



Maple Infants' School

September/October 2018

Newsletter No. 1

Diary Dates:

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Will take place at St Andrews and St Marks Church at **9.30am on Wednesday 17th October**. We look forward to welcoming families to the first celebration of the academic year.

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 3rd September
Friday 19th October
Monday 7th January 2019
Monday 22nd July 2019
Tuesday 23rd July 2019

SPRING TERM DATES:

SPRING TERM 1:

Monday 7th Jan (INSET) – Friday 15th Feb

SPRING TERM 2:

Monday 25th Feb – Friday 5th April

HALF TERM:

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February

SUMMER TERM DATES:

SUMMER TERM 1:

Tuesday 23rd April – Friday 24th May



It has been wonderful to welcome all of our children and families back to school and to see how quickly everyone has settled back into the school routine. We are really looking forward to another exciting year at Maple and our staff team have been busy planning some wonderful learning experiences for the children to take part in throughout the year. We have already shared with you our plans for our Harvest celebration and I am really looking forward to this first event of the year.

Mrs. Barwell

Staffing Vacancies at Maple

We are currently seeking to recruit a School Meals Supervisory Assistants to support our children during lunchtime. If you are interested in this position then our advert and the application process can be accessed via the website ETEACH – please have a look online – if you have any other questions then a member of our Office Team would be very happy to help.

National Poetry Day – 4th October 2018

It is National Poetry Day on the 4th October and we have been taking time to share a variety of poems with the children over the last few weeks. Each class will also be composing a verse for a whole school Maple poem which will be titled 'Autumn'. We really look forward to sharing this with you over the next few weeks.

We often hear and experience ourselves as parents that the children report at home that they did 'nothing' at school today. We thought that we would share this poem with you to make you smile, as it has done with us. Children often forget those amazing learning experiences which really do happen EVERY day!

I Did Nothing Today (Author unknown)

When children come home at the end of the day,
The question they're asked as they run out to play,
Is "Tell me what did you do today?"
And the answer they give makes you sigh with dismay.
"Nothing, I did nothing today!"
Perhaps "Nothing" means I read a book,
Or...with a teacher I got to cook.
Maybe I painted a picture of blue,
Or heard a story of a mouse that flew.
Maybe I wrote in my journal myself,
Or found a great book on the library shelf.
Maybe I helped a friend today,
Or went to my favourite area alone,
Maybe today was the very first time
That my scissors followed a very straight line,
Maybe I sang a song right to the end,
Or worked with a special brand new friend,
When you're three, four, or five your heart has wings
And "Nothing" can mean so many things.

School Communication

Thank you to all of our families who were able to attend our welcome meetings for Years R, 1 and 2. We hope that you found the afternoon sessions informative. Any families who were unable to attend should now have received their information booklets outlining the topics discussed. We look forward to working in partnership with all of our families over the year ahead and welcome any comments or concerns which you may have. Please see your child's class teacher if you have any questions, no matter how big or small, and we will endeavour to answer them as promptly as possible.

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

Beginning and End of the School Day

Our playground gets very busy at certain times of the day especially as we are welcoming the children into school and seeing them home safely at the end of the day. Please could we ask families to remind their children to walk any scooters whilst they are on the school site as we have many younger members of our community within our playground at this time to look out for.

We also ask that children do not use the climbing frame outside of school hours as it is not supervised by staff at this time.

Many thanks in advance for your support in keeping everyone safe at these busy times of the day.

We have also noticed that lots of the children are coming into school on their scooters and bikes. Whilst we are able to keep the children's scooters in school throughout the day, we unfortunately do not have anywhere on our site to store bicycles and so they are unable to be stored on site. We are sure that you understand how precious our playground space is. In addition to this, as an infant school, we are unable to provide the children with the Bikeability Training which is offered to Junior aged children. This training follows the national standard for cycle training and assesses children on their bicycle control, general road awareness and the ability to safely manage parked cars and junctions. Could we therefore politely request that children's bikes are not left on the school site during the school day. Many thanks.

Uniform

The children are looking very smart in their school uniforms. As you are aware, our school uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of our school and I would like to thank all of our families in advance for your support ensuring that your child/children come to school in the correct school uniform.

PE kit

Please also make sure that your child has the correct PE kit in school as they will not be able to take part unless they have the appropriate kit.

Jewellery

We would like to remind families that **no jewellery** should be worn at school for health and safety reasons. You are invited to meet with Mrs Barwell if you would like to discuss this.

Attendance

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.

Following the school's previous pattern of attendance last year we set new school targets for attendance and increased our target to reach at least 96%. During this time we also strengthened our Attendance and Absence Policy and the process for requesting absence. We work in close partnership with families and we are delighted to be able to share with you that the school's attendance has increased and we have exceeded our target:

Annual Whole school Attendance (Yr R, 1 and2)

- ❖ September 2014 – July 2015 95.43%
- ❖ September 2015 – July 2016 95.89%
- ❖ September 2016 – July 2017 95.97%
- ❖ **September 2017 – July 2018 96.6%**

We know that families recognise how important good school attendance is and we look forward to continuing to work with you to maintain and even improve on this target further.

Children's attendance to school is regularly monitored in school and also by our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) who supports the school and families when the absence of a pupil is lower than expected. The EWO will make contact with families if absence is a significant concern.

If you are concerned about your child's attendance or need support with any attendance issues then please contact your child's class teacher, the school office or Mrs Barwell.

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.

This week we have been talking to the children about what qualities they think they would need to be a member of our School Parliament. The children identified that members of our School Parliament would:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be confident• Enjoy activities• Be sensible• Be friendly• Be good at thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be helpful• Be creative• Like talking• Be a good listener• Be interested in helping to make our school an even better place to learn
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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.

Building Work

Our building team are making good progress with the planned replacement of our school roof. They have also replaced the roof over the Nursery covered area which will support our youngest children to be able to continue to play and learn outside of the classroom. We will keep you informed of when the planned works will be completed.

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

Kingston School Age Immunisation Team will be visiting Maple Infants' School on Monday 15th October to *provide with parental consent a nasal flu vaccine for any child within Reception – Year 2*. Your Child's Nasal Flu consent form has been given out already. Please make sure that these are completed & returned to the School Office as soon as possible. Many Thanks.

Data Collection

All of our families will shortly be receiving data collection sheets from our office team. This information is the most recent which we have regarding your child. Could you please check that all of the information is correct and let the school office know as soon as possible if any details need changing. These include your contact numbers and it is really important that these are up to date so that we could contact you in an emergency.

Prospective Parent Tours

The Senior Leadership Team will be 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 2019. Places must be booked in advance via the school office.

Dates for your Diary

INSET DAY: May we please remind families that we have an **INSET** day on **Friday 19th October 2018** so school will be closed to pupils on this day

HALF TERM: Monday 22nd - Friday 26th October.

PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS – Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th November

We will be holding Parent Consultation Evenings after half term. Parents and carers will be able to book their own appointments to meet their child's class teacher through ParentMail. You will receive further information about this before half term.