



Maple Infants' School

March 2022

Newsletter No. 6

Diary Dates:

2022

SPRING TERM DATES:

SPRING TERM 2:

Mon 21st Feb – Fri 1st April

HALF TERM:

Mon 14th – Fri 18th February

SUMMER TERM DATES:

SUMMER TERM 1:

Tues 19th April – Fri 27th May

SUMMER TERM 2:

Mon 6th June – Fri 22nd July
(Mon 6th June & Fri 22nd July are INSET days)

HALF TERM:

Mon 30th May – Fri 3rd June



'I think it's the books that you read when you're young that live with you forever'

J. K. Rowling

We know what a vital skill learning to read is, especially in terms of academic potential, but as J.K. Rowling's quote above suggests, reading gives us so much more than that and the love of reading that we are striving to surround our children with will stay with them forever.

The children are certainly embraced by a rich reading environment at Maple each and every day, but taking time last week to just celebrate our shared love of reading has been amazing! The children thoroughly enjoyed all of the learning opportunities planned for them and they especially loved coming to school dressed as characters from stories and books on World Book Day. I also had the privilege of taking part in the daily mystery reader activities and read with a range of classes as well as joining in with the excitement of having a bedtime story read at school. A huge thank you to Mrs Banks for organising such a successful week and to all of our staff for the additional time and care that was taken to ensure that the children had a thoroughly engaging week.

I hope that all families have received our diary dates, which we shared last week. This outlines some of the exciting learning opportunities, which we have in store for us at Maple for the remainder of the term. Many of our families will know that historically our enrichment opportunities are something that we have always worked incredibly hard to provide. We know how much these opportunities add to the learning experience of our pupils and we are so delighted to be in a place where we can plan for these again.

Mrs. Barwell

Our thoughts as a school are with all of the families impacted by the current situation in Ukraine. Whilst we recognise that we are geographically distanced from the conflict, we know that many of our families and children will be directly or indirectly effected by the events taking place and all of us will have seen a variety of images, which will remain with us. In school, we try to answer any questions which the children ask compassionately, sensitively and factually but also in an age appropriate way. We will always let parents know if your child has raised something that we feel, you may wish to follow up with at home.

There are a number of resources appearing online which parents may find helpful to support children with what they are seeing or feeling. A link for a few of these can be found below:

Save the Children:

<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/how-to-explain-conflict-ukraine-to-children>

Place2Be:

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2022/march/talking-to-children-and-young-people-about-war-and-conflict/>

Young Minds:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/top-tips-for-talking-to-your-young-person-about-the-events-in-ukraine/>

Please do speak to your child's class teacher if you would like to discuss anything specifically about your child.

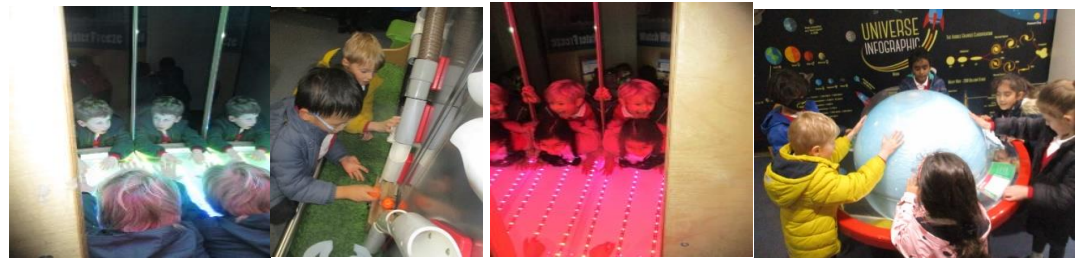
MAPLE FESTIVAL OF COLOUR



We are looking forward to learning more about the Hindu festival of Holi on **Friday 18th March**. All of the children are invited to come into school wearing beautiful bright colours on this day as part of our celebrations. You will shortly be receiving a letter to share with you more information about this special event.

Miss Bunday
RE Leader

Y1 Trip to The Look Out Discovery



On Tuesday 1st March, the Year 1 children visited The Look Out Discovery Centre in Bracknell to explore the science museum and interact with the hands-on activities in the different zones for learning.

There was so much to see and do at the centre including playing with boats in the indoor stream, observing the insects in the insect enclosure, making our own paper helicopters to fly using the force of wind, investigating how heat changes our image on a thermal camera in the light room and so much more!!

The 'Build-it' zone was a very special place to explore, it was here we saw how well our children are able to work together and communicate to problem solve when fixing a house by collecting and attaching tiles to a roof and building their own walls and rooms with the bricks!

We also loved climbing the high tower to see the tree tops up close and see the local area from a 'birds eye view'. Some children commented how the houses looked like 'dolls houses' and that they 'loved the fresh air'.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our parent helpers on this trip. We are also very proud of our children's impeccable behaviour throughout the trip, from the coach journey to their movement around the museum, their interaction with the exhibits and with each other, they were brilliant!

With so much investigating, we are sure all children (and adults) slept very well that night! We look forward to more special events and trips in the future!

Miss Mason



"We had so much fun". **Ameerah** *"It was fantastic, when we went to the top of the tower I was nervous but it was so great- it was like being on top of the world!"*. **Henry** *"It was brilliant to be out of school"*. **Zikra** *"I liked the building zone and playing with the crane- it was like being a real builder"*. **Benet**

Y2 Trip to the National History Museum



On Monday 7th February, the Year 2 children visited The Natural History Museum in London to follow in the footsteps of Charles Darwin and broaden their knowledge about different species.

We were very impressed by the scale of the museum and the children were excited to see the marble statue of Charles Darwin seated in the main entrance. 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!

The children worked together to discover that the secret password was GALAPAGOS. We are so grateful to our parent helpers for supporting us on the day and we were so proud of our wonderfully behaved children.

Mrs Gowers

NSPCC PANTS Campaign – How to help your child stay safe

PANTS is a simple and clever acronym devised by the NSPCC to teach children the underwear rule. The NSPCC PANTS rule helps parents and carers talk to their children about staying safe. By using the PANTS rule, where each letter covers a different rule and communicates a simple and valuable lesson, it can help to keep a child safe.

We understand that you do not want to scare or upset your children, and you may feel it is too soon – but PANTS has been created specifically to make sure these conversations are as easy and appropriate as possible for children between the ages of 4-11.



For more information, please speak directly to Miss Funnell or Mrs Barwell.

Dates for your Diary:

PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS

Parent consultations will be held in school on Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th and Friday 18th March 2022.

Families have now received information about our parents' evenings, which are being held in-person in school from 3:45 to 6:30pm. Please use the **SchoolCloud** booking system, to book a convenient 10-minute appointment with your child's class teacher at school, on your preferred evening. The booking system opened at 6pm on Tuesday 8th March and will close at 12pm Sunday 13th March.

Whilst we appreciate childcare may be difficult, we would recommend that these events are for parents only and work best without children/siblings present at this time of year.

Term Dates 2022/2023

Please find attached to the email you received this newsletter on, the school term dates for 2022-2023.

Second Hand Uniform Sales

The Friends of Maple will be hosting a second hand uniform sale at **3.15pm in the playground on Friday 11th March**. We have a range of both branded and unbranded uniform available.

We will also be able to take donations at the sale if you have good quality uniform that is no longer needed. Any parents who are able to assist with setting up and running the sale on the day, please contact uniform@friendsofmaple.org.

Many thanks for your support.



NB The next sale will be Friday 6th May