



# Maple Infants' School

February 2023

Newsletter No. 5

## Diary Dates:

### Spring Term 2:

Mon 20th Feb – Fri  
31st Mar

### Spring break:

Mon 3rd Apr – Fri 14th  
Apr

### Summer Term 1:

Mon 17th Apr – Fri 26th  
May

Half term: Mon 29th  
May – Fri 2nd June

### Summer Term 2:

Mon 5th Jun – Fri 21st  
Jul

## INSET DAYS:

Mon 5th June  
Fri 21st July



At Maple, we pride ourselves in not only planning to support all of our children to reach their full potential academically, but we also strive to support their personal development too. Our focus for this is woven throughout our curriculum and the choices we make about the topics and particularly around the texts that the children focus on, however it is also enhanced by our children's experiences, which we purposefully plan for. This essential learning takes place through our external visitors, whom we invite into school, but also via the wider trips and experiences on offer. These opportunities not only support the children's love of learning and helps to bring the curriculum alive, but it also helps the children to develop their confidence, resilience, independence and their understanding of responsibility. It is such an important part of the learning which takes place at Maple and the children thrive when taking part in these wider opportunities, as we are sure you have experienced when hearing about the exciting learning taking place via the weekly overviews, but also from your children themselves.

*Mrs Barwell*

## School Development Plan

The priorities which we are working on this year to support our continual school improvement are as follows:

**Quality of Education:** We know and understand the importance of Quality First Teaching at Maple and we want to ensure that the expectations of these principles are firmly implemented across all curriculum areas so that all children continue to make excellent progress and maximise their independence.

**Early Years Foundation Stage:** At Maple, we love reading and we are so proud of the progress that all of our children make. We want to ensure that our assessment in reading continues to be highly effective so that we can continue to build an ambitious and exciting reading culture, right from our early years. Part of this journey is also for us to create an exciting and purposeful library space in school, which will give our children the very best start to a lifelong love of reading.

**Behaviour and Attitudes:** Our children at Maple have excellent learning behaviours and we now want to equip them to be able to confidently articulate their knowledge and understanding to help them to know more and remember more (make progress).

**Personal Development:** We know how important positive mental health is and we regularly promote this with the children. We are in the process of establishing and embedding a whole school approach to well-being and mental health, which reflects the realities of our community needs.

**Leadership and Management:** All leaders at Maple are working hard to secure effective monitoring across all subject areas so that this supports our continuous curriculum development and strong learning outcomes for all learners. Our Governors are also deepening their knowledge in areas outside of their expertise to support their succession planning.

We look forward to sharing our progress with you throughout the summer term.

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### **Attendance**

As a school we promote excellent attendance for **all** pupils in order to ensure that they reach their full potential. Our regular monitoring of attendance has shown that our overall attendance as a school has reduced from previous years. We completely recognise that there have been some nasty persistent bugs around, but we are hoping that as the winter months pass, our overall attendance will improve.

Our previous ambitious target, has always been to achieve attendance of 97% or above (Reception – Year 2) however, this year we are hoping to achieve above 96% attendance (currently this is at 93.9%). We will keep you updated with how our attendance pattern progresses.

In addition to this, we are also noticing that every day a number of children are arriving late to school. We do appreciate that the beginning of the day can be a busy time for families and from time to time there are challenges which we understand. However please be aware that our classroom learning begins at 8.45am and so when pupils arrive late it can be very disruptive, it can impact on their learning and they often miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of the session.

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### **Job Vacancies at Maple**

We are currently advertising on eTeach and our Maple Infants' School website for the position of a Teaching Assistant. Please use this link should you wish to apply or pass the link to someone you feel would be interested in this position.

<https://www.eteach.com/jobs/maple-infants--school-jobs-21377/?oo=ag>

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### **Rose Theatre Visit – Y1&2 Choir**

Last half term the Year 2 choir were invited to join a handful of schools from the Kingston borough to perform at The Rose Theatre, in front of over 800 people.

We were so proud of how beautifully they sang and how confidently they performed. There was not a dry eye in the house!

### **Mrs Hodson Y1 Teacher & Choir Lead**



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### **Wetlands Centre – Reception Class Visit**

Reception visited the London Wetlands Centre on the 7th February.

The children had an amazing day exploring a local habitat and found out lots of information about the animals and birds that live near to Surbiton.

The children explored water and wetlands through sensory play, created their own habitats for lots of animals and explored the habitat, spotting birds and thinking about what they could see around them.

