



Maple Infants' School

January/February 2017

Newsletter No. 5

Diary Dates:

SPRING TERM

DATES:

SPRING TERM:

Tuesday 3rd January
2017 - Friday 31st March

HALF TERM:

Monday 13th - Friday
17th February

SUMMER TERM

DATES:

SUMMER TERM:

Tuesday 18th April -
Friday 21st July (INSET
DAY - school finishes
Thursday 20th July for
pupils)

HALF TERM:

Monday 29th May -
Friday 2nd June

INSET DAYS:

(school closed for
pupils)

Friday 10th Feb 2017

Friday 26th May 2017

Friday 21st July 2017

Spring Term Parent

Consultation Evenings:

Wednesday 22nd
February 3.45-6.45pm

Thursday 23rd February
3.45 - 6.45pm

The frosty mornings have provided perfect opportunities for our pupils to explore the season of winter across all year groups. In addition to this Nursery and Reception have been exploring winter through a number of themes and stories to support their learning. Year 2 have been finding out about the arctic as they explore their new topic. The Year 1 topic Poles Apart last term has helped them to prepare for the winter season and they have certainly been keeping warm whilst exploring their new Superhero topic and creating wonderful adventures!

Mrs. Barwell

Staffing

We have some changes to our staffing team which are taking place over the next half term.

- Ms Waterhouse, who works in Laurel class, is relocating and will be leaving Maple at the end of the spring term. We wish her well with her move and would like to thank her for all of her hard work over the last 18 months
- Mrs Burchill, who teaches Cedar class, has decided to leave Maple at the end of the spring term and we would like to thank her for all of her hard work over the last two terms and wish her all the best for the future
- Ms Jewell, who works in Oak class, will also be leaving Maple in March as she has secured a position working in another school within their office team – we would like to thank her for all of her hard work throughout the last 18 months and wish her well as she embarks on her changing role.

Our recruitment process is well underway and we have a number of positions available at Maple and advertise any jobs on the e-teach website – if you may be interested in a role at Maple please look at the e-teach website or contact the school office for more information.

Parent Workshops

Thank you to all of our families who took part in our parent workshops which were held by staff at Maple on January 11th. We were really pleased that so many of our families were able to attend and from the feedback which we received we are delighted that the content regarding the early teaching and understanding of phonics and KS1 Assessment was helpful. Any families who were unable to attend the KS1 Assessment session should now have received the handout provided. Please do let class teachers know if you have not received the handout or would like any further information regarding phonics or KS1 assessment.

Parent Consultation Evenings – Date for your diary

We will be holding our spring term Parent Consultation Evenings on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd February 3.45 – 6.45pm. As you are aware we will be using our online booking tool for you to book the most available and convenient appointments and you should now have received information about this.

Parent and Pupil Questionnaire

Feedback which we receive throughout the year from our families and pupils is always very welcome and valued and helps us to evaluate the progress and success of the school. As part of this process we would like to invite families and pupils to complete our annual survey. Following past feedback we are currently in the process of arranging our survey to be completed on paper or via an online survey tool. We will be inviting families to share their thoughts about our school and as last year, we will be including a section for pupils to answer and would like to ask our families to support them to do so. We will provide paper copies for any families who would like to complete their survey in this way and you should receive information soon regarding the link to our online survey. Please do only complete one questionnaire (paper or online) for each child by Friday 3rd March. Our Computing Suite will be available for any families who would like to use a school computer to complete their survey during our Parents Evenings in February. Many thank in advance – we look forward to hearing your feedback.

School Development Plan

We would like to share with families the priorities for school development which the Senior Leadership Team in partnership with our staff and Governors have shaped together. These commitments follow the headings of the Ofsted framework which supports the self-evaluation of the school.

Attached to this newsletter are the headline priorities under the 5 key areas. We will shortly be including this document to our website, alongside a further outline of specific objectives which we are working hard to develop. Please do see a member of the Senior Leadership Team (Miss Dowd, Mr Wells, Miss Funnell or Mrs Barwell) for any further information.

Building update

Over the half term break we have arranged for classrooms in our new building to have a film coating added to the classroom windows. This film will let natural light in, but will reduce the glare of the sun.

Playground markings – we are finalising our arrangements for some new playground markings to support our pupils when they are learning and playing. We are hoping that these will be added to our playground during next half term – keep a look out for these exciting new additions!

We are also planning to explore how to improve the area at the front of the school as we would like to begin to use this area as extended play space for our pupils. We will keep you updated of our plans.

British Values

Schools have a duty to promote fundamental British Values as part of their commitment to support the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of pupils. The fundamental British Values are;

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Our Early Years team and Key Stage One team have put together 2 documents which outlines how British values are promoted at Maple Infants' School and this will be added to our website for your information. Please see a member of the Senior Leadership Team if you have any questions about this.

Keeping Safe Online – E-Safety Champion

The online world can be an exciting place to find out new things for our young learners and we are noticing that our very youngest pupils are coming into school with rapidly developing technology skills. We want to embrace this way of learning, however recognise our duty alongside parents to support our pupils to stay safe on line. As part of this commitment we have developed the role in school of an 'E-Safety Champion'. Miss Craik is delighted to have taken on this role and has begun by promoting the global 'Safer Internet Day' on Tuesday 7th February. Pupils completed activities in class to promote the importance of staying safe on line as well as attending an assembly led by Miss Craik to promote 'Safer Internet Day'. Families should now have received some information to support you to keep our pupils safe online.

