



Maple Infants' School

March 2017

Newsletter No. 6

Diary Dates: SPRING TERM DATES:

SPRING TERM:
Tuesday 3rd January
2017 - Friday 31st
March

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 26th May 2017
Friday 21st July 2017

Bank Holidays
Monday 17th April
Monday 1st May



Spring is here!

It has been wonderful to see the signs of spring emerging in and around school over the last few weeks and the children have particularly enjoyed playing in the sunshine. We are really pleased to see that our new playground markings are proving to be a great success and the newly established school gate means that the children have a slightly extended play space alongside our new building.

The children have been working very hard throughout this term and we are continuing to promote a 'growth mind-set' with all of our young learners. We have also been looking at a variety of ways to enrich our curriculum and our Multi-Cultural Week was a particularly memorable one this term.

Mrs. Barwell

Staffing

We are delighted to be able to welcome some new staff to our team at Maple;

- Mrs Musto has joined the EYFS team and will be working within Laurel class as a Teaching Assistant
- Ms Konashchuk has joined Oak Class as a Teaching Assistant
- Mrs Horner has been getting to know all of the children in Cedar Class over the last few weeks and will be joining them as their full time Class Teacher in the summer term

We would like to send our congratulations to Mrs Wright, our music specialist, who is expecting a baby in the summer.

Thank you to The Friends' of Maple Infants' School

Thank you to the Friends' of Maple Infants' School who have donated a small spring gift to each child at school today. The children will bring their chocolate Easter eggs or bunnies home with them today.

Parent and Pupil Questionnaire

Thank you to all of our families who responded to our parent and pupil questionnaire. We had a wonderful response and received more responses than last year (Dec 2015 – 27%, March 2017 – 44.3%). We are currently analysing all of the responses which we received and will provide parents with an overview of this shortly. The analysis will help us to evaluate the progress and success of our school as well as identifying any areas to consider for development. Although this survey takes place annually, we always welcome feedback from our families, so please do approach a member of the Senior Leadership Team (Miss Dowd, Mr Wells, Miss Funnell or Mrs Barwell) should you have any additional comments.

Multi-Cultural Evening

It was wonderful that so many families were able to celebrate our Multi-cultural evening, which was hosted by The Friends of Maple Infants' School, on Friday 3rd March. Around the world food is so often a part of special times which are celebrated and our school hall was filled with a wonderful aroma of dishes from different places and cultures. Thank you to the Friends for hosting this event and also to all families who donated dishes and those who came to celebrate the evening.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

All of our pupils thoroughly enjoyed exploring and celebrating cultures from around the world during our multi-cultural week. Our Flamenco and African dance workshops also created great excitement and the children loved listening to music from Spain and Africa and exploring the different movements involved in each of these styles of dance.

World Book Day – 2nd March

Miss Majurey organised a recycle book swap to celebrate World Book Day this year and it was lovely

to see books that have been enjoyed by others being recycled ready to bring enjoyment to someone else. Thank you to all of our families who donated books for our book swop - we hope that you are enjoying your 'new' books.

KS1 Author Visit – Monday 6th March

Key stage 1 pupils were joined by two local authors, Diane and Christyan Fox on Monday 6th March. The children took part in workshops with the authors and created their own illustrations and learnt how illustrations can be the starting point for creating your own stories. They awarded 2 prizes to each class for the pupils who created the most inventive or creative characters. They also joined us at the end of the day and signed books for any families who wanted to purchase a copy.

Arts Award Discover

Our Year 2 pupils are really enjoying completing their workshops as they work towards the Arts Award Discover. So far they have been working with a number of artists and have created animal models, they have used balloons to model with, they have also created habitats and drawn cartoons. The children will be presenting their finished projects to Miss Funnell and Mrs Barwell in May and they are really looking forward to seeing all of the children's hard work and creativity.

Dinosaur Day – Monday 27th March

Our school was overtaken by some prehistoric dinosaurs on Monday of this week, but thankfully they were all very friendly! Reception thoroughly enjoyed working in all of the reception classes and took part in a variety of activities with our staff team. They went on a dinosaur adventure with Mr Hide, complete dinosaur writing and art activities with Mrs Brackenbury and worked hard solving some dino maths and model making with Miss Craik.

Reception – covered learning area

Over the spring break we have arranged for a cover to be installed over the outside learning space which our Reception classes use. This will really support our continued commitment to promote outside learning for our pupils, especially those within the early years.

Skipping Workshops

Miss Blocksidge has invited 'Skipping Workshops' to Maple on the 20th and 21st April to demonstrate skipping skills and carry out a skipping lesson with pupils. As part of their visit they will also be selling gymnastic speed ropes at the end of the day on Thursday 20th April and before school on Friday 21st April for families to purchase. Infant and junior skipping ropes cost £4 each and new solar ropes will be £5 each. They will also be selling adult ropes for £6.00 and a video 'learn to skip' for £8 for any families who may be interested.

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 continue to write to the 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 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 and particularly at the **beginning of the summer term**. 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

Wishing you all a wonderful spring break.



We look forward to welcoming all of the children back to school on
Tuesday 18th April