We loved our first journey on a coach and enjoyed having a packed lunch!

### **Mrs Banks (EYFS Leader)**

### **Maple Loves Reading Week**

Maple Loves Reading week will be taking place again this year between the 27th February and the 3rd March.

There will be a wide range of exciting activities for all year groups taking place throughout the week including author visits, drama workshops, mystery readers and many more!

This will also include our annual 'Bedtime Stories' event where children will be invited back to school to their classrooms in their pyjamas for a bedtime story with hot chocolate. This will take place on the evening of Wednesday 1st March, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 - From 5:30-6pm and Nursery AM and PM - from 5:30pm-5:50pm. Get ready for an exciting week to celebrate our love for reading!

### **Mrs Banks (EYFS, Reading and Phonics Leader)**

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### **Y1 Perform Workshop Drama**

On Thursday 26th January Perform Drama visited our school for our Y1 children to enhance the learning in history before half term.

During the workshop, the children learnt about the life and legacy of Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale.

The children enjoyed learning many new fascinating facts as well as thoroughly enjoying getting into the role of Florence Nightingale. The children role played nursing the wounded soldiers, cleaning and scrubbing the floors as well as making medicines out of plants.

**Miss Smith**

**Y1 Class Teacher**

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### **Nursery Admission – September 2023**

The closing date for Nursery applications is: **Friday 3rd March 2023**

If your child is 3 years old by 31st August 2023, they will be eligible to join our Nursery in September 2023.

We currently offer 15hr and 30hr places as follows:

Morning Session - 8.30am - 11.30am 5 days a week

Afternoon Session - 12.30pm - 3.30pm 5 days a week

If you were eligible for a 30 hours place, your child would stay all day, with the option of a paid lunchtime club. You can check your eligibility here:

<https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

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### **Year 2 Sports Ambassadors**

We are very happy to have appointed 15 Year 2 Sports Ambassadors.

Our sports ambassadors have the opportunity to take more responsibility for their own and the learning of others, through the use of physical education and to establish a higher regard for the importance of physical education throughout the school.

As well as providing pupils with the opportunity to engage with children in other year groups, manage resources, demonstrate skills and share knowledge with others, it also aims to help each child to develop their own leadership skills.

Our fantastic Sports Ambassadors look forward to completing a variety of tasks to develop PE within our school including running some playground games for the rest of the children. Keep an eye out for our new playground display to find out who our Sports Ambassadors are.

**Miss Wright**

**Class Teacher and PE Lead**



### **Safer Internet Day 2023**

On Tuesday 7th February our school celebrated Safer Internet Day. This day is celebrated internationally by organisations that work with children to help promote the safe and responsible use of the internet and compliments our online safety topics which are taught in Computing in Key Stage 1. The theme for this year was 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about the internet'. At Maple Infants' we really value the power of discussion, so we made the most of the opportunity to talk about the internet with lots of discussion based tasks and activities.

In Key Stage 1, the pupils particularly enjoyed finding out about their classmates favourite games and uses for tech and in the EYFS, the technology treasure hunt around the classrooms and the 'Magic Window' crafts were big hits. All pupils who took part in the celebration across the day came away with an important reminder about staying safe online with an emphasis on what to do and who they should talk to when things go wrong online as well as an appreciation of the positive uses for digital technology.

More information about Safer Internet Day as well as advice about to keep your child safe online can be found at [saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/parents-and-carers](https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/parents-and-carers).

You can also find information on our Maple Infants School website.

**Miss Garcia**

**Class Teacher and Computing and E safety Lead**

### **Street Tag**

We have introduced the fun and engaging mobile application game, Street Tag to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in an assembly this week.

This game is designed to promote physical activity around our local area. We are delighted to see so many families already signing up to earn the Maple Infants' School team some points.

Please see the Street Tag letter sent to you on ParentMail to find out all signing up information. We cannot wait to share our Maple top scorers in our next newsletter!

**Miss Wright**

**Class Teacher and PE Lead**

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**Maple Loves Reading Week:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

#### **Termly library visits:**

- Hazel, Rowan and Chestnut Classes: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March
- Oak, Sycamore and Laurel Classes: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March
- Copper Beech, Sliver Birch and Cedar Classes: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

**Parent consultation Evenings:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March - more information will follow

**Year 1 Trip to The Lookout Centre:** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March

**RNLI Water Safety Presentation for KS1:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March

**End of the Spring Term:** Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 2pm.