



Maple Infants' School

March 2019

Newsletter No. 5

Diary Dates:

SPRING TERM DATES:

SPRING TERM 2:

Monday 25th Feb –
Friday 5th April

SUMMER TERM DATES:

SUMMER TERM 1:

Tuesday 23rd April –
Friday 24th May

SUMMER TERM 2:

Monday 3rd June –
Tuesday 23rd July
(Monday 22nd and
Tuesday 23rd July are
INSET days)

HALF TERM:

Monday 27th – Friday
31st May

INSET DAYS:

(school closed for pupils)

Monday 22nd July 2019
Tuesday 23rd July 2019

INSET DAYS for the next
academic year (Sept
2019 – July 2020)

NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2019 – 2020

Autumn Term 1:

Wednesday 4th Sept –
Friday 25th Oct 2019

Half Term:

Monday 28th Oct –
Friday 1st Nov 2019

Autumn Term 2:

Monday 4th Nov – Friday
20th Dec 2019

Spring Term 1:

Monday 6th Jan – Friday
14th Feb 2020

Half Term:

Monday 17th – Friday
21st Feb 2020

Spring Term 2:

Monday 24th Feb –
Friday 3rd Apr 2020

This term has been an incredibly busy term with so much going on both inside school and also through learning opportunities away from the school site. The children have really enjoyed learning about all of their topics throughout the term, as their enthusiasm has shown. As we reach the end of the term I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff team who work incredibly hard to plan and deliver exciting learning opportunities which inspire and excite our young learners. I would also like to thank all of our families for your continued support. We wish everyone a safe and happy spring break, when it arrives, and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you throughout the summer term.

Mrs. Barwell

Attendance

Following our very successful year last year improving our whole school target for attendance, we set the ambitious target of 97% for this year.

Our current data picture is as follows:



Year N (am/pm)	91%
Year R	95%
Year 1	97%
Year 2	96%

We recognise that each family's circumstances are different and that illnesses can be more prevalent at certain times of the year, especially through the autumn and winter so we are hopeful that attendance will improve over the summer term. At Maple Infants' School we promote excellent attendance for **all** pupils in order to ensure that they reach their full potential. We encourage all of our pupils and families to share this ethos and we work together with parents in order to achieve high levels of attendance and punctuality throughout our school. As part of this commitment Mrs Barwell has recently written to families of any pupils who currently has attendance below 90%, which is defined as persistent absence. If you would like to discuss your child's absence with Mrs Barwell then please contact the School Office to arrange an appointment.

Food Bank

Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. A simple box of food can make a big difference so we have partnered up with the local food bank to become an approved issuer of emergency food vouchers to families in our school.

Kingston Foodbank works using a voucher referral system. As such, if you find yourself at a time of crisis and would like to request a voucher, please ask to meet confidentially with Miss Funnell who will be able to discuss this with you further.

Once you have been issued with a voucher, you can exchange this for a minimum of three days of emergency food at your nearest foodbank centre. Our local centre is at the Surbiton New Life Baptist Church in Balaclava Road. Emergency food may include breakfast cereal, soup, pasta, tinned goods, tea or coffee and biscuits/snacks. The foodbank can usually adapt the food parcel to meet your family's dietary needs e.g. gluten free, halal or vegetarian. Food parcels are made up in high street supermarket shopping bags, from non-perishable and in-date goods donated by schools, churches, businesses and individuals.

If you find yourself at a time of need, please do ask for help. Miss Funnell can be contacted via the school office.

Summer Term 1:

Monday 20th Apr –
Friday 22nd May 2020

Half Term:

Monday 25th – Friday
29th May 2020

Summer Term 2:

Monday 1st June –
Tuesday 22nd July 2020

**INSET DAYS - school
closed to pupils**

Wed 4th Sept 2019

Friday 25th October 2019

Friday 14th February 2020

Monday 1st June 2020

Wed 22nd July 2020

Travel Ambassadors

We were delighted to be joined by SASM Road Safety Travel Ambassadors on Monday 4th March. Two pupils from SASM came over to Maple to deliver a very informative assembly all about how to stay safe when travelling around. They even checked how well the children had listened to the assembly by asking some follow up questions and providing stickers as a reward for correct answers. Thank you to SASM for helping to share the road safety message with Maple children.

World Book Day - 7th March

Please see a message from Ms Majurey at the end of this newsletter.

Infant Music Festival - Thursday 21st March

What fantastic singing our Year Two children have been doing recently! Following on from a singing workshop led by a professional singing teacher, all the children performed at the Infant Singing Concert on Thursday 21st March, alongside another local school at St Matthew's Church in Surbiton in front of an appreciative audience of families and friends. As well as singing a range of interesting songs, Maple Year Two performed their own a song from South America called 'Peanut Vendor' which the children loved!

In addition, families of the Year Two Choir were invited to hear the children sing a selection of songs from different countries that they'd been learning at school. The children introduced the songs and led some of them as well - well done!

Year 1 trip to The Lookout Discovery Centre - 26th March

On Tuesday 26th March the Year One children went to the Look Out Discovery Centre. They were very excited for their first trip of the year and couldn't wait to explore all of the hands-on science fun! There were experiments to try, buttons to press, towers to climb, hot air balloons to fly, water to splash in and plenty of science questions to investigate. All three classes did a brilliant job of representing Maple and we hope they had a fabulous time. Thank you to all of the parent volunteers who were able to accompany us on this trip and make such wonderful memories for the children.

Year 2 trip to The Natural History Museum - 27th March

On Wednesday 27th March, Year 2 children excitedly boarded the coaches for a trip to the world-famous Natural History Museum in London in order to follow in the footsteps of Charles Darwin and broaden their knowledge about different species.

On arrival, we came face to face with the imposing marble statue of Charles Darwin seated at the top of a very large staircase.

The children began their journey of exploration with the challenge of finding various clues which would lead to a secret password. Along the way, we discovered: polar bears, black iguanas, albatrosses, volcanoes, earthquakes, African elephants, Indian elephants, dinosaurs and of course the enormous blue whale! Luckily, we worked as a team and eventually revealed the secret word - GALAPAGOS of course.

TOP FACT: Did you know that the Phoenix couldn't survive without volcanoes?

Interestingly, it lays its eggs in the ground and they are warmed and incubated by the heat until they hatch – hence the saying that the Phoenix rises from the ashes!

We had a wonderful day full of learning with our teachers and friends. The children's behaviour was exemplary and as staff we felt very proud!

Multi-Cultural Week – 25th – 29th March

The children have really enjoyed celebrating different cultures from around the world. Nursery and Reception have been learning about Africa and produced some vibrant artworks. Year One explored Chinese traditions and Year Two learnt about India and can now be heard greeting and thanking each other in Hindi! We are grateful to the Friends for funding workshops which have introduced the children to different styles of traditional dancing as well as playing traditional African djembe drums. The array of different world costumes that the children wore on Friday, brought lots of colour to the Multi-Cultural Day assembly! The children presented a fantastic selection of poetry,

stories, artworks and facts that they had been learning about during the week as well as singing songs from around the world.

During Multi-Cultural Week, Reception and Year 2 were able to participate in a music workshop, presented by a tutor from the Kingston Music Service.

Jason's masterclass taught the children to play the beautiful African djembe drums, which gave them the opportunity to experience the powerful sound and rhythms these drums have been making since the 12th century. It was amazing to see the children come alive and work together to create the most wonderful, joyful, rhythmic music.



CHICKS!

There has been great excitement across school as we received a delivery of 10 eggs last week and all 10 have successfully hatched and we now have 10 chicks, which are thriving, and seem to be rapidly growing day by day. Nursey and Reception classes have been taking responsibility for looking after the eggs and chicks. The children have demonstrated such care when looking after our new additions and we are sure that the love and attention which has been given has helped them to grow so quickly. One of our families is going to be taking some of the chicks home and the others will be returned to the farm at the end of the week.

School Parliament Competition

School Parliament will be launching their poster competition very soon. Please look out for all of the information next week. The deadline for entries is **Friday 26th April** so the children may like to take time over the spring break to design their entry and be ready to bring it into school when we return after the spring break.

Before and after school expectations

We will be reminding the children about our school expectations when they arrive and leave the school site at the beginning and end of the school day but we would really appreciate it if families could also remind and support their children with these expectations.

- Scooters and bikes **MUST** be walked on site –including older or younger siblings
- Children are not allowed on the climbing frame during the beginning or end of the school day

This is to support the safety of visitors to our school site at the busiest times of the school day. Many thanks in advance for your support.

School Meals – ISS Catering

You will find that there is an exciting new menu! We recommend that you make the menu choice with your child if at all possible, to engage them into the whole eating experience.

As we reach the end of the term can we please remind families that they will need to order school meals for your child for after the spring break. Once you have ordered, please **check every weekend** to ensure your meal order has gone through successfully. We will contact any parent, whose child has come to school without a lunch arrangement, to request a lunch be brought in from home as the ISS Catering team are unable to provide spare meals. We are sure that you understand that this can be disruptive to pupil, parent and staff alike.

Resident Concern

Please make sure that you park considerately when dropping off and collecting your children in and around the local community. A member of our external community has written to Mrs Barwell expressing concerns for the safety around school at these times due to parking issues.



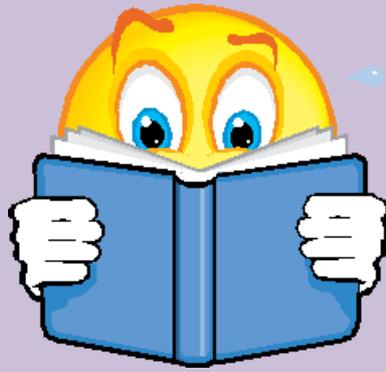
Reminder

The clocks go forward by 1 hour at 1am on Sunday 31st March 2019 which means that we will see longer daylight hours over the coming weeks and months.

School closes at 2pm on Friday 5th April for the spring break. The afternoon Nursery session will still be taking place on this day but will also close at 2pm.



We look forward to welcoming the children back to school for the summer term on Tuesday 23rd April.



WORLD BOOK DAY AND THE SPONSORED READ

On Thursday 7th March, thousands of children dispensed with their normal school uniforms to transform themselves into dinosaurs, pirates, Alices, Peter Rabbits, Harry Potters, Red Riding Hoods, Gruffalos, Paddingtons and countless more literary legends as part of a worldwide celebration of books and here at Maple Infants' we were no exception. As I stood in front of the whole school for our assembly, I gazed admiringly at the sea of characters – I don't believe I have ever seen such an impressive selection!



[World Book Day](#) is celebrated globally by over 100 countries. It is a celebration of authors, illustrators and books — but most of all it is a celebration of reading itself!

Books have come a long way since the first story was written more than 4,000 years ago. (Historians believe that this was *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, an epic poem about a Sumerian king who battled and befriended the gods of ancient Mesopotamia.)

Today we can buy books at the touch of a button using e-readers; listen to audiobooks on our phones; or explore old stories in new graphic novels.

However, with the distractions of busy lives and accessible media all around us, it's easy to forget the comfort of sitting down with a real page-turner. World Book Day was the perfect opportunity to discover (or rediscover!) the joys of **shared** reading.

I read and shared a new book (thank you Friends for the kind purchases) to each of our classes throughout the day including our whole school read in assembly. That was a staggering 12 stories in one day. For me it was one of the best days ever; not only was I reading new books but I also got to share and engage with **all** of the children in our school and nursery and that was a real privilege. Together we talked about illustrations, wondered what might happen next and laughed at the funny bits!

The children also had the opportunity to make 'bookmark buddies' out of wooden spoons which they can use to tell stories to, make up stories about or simply pop in the page of their favourite book.

My own personal Readathon on World Book Day was hugely successful. I wonder how you are all getting on with your Readathons at home? Remember keep sharing stories and raising money, you have until next **Friday 5th April** to complete the challenge.

In the meantime, take the time to grab a book, snuggle up and get lost in a story with your child...

Best Wishes,

Kristina Majurey (Reading Subject Leader)