



Maple Infants' School

March 2021

Newsletter No. 6

Diary Dates:

2020-2021

SPRING TERM

Mon 4th Jan
to Wed 31st
Mar 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



It has just been wonderful to have our school community back together over the last two weeks and whilst the school has always been a hive of learning, having our whole school community back on the school site has made us all smile! It has been really lovely re-connecting face to face with our families too and it has been great to see you all at the gates at the beginning and the end of the school day.

Your children amaze us each and every day and there has been no exception over the last two weeks. The children's delight at being back in school and re-establishing connections with their friends and staff has been fantastic to observe. Re-establishing relationships and re-connecting with learning in school has been a focus as we return to face to face learning and this has been a very important part of our planning, especially over the last few weeks and will continue over time as the school recovers from the lockdown. Our nurturing ethos has always been a very important part of the success of our school and we know just how important it is for the children to feel safe and happy as they return to the school learning environment. Only when our children feel secure, safe and happy, will they be able to learn to their full potential.

We really appreciate all of the time, commitment and dedication which families gave to home education during lockdown. We know just how much some families were juggling at this time. One of the positives of the lockdown has been that home education has helped families to gain a wider understanding of the day to day learning that takes place in school and we want to continue to build on this. Moving forward, we will continue to support any children requiring to self-isolate via Google Classroom, but in addition to this we will also be using this learning platform to include resources which may support learning at home. The weekly overviews which you receive from your child's year group will also include what the purpose or aim of the weekly learning is to help you to build an understanding of the progression of learning taking place where it is relevant to do so.

Assessment for learning in school takes place all of the time, but following the children's return to school, staff are completing a range of assessments to help them to establish a real sense of the children's progress and where any gaps in learning may need to be supported. Some of these assessments are taking place on a one to one basis with staff, in small group situations or through observations of learning, which includes children's learning behaviours. These assessments will really help to inform planning moving forward as well as identifying any specific interventions or support required. The staff team are really looking forward to meeting with families next week during our parent consultation evenings, which are to be held virtually again this term, to be able to share with you any updates about the progress your child has made since September and to discuss with you their next steps moving forward. I am also available for appointments so if anyone would like to arrange a telephone call with me then please contact the school office and I would be very happy to arrange this.

All of the safety measures which we have in school to keep our school environment as safe as possible are all in place and continue to be monitored on a daily basis. As we reach the different milestones that the government has set to indicate the nations road out of lockdown and we gain an increasing awareness of more and more people receiving vaccines the hope of the nation continues to grow. Whilst these are all positives, it is still essentially important for all of us to continue to strictly adhere to the safety measures in place in order to support and protect our community. We have been asked to reinforce the following reminders from our Public Health colleagues (the links will take you to the relevant webpages):

- Rapid testing - All families, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary pupils and school staff can now get regular rapid coronavirus tests **if they have no symptoms**. They can access rapid testing in a number of ways:
 - Through their employer, if they offer workplace testing
 - **BOOK an appointment** at one of our community test sites for people without symptoms
 - **COLLECT** home test kits from local test sites at Cocks Crescent, New Malden or Milner Road, Kingston, available daily from 1 - 8pm, no need to pre-order.
 - **ORDER home test kits** online from the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website

By getting tested regularly, the whole school community can help protect our loved ones and keep schools as virus free as possible. More information at www.kingston.gov.uk/schools-testing.

- Support is available if anyone needs to self-isolate - If a Kingston resident has a positive coronavirus test, Kingston Council and its partners are here to support them self-isolate at home. The Kingston Stronger Together hub offers support with:
 - Food deliveries
 - Medicine deliveries
 - Support with your health and wellbeing
 - Access to financial support payments

Residents can go to [kingston.gov.uk/Covid19-needhelp](https://www.kingston.gov.uk/Covid19-needhelp) or call 020 8547 5000 to access support.

As we approach the spring break, we would 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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – REPORTING OVER SPRING BREAK

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.

School Development Plan

We have 5 key priority areas to support our current school development and we have taken care to ensure that these also reflect the return to school.

- **Successful return to school** – following the lockdown and school closures which we experienced both last year and more recently, we want to ensure that our children are able to return and be able to re-engage with learning successfully in school
- **Curriculum Progression** – we want to ensure that our curriculum has clear progression in all subjects to support all of our children to make good or better progress
- **Attachment Aware Schools Award** – we know how important positive attachments are for all children. As a whole staff team we are working towards achieving recognition of this through accessing this award to enhance our inclusive environment even further
- **Progress in reading and writing** – we want to continue to ensure that all children make good or better progress in reading and writing
- **Learning behaviours in EYFS** - we know how influential our role is in developing positive learning behaviours for our youngest learners. Establishing these key behaviours at an early age will support their progress and development, not only within the early years but throughout their lifelong learning journey.

We look forward to sharing our progress with you throughout the summer term.

Stay safe everyone.

Mrs. Barwell

Assemblies and Collective Worship

Due to the safety measures in place, we are unable to come together every day within our school hall for our daily assemblies. We have therefore adjusted our timetable to ensure that we are still able to hold daily assemblies, although some are now class based and led by class teachers and include a weekly celebration at the end of the week to reflect on the learning that has taken place.

The SLT are leading twice weekly virtual assemblies which are delivered via Google Meet or recorded videos.

Some of the themes of our assemblies have focused on the children's return to school as well as celebrating some special events, which include International Woman's Day, Science Week – inspirational scientists, Global Recycling Day, World Poetry Day, Holi Festival and Easter – new life and spring.

Dates for your Diary:

PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS (virtual)

Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th March (Tuesday 23rd March also for Nursery)

Families should now have received information about our parents evening next week, which is again being held virtually follow its success last term. If you have not yet booked your appointment, then please speak to a member of the office team.

International Day – Monday 29th March 2021



We are really proud of our international community and the cultural diversity of our school family and we look forward to holding our annual multi-cultural celebrations in school. However, due to the safety measures currently in place, we are unable to celebrate this special event in the same way this year.

This year each class will be exploring a specific country and will spend the day in their classroom investigating the geography of their country as well as taking part in exciting activities.

The children are invited to wear their own clothes for this day, especially if they are able to dress in the colours of their class' assigned country flag. You should now know which country your child's class will be exploring.

We are also hoping that our families will be able to participate by donating a recipe for a "Many Meals from Maple" cookery book. Mrs Miller is organising this event and we are hoping to be able to share more information with you shortly.

Reminder



The clocks go forward by 1 hour at 1am on Sunday 28th March 2021 which means that we will see longer daylight hours over the coming weeks and months.



END OF THE SPRING TERM

The spring term ends on **Wednesday 31st March** and school will close early on this day. As we are still staggering entry and exit from school, the collection times on this day for each year group are as follows:

Willow PM: 2:30pm

Reception: 1:45pm

Year 1: 2.00pm

Year 2: 2:15pm

We would like to wish all of our children and families a safe and happy spring break and we really look forward to welcoming the children back to school for the summer term on
Monday 19th April.