



Maple Infants' School

October 2017

Newsletter No. 2

Diary Dates:

INSET DAY:

- **Monday 30th October**

The Friends – AGM

- 7.30pm
Wednesday 1st Nov

The Friends Bonfire Book and Cake Sale

- Friday 3rd
November
(after school)

Onesie or wear blue Diabetes day

- Tuesday 14th
November

Individual pupil Photographs

- Wednesday
15th November

Parent Consultation Evenings

- 3.45 - 6.45pm
Wednesday
15th November
- 3.45 – 6.45pm
Thursday 16th
November
- Additional session for Nursery on the morning of Friday 17th November

Surbiton Lights Switch On

- Yr 2 Choir from 3.15pm Thursday 23rd November (information to follow)

Maple Christmas Fair

- Saturday 9th
December

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

Children and staff are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers to school

- Friday 15th
December



It always surprises me at this time of the year how quickly the autumn term gets underway! The children have settled really quickly into their new year groups and they have excitedly been chatting to me about their new topics. As is tradition, we have invited again this year to celebrate the harvest at St. Andrew's Church and it was wonderful to come together with our families and the children from Reception to Year 2 to celebrate the season of autumn and the harvest. Year 2 read beautifully and all of the children's singing really filled the church – well done everyone! Reverend Stanier reminded us of the importance of taking time to enjoy the moment, especially when we live such busy lives and it really was a special moment to enjoy! Thank you to all of our families and staff who also provided contributions for our local food bank. Miss Dowd and Mr Wells delivered everyone's contributions last week and they were very gratefully received.

Mrs. Barwell

Staffing

We have some changes to our staffing team which I would like to make you aware of.

- We would like to welcome **Mrs Khan** who has joined our staffing team as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant. She will be working particularly closely with Oak class but also across the whole school at times
- We are saying goodbye to two of our School Meals Supervisory Assistants at the end of the half term. We would like to thank both **Mrs Stark** and **Mrs King** for all of their hard work and care supporting our children at lunchtimes and we wish them well for the future. We are currently in the process of recruiting new members of staff to the team and will let you know the outcome as soon as we are able to.

ONE DAY REVIEW

On Thursday 12th October we invited 3 senior advisors from Achieving for Children into our school to support our school development with a one day review. Mr. Eyre-Brook, Ms. Gillespie and Mr. King, who is our School Improvement Partner, joined the children in classes and spoke to many members of staff and governors about our school and the experiences of the children. The children were fantastic and loved discussing their work with our visitors. They also took time to speak to some families about their experiences. The visit was very successful and their feedback will support our continued next steps. We will provide families with our school development plan, which will identify our next steps, after half term.

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. Our School Parliamentarians have in the past helped us to re-write our marking and feedback policy to ensure that it is really relevant for our children, they also helped to choose our playground equipment and have supported Senior Leaders to explore how children feel about school following our parent and pupil survey.

This week class teachers will continue to discuss the role of a School Parliamentarian with their classes and they 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.

AUTUMN TERM DATES:

AUTUMN TERM 1:

Monday 4th September -
Friday 20th October

AUTUMN TERM 2:

Monday 30th October -
Thursday 21st December

HALF TERM:

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th
October

INSET DAYS:

(school closed for pupils)

Monday 30th October

Wed 3rd January 2018

Friday 25th May 2018

Friday 20th July 2018

INSET DAY

May we please remind families that we have an INSET day on Monday 30th October so school will be closed to pupils on this day.

Admissions

Admissions procedures have begun for school places in September 2018.

- Children born between **1 September 2013** and **31 August 2014** are due to start primary school (Reception class) in September 2018
- Children born between **1 September 2010** and **31 August 2011** who currently attend infant school are due to start Year 3 and transfer to junior school in September 2018

If you live within in the borough, you can apply for a school place online using the eAdmissions system (www.eadmissions.org.uk). If you don't live in the borough, you need to apply through your own council and you can include Kingston schools on your application form.

Kington Primary School Admissions Brochure is available to guide you through this process – you should read this before making your online application.

https://www.kingston.gov.uk/downloads/download/217/primary_school_admissions_brochure

Please let the office, Miss Funnell or Mrs Barwell know if you would like any support with your application.

Prospective Parent Tours

We are holding a number of Prospective Parent Tours over the next few months for any families who are interested in applying for a school or Nursery place for their child or children for September 2018. Places must be booked in advance via the school office.

Uniform

We have been really lucky with the weather over this last term, but we are sure that we will soon be able to feel a winter chill in the air. Can we please remind families to make sure that their child is prepared for the colder weather when it arrives and that all children bring a coat/fleece to school as well as track suit bottoms for outdoor PE. Please make sure that all items of clothing are labelled. Many thanks in advance.

Bushy Park Visit

Year 2 started off their year with a fantastic visit to Bushy Park. They learnt about a variety of invertebrates and explored the local environment in search of them. This also helped the children to understand their habitats and why they live in these environments. The children were really engaged and represented the school very well as the eldest members of our school community. Well done Year 2!

