



Maple Infants' School

Sept 2022

Newsletter No. 1

Diary Dates:

2022 AUTUMN TERM
DATES:

Autumn Term 1:

Thurs 1st Sept – Fri 21st
Oct

INSET DAYS:

Thurs 1st Sept
Fri 21st Oct

Half term:

Mon 24th – Fri 28th Oct

Autumn Term 2:

Mon 31st Oct – Fri 16th
Dec

Winter break:

Mon 19th Dec – Mon
2nd Jan 2023

Spring Term 1 (2023):

Tues 3rd Jan – Fri 10th
Feb 2023

INSET DAY:

Tues 3rd Jan

Half Term: Mon 13th –
Fri 17th Feb 2023

Spring Term 2:

Mon 20th Feb – Fri 31st
Mar

Spring break:

Mon 3rd Apr – Fri 14th
Apr

Summer Term 1:

Mon 17th Apr – Fri 26th
May

Half term: Mon 29th
May – Fri 2nd June

Summer Term 2:

Mon 5th Jun – Fri 21st Jul

INSET DAYS:

Mon 5th June
Fri 21st July



It has been wonderful to welcome all of our children and families back to school and to see how quickly everyone has settled into the school routine. We are particularly delighted to welcome all of our new children and their families to our Maple community.

The children are loving learning already and are really responding well to the carefully planned activities which have been helping them to settle in over the last few weeks.

We have really listened and responded to the changing needs of our school community over the last year and this month has seen the introduction of several new initiatives at Maple. We have welcomed some of our Nursery children to our newly launched 30 hours provision, rather than the typical 15 hours that we have traditionally offered exclusively in the past. We are also particularly delighted to have launched our After School Club, 'Maple Stars' and the children are really enjoying this new provision. We have also begun to welcome a wide range of internal clubs run by staff as well as external clubs to provide exciting opportunities for our children after school.

All of the staff team are very much looking forward to the exciting year ahead and working in partnership with you to help your child to flourish and continue to grow a love of learning.

'Together we learn and grow'

Mrs Barwell

Staffing Update

We