)  
The Spring term will begin on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January, however this is an INSET day and so we will be welcoming the children back on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.



*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!*