Year 1 – Tea on Planet Zumzee

Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Planet Zumzee on Thursday 5th October. This imaginary adventure enabled the children to apply their understanding of instructions as part of their English lessons and take part in many cross curricular activities. They particularly enjoyed making rock cakes and moon juice which kept their energy at optimum level for their intergalactic travels!

Sports Coach

This year we have decided to use some of our PE and Sports Premium funding to secure and enrich the quality and breadth of PE and sport provision for our children within Years 1 and 2 by inviting a sports coach from Pleiades Leisure to join the staff and children once a week to take part in a fun and active sports session. The children are really enjoying these sessions already and the activities are being designed to support their physical development and enhance their skills.

Jeans for Genes Day

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Jeans for Genes Day. We raised £201.95 this year for the annual fundraising campaign for Genetic Disorders UK. This is a national charity which supports individuals and families affected by a genetic disorder.

School Meals – 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 a half or full 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.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations and well done to one of our parents, Mr Vinnicombe, who has completed an amazing challenge and raised a substantial amount of money for JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation), a charity which is close to his heart. After 6 months of training Mr Vinnicombe ran 100 Kilometres in 9 hours 43 minutes in Richmond Park – what an achievement!

Attendance

Poor school attendance leaves pupils vulnerable to falling behind and children with poor attendance often achieve less in school. At Maple we are continually striving to ensure that EVERY child reaches their full potential and ensuring that children attend school on time and regularly is part of our commitment in partnership with families. Attendance is therefore very carefully monitored both in school and via our local Education Welfare Officer. We understand that from time to time children can be poorly and need to miss school to recover or attend medical appointments, however any other absence requires advance permission from the school and absence requests will only be granted in **exceptional circumstances**. We will also write to families whose child's attendance is becoming a concern or if children are regularly arriving at school late as this can be very disruptive for a child.

Alongside monitoring the attendance of individual pupils we also measure the attendance of pupils across the whole school. We are really delighted to see that attendance on the whole is gradually improving and we have set our school the target of reaching at least 96% attendance for this year.

Annual Whole School attendance (Yr R, 1 & 2)

- September 2014 – July 2015 95.43%
 - September 2015 – July 2016 95.89%
 - September 2016 – July 2017 95.97%
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Staying Safe

We are sure that everyone has begun to notice that the nights are beginning to draw in and it is getting darker earlier at the end of the day. The clocks go back an hour in the half term and we will notice this even more. We have been talking to the children about how important 'lights' are to us, particularly at this time of the year, both through celebrations and also to help us to stay safe. As families are often out and about during this season when it is dark may we please ask families to take this opportunity to remind their children of the importance of staying close to the adults they are with at these times.

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

Kingston School Age Immunisation Team will be visiting Maple Infants' School on Monday 6th November to provide, with parental consent, a nasal flu vaccine for any child within Reception – Year 2. *You should have already received and returned your Child's Nasal Flu consent form to the school office. Please see a member of the school office team if you have any questions.*

Parking in School

May we please remind all of our families that our school car park is shared with SASM and is strictly for staff parking only. We understand that parking can be difficult within our local area however the school car park must not be used by families to drop off or pick up children from school. Many thanks in advance for your understanding.

Reminder

Thank you to all of our families who have been reminding their children to walk their scooters or bicycles within our school playground. It has really helped to keep everyone safe especially during busy drop off and pick up times. Many thanks!

PARENT WORKSHOPS

Thank you to all of our families who joined us for our Parent Workshops this half term.

Friday 22nd September – Parent Helper Meeting 2.30pm

It was wonderful to be able to meet families who are able to spare some of their time supporting the school and the children's learning and experiences in school. Thank you for joining Mrs Barwell to explore the role of a parent helper and find out more about our safeguarding procedures and expectations.

Wednesday 27th September – 9.15am and 6.30pm - MATHEMATICS MASTERY

Thank you to all of our families who were able to join our Mathematics Mastery workshops led by Mr Wells. Both sessions were very well attended and we really hope that the sessions have been useful to explain how we teach mathematics to your children at Maple and how you can support at home. We joined this programme in September 2015 when we became a Mathematics Mastery partner and we have noticed that this style of teaching and learning has really supported our pupils within their understanding of maths, particularly in relation to their use of mathematical language, their understanding and ability to reason. Our end of key stage results have also improved and our percentage of pupils demonstrating their understanding and application of maths within a greater depth was a significant achievement for our year 2 pupils at the end of July 2017;

MATHS – end of Key Stage outcomes July 2017	2017 Maple	2016 National %
% of pupils who reached the expected standard and above	80%	73%
% of pupils who were working at greater depth within the expected standard	37%	18%



Half term begins Monday 23rd October and we would like to wish all of our children and families a wonderful half term break. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 31st October for another exciting half term.