



Maple Infants' School

January 2023

Newsletter No. 4

Diary Dates:

Spring Term 1 (2023):

Tues 3rd Jan – Fri
10th Feb 2023

Half Term: Mon 13th
– Fri 17th Feb 2023

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



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go." – Dr. Seuss

We have had a very busy start to the new term and the children are thoroughly enjoying learning about their new topics. The staff are actively planning exciting learning opportunities and events for the children to take part in! Please do take time to look at the weekly overviews, which are sent to each year group on a Friday to inform you of the learning and activities taking place for the following week. These can also be found on our school website.

Mrs Barwell

Strike Action

As you will be aware from recent news articles, one of the teaching unions has announced their intention to hold strike days for members in February and March. We will provide further information as soon as we can as to whether this will impact our school.

Message to all parents from SENCO, Miss Allen.

At Maple Infant's School, we are committed to meeting the needs of all pupils to ensure that they make the best possible progress. As all children progress at different rates, there may be times when a teacher feels a child may benefit from an intervention, which would be in addition to every day class teaching. In some cases, this may be because we feel a child is not completely reaching their potential and may need a little extra support or it may be to 'catch up' or extend learning in a particular area.

If your child has been identified as needing additional intervention support, you will receive a letter detailing the intervention that they are in and their targets for the term ahead. These letters will be sent out in your child's book bag next week.

If your child is on our school's SEN register, they will have their SEN plan sent out in the same way, with any updates for this term.

Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions about the additional support that your child may be receiving.

Staffing Update

We are delighted to have welcomed our new Site Manager, Ray Barwell, to Maple this term. Many of you will have already have seen him in and around school, particularly at the beginning or end of the school day.

We are also delighted to have welcomed Jenna Capell to our teaching team. Miss Capell is currently teaching Cedar Class.

Parental Contributions for Trips

The Friends of Maple Infants' School kindly provide a 25% contribution to all of our trips that we arrange for our pupils. We know that for many of our families this is very welcomed and supports their family circumstances, however, we have received parental feedback that some of our families would be willing, and are able, to pay

the full contribution, therefore reserving the donation from The Friends for other purchases. We are therefore slightly changing your option to provide a contribution towards school trips.

When you receive notification inviting you to contribute towards the cost of any trips, you will continue to be informed of the voluntary contribution expected for the trip – this will have already had the 25% donation from The Friends removed from the total. This is the same as it always has been. However, you will now also have the **option** to pay back the 25% should you wish to, which will mean that you will have contributed the full cost of the trip for your child. Thank you for all your support.

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.

Over the next couple of weeks, 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 a good listener
- Be good at thinking
- Be helpful
- Be creative
- Like talking
- Be interested in helping to make our school an even better place to learn

Our discussions 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.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution Visit



We are delighted to let you know that on March 28th the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) will be visiting Maple Infants' School.

Members of the Teddington Lifeboat Crew will be talking to our children in Year 1 and Year 2 about safety around our rivers and during trips to the beach.

As we are located so close to the River Thames we feel this visit will be very valuable to our children. Please be assured that the content of the presentation will be age appropriate, however please do advise us of any potential sensitivities around the subject of water safety.

As a charity, the RNLI rely on donations to support the work they do. If you would like to make a donation, it will be possible to do so on the day of the visit.

Mrs Gowers – Class Teacher

The School Day: Reminder

As you are aware, the start of the school day has slightly changed and is now a little earlier than before.

The new arrangements are as follows:

- The School gates open at **8.30am**.
- The classroom doors open at **8.35am** and the children are welcomed into school.
- School registers have to be taken promptly at 8.45am and at this time learning begins. This means that our gates will also close at this time as staff are now teaching and therefore cannot continue to welcome children into

class via the playground doors. If families arrive after this time, they will be asked to enter school via the school office as they are arriving late.

Job Vacancies at Maple

We are currently advertising on eTeach and our Maple Infants' School website for the position of an Administrative Assistant working in the school office and a School Meals Supervisory Assistant (SMSA). Please use this link should you wish to apply or pass the link to someone you feel would be interest in either of these positions.

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

Message from the School Office

Head Lice

The school office often receive communication from parents informing them that they have treated their child for headlice. We do understand that this is a very common problem, particularly for young children and so would like to remind families to regularly check your child/children's head for headlice and nits and provide good hair care which will help to identify and treat head lice early. Further information can be found in the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Jewellery at school

We would like to continue to remind families about our policy regarding the wearing of jewellery in school. **No** jewellery should be worn in school (unless for very specific reasons which have been agreed by the head teacher, e.g. watches for year 2, religious or cultural reasons, medical alert jewellery).

Earrings cannot be worn in school and children are unable to take part in PE sessions if they are wearing them. Teaching staff are not allowed to remove or cover earrings with a plaster and you may be contacted by the school office should your child arrive at school wearing earrings. Please contact the school office to arrange an appointment to discuss this with Mrs Barwell if required.

The only exception to our general no jewellery policy is that we do allow children in year 2, under certain circumstances, to wear watches to school. Children in year 2 may wear a simple small watch with an analogue clock face (rather than digital) as we recognise that this can be a supportive way to help them to develop their understanding of time.



Any watches worn are done so at their own risk and the school will not be held responsible for any broken or lost watches. The children will also be expected to remove their own watches for PE as they should not be worn during this time for health and safety reasons. Teachers will also speak to you about the suitability of your child wearing a watch if they are distracted by it – should your child not be able to wear a watch sensibly then they will be asked not to wear it to school. Please be aware that fit bits, smart watches, digital watches, watches with cameras, video abilities etc., are not allowed under any circumstances.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Cluster Concert for the school choir: Friday 27th January 2pm at The Rose Theatre (parents should now have purchased tickets – strictly one per child)

YEAR 2 PARENT INVITATION: 8.45 – 9.45am at St Andrews & St Marks Junior School. SASM are holding an informal coffee morning for parents/carers of children in SASM and have extended an invitation to parents in year 2 at Maple. Sarah Crowther (SENCO) and Emily Woodward (Wellbeing Lead) will be joined by representatives from the Mental Health Support Team (Education Wellbeing Practitioners), Express CIC and ADHD Embrace. Express CIC and ADHD Embrace are local charities that provide activities, advice and support for families with children with ASD or ADHD. The purpose of the event is to support parents/carers to access these services and

for informal conversations to take place amongst and between families and staff. Please email SASM school if you would be interested in attending: office@SASM.rbksch.org. Please note, there will not be any formal presentations at this event.

Choir concert to parents and carers: Friday 3rd February in the school hall

Reception to The Wellands Centre: Tuesday 7th February

Prospective Parent Tours - Nursery

Prospective parent tours will be taking place next term, for any parent looking to apply for a Nursery place for September 2023. Booking for these events are open on our website.

- Wednesday 25th January : 9.15 - 10am & 10 -10.45am
- Thursday 23rd February: 9:15 – 10.00am

HALF TERM
Monday 13th – Friday 17th February



Maple Loves Reading Week: Monday 27th Feb – Friday 3rd March

Termly library visits:

- Hazel Class: Thursday 2nd February (replacing postponed Autumn visit)
- Hazel, Rowan and Chestnut Classes: Thursday 2nd March
- Oak, Sycamore and Laurel Classes: Friday 10th March
- Copper Beech, Sliver Birch and Cedar Classes: Thursday 23rd March

Parent consultation Evenings: Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March - more information will follow

Year 1 Trip to The Lookout Centre: Tuesday 21st March

RNLI Water Safety Presentation for KS1: Tuesday 28th March

End of the Spring Term: Friday 31st March at 2pm.
