



Maple Infants' School

February 2021

Newsletter No. 5

Diary Dates:

2020-2021

SPRING TERM

Mon 4th Jan to
Wed 31st Mar
2021

HALF TERM:

Mon
15th – Fri 19th Feb
2021

SUMMER TERM

Mon 19th April to
Fri 23rd July 2021

HALF TERM:

Mon
31st May – Fri 4th
Jun 2021

INSET DAYS

(School closed
to pupils)

- Mon 7th
Jun
- Fri 23rd
July

2021 certainly did not start as any of us expected, however everyone has quickly adapted to the latest lockdown, which feels quite different again to the previous lockdowns which we have experienced. We would like to thank all of our families for their commitment and dedication when supporting your children at home with home education. We know that for many of our families, it is not easy juggling your own work commitments, keeping households organised, alongside supporting your children, whatever their ages, with home education. We have all been incredibly impressed with the level of support and the quality of work which the children have submitted – thank you! We know that some families are sharing with us that due to different circumstances they are only able to complete some of the tasks set, please know that whatever you will be able to achieve **will** support your child. Please also remember all of the natural things that you do with your children each and every day will also be a learning experience and will present fantastic opportunities for developing vocabulary, which is so very important at this age. Sharing a bedtime story, baking some cakes, helping out in the garden, even a walk to the park can ignite rich language development. Please do feel free to contact your child's class teacher if you would like to discuss anything about home education with them.

We really hope that families are also finding the access to home education smoother since our transition to Google Classroom. We have received very positive feedback so far about this learning platform and hope that the children will be able to access their learning and receive feedback with increasing independence as they become more proficient with this system.

We have all thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children on our first Google Meet 'live' session this week. It was a wonderful way of connecting with the children. Whilst we fully support the government decision to only keep schools open to vulnerable children and those of critical workers during this latest lockdown, we are all missing our whole school community and we all wait eagerly to hear when schools may begin to open more widely. We already know that the earliest that this may begin from is the 8th March and we will of course be ready to put plans in place as soon as we receive confirmation of when and how this should happen. We will keep our families informed of any updates or plans as soon as we receive them.

As we approach the half term break, we would also like to remind everyone that it is still essential for families to report any positive COVID-19 cases to us. We continue to have a duty to support track and trace over the school break and have a system in place for parents to notify us of a positive case, and also for us to inform parents if their child needs to self-isolate as they have been in close contact with a positive case in school. Please know that we also have a similar system in place for staff.

If your child tests positive for COVID please email covid@maple.rbksch.org with your child's name, class, date of when symptoms started and the date of their positive test, along with a contact phone number. This email address has been set up for the on-call senior leadership team to check daily and respond to, as required, over the school break. Should the school need to share any information with you regarding a reported positive case over the break, we will do so via Parent Mail.

Thank you again for all of your continued support and we very much hope that the next half of the spring term will bring an opportunity for us to safely begin to come together as a school community again.

Stay safe everyone.

Mrs. Barwell

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

As you may be aware this week is Children's Mental Health Week. This is an annual event which is organised by Place2Be and was first launched in 2015. We know that the mental health of our children is so incredibly important for their development, and we are all aware of just how relevant this is during this unprecedented time.

This year's theme, 'Express Yourself', is focused on encouraging children to find ways to show their feelings, thoughts and their ideas as well as finding out ways to show who they are, how they see the world and to help children to feel good about themselves.

The staff team have included some links to videos and activities to our Google Classroom platform throughout the week which we hope that you have found useful. If you would like to find out more please go to: www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/

SAFER INTERNET DAY – TUESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2021

On Tuesday 9th February, we are taking part in this year's Safer Internet Day. This is an annual event which is promoted globally as well as across the UK (saferinternet.org.uk).

Our reliance on technology has certainly increased in the last year and it is so important that we share and promote with the children, how to stay safe on the internet, as well as celebrating all of the wonderful opportunities it provides us.

The theme for this year is '*An internet we trust: exploring reliability in an online world*' which aims to highlight the uses of the internet, whilst acknowledging that at times, there is a need for us to separate fact from fiction. Look out for a video story from our old friend Digi Duck and the activities to take part in next week on your remote learning platforms. Safer Internet Day is celebrated by school aged pupils nationally. If you would like to find out more about Safer Internet day or look for guidance and advice from the experts visit saferinternet.org.uk where you will find a wide range of helpful information packs.

As we are all becoming more reliant on technology to aid our communication and the children are becoming more and more proficient with the use of technology, we thought that families may appreciate a reminder about the importance of setting appropriate restrictions on what children can access on mobile phones, tablets etc. Please see the simple guide attached to obtain information on setting safety measures on these popular gadgets.

NURSERY APPLICATIONS – CLOSING DATE

The closing date for an application for a Nursery place in September 2021 is rapidly approaching. All applications must be returned to the school office by **Friday 5th March 2021**. If you have any questions about this, please see our school website, or contact the school office.

Dates for your Diary:

HALF TERM

Monday 15th – Friday 19th February

School will be closed for all children during this week and there will be a break from home education. Staff will be unable to respond to any messages on Google Classroom or via email during this time.

We look forward to welcoming all of the children who have already been accessing education on site back to school on Monday 22nd February.



Remote Education will return on Google Classroom from Monday 22nd February for everyone who is learning at home.