Attendance

As families are aware Maple Infants' School monitors pupil attendance very carefully and any attendance which reaches 90% or lower is considered as persistent absence. We will therefore be writing to families of any pupil whose attendance is currently lower than 90% to inform them of this. Whilst we understand that for some pupils this attendance may be linked to sickness or authorised absence for exceptional circumstances we would like families to be fully aware of their pupils attendance and to offer to meet families to explore how we can work together to improve their child's attendance where possible.

School Parliament

The School Parliament have been working alongside Miss Dowd and Mr Wells over the last half term. They have been thinking carefully with their classes about the type of feedback which helps them to know what they have done well and what they need to do next. Miss Dowd and Mr Wells wanted to make sure that our updated policy truly reflects what makes a difference to our pupils. They have now taken all of the children's ideas and thoughts and we have a draft Assessment and Marking Policy which is being trialled in classes. Well done School Parliament for your great ideas and to Miss Dowd and Mr Wells for their hard work!

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

As you are aware, one of our school priorities is to explore opportunities to provide our pupils with curriculum enrichment. Staff have been working hard to explore what may be available to our pupils and we have some very exciting to events share:

PE Provision – football tournament

Ms Blocksidge was delighted to be invited to take some Year 2 pupils to a girls football tournament at Chessington Community College. Our children displayed outstanding teamwork and developed their own skills throughout the afternoon. We were thrilled that out of 8 schools our Maple team came joint 4th! Well done team we are really proud of you!

London Philharmonic Orchestra – Year 1

On Monday 6th February, Mrs Wright arranged for Year 1 to visit the Royal Festival Hall in the Southbank Centre to attend the annual KS1 BrightSparksSchools' Concert with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The children really enjoyed their experience and were able to find out about the orchestra whilst experiencing high quality live music in an exciting and engaging way.

Arts Award Discover – Year 2

We are delighted that our Year 2 pupils have been given the opportunity to achieve an Arts Award Discover certificate this term. Ms Brookes has been working hard to arrange this exciting opportunity which will enable our pupils to work alongside a variety of local artists as well as a team of 15-16 year old children from local Kingston senior schools. We really look forward to hearing about their experiences as they explore different art activities themed around animals!

Multi-Cultural Week – Monday 27th February – Friday 3rd March

To coincide with the Friends Multi-Cultural evening on Friday 3rd March, Maple Infants' School will be holding a Multi-Cultural week between Monday 27th February and Friday 3rd March in school. All staff will be arranging many different activities for their classes focused around exploring and celebrating different cultures. Our PE lead, Miss Blocksidge, has already arranged an exciting programme to enrich our pupils' physical development during this week and the children will be experiencing both African and Flamenco dance workshops. We will be holding a muffin-day on Friday 3rd March and would like to invite pupils and their families to come to school dressed in clothes that represent either their own or a different cultural background.

Teddy Tennis

Our Nursery pupils are really enjoying their weekly Teddy Tennis sessions. These sessions are really helping to develop their co-ordination and gross motor development as well as being great fun!

Take One Picture – Mrs Brackenbury – National Gallery

Mrs Brackenbury has inspired our creativity and is looking forward to arranging Take One Picture. Take One Picture is a strategy promoted by The National Gallery to support schools to use one picture to inspire and encourage learning across all curriculum areas. This year the picture chosen by The National Gallery is 'Penelope with the Suitors' by Pintoricchio and we look forward to sharing with you how we are going to be using this picture in the summer term. You may wish to use the half term to go and visit The National Gallery and see this picture in person with your children.

The Friends of Maple Infants' School

As well as funding 25% towards all of our school trips, The Friends' of Maple Infants' School, have also purchased a range of wonderful resources for our school. You may have noticed that a pond has recently arrived in our playground and we are looking forward to getting this up and running. New scooter pods have also been delivered and we are carefully planning where these are to be placed. These are brightly coloured mushroom shaped pods which are able to hold 12 scooters each so will help to store all of the scooters which are used by our pupils to travel to school. We have also been able to purchase an online educational tool which will support teaching and learning at Maple called 'Purple Mash'.

Thank you to all of The Friends' of Maple Infants' School for your hard work in raising money for our school and to everyone who has supported them. Your donations really do help to enrich the experiences of our pupils – THANK YOU!

School Dinners – 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.

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.

KEY ASSESSMENT DATES – for your information

There are 3 key assessments periods for the following year groups; Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

- Reception - Early Years Foundation Stage Profile is due to be completed for all of our pupils by the end of the summer term
- Year 1 - Phonics screening check will take place for all Year 1 pupils during the week beginning Monday 12th June. Some Year 2 pupils may also be required to take part in the check again – Year 2 parents will be informed if your child will be taking part in the check again
- Year 2 - end of key stage 1 assessments will take place throughout the month of May for all Year 2 pupils

Transport for London

As the half term approaches we have been asked by Transport for London to remind families that Zip Oyster photo cards are available for children between the ages of 5 and 10 years. This enables children aged under 11 to travel free on Tube, DLR, London Overground, TfL Rail and most National Rail services where pay as you go is accepted. Please see the Transport for London website for further information.

INSET Day and Half Term

Just a reminder that there is an INSET day on Friday 10th February prior to our half term break and so the children will not be in school on this day. The half term break is from Monday 13th – Friday 17th February and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 20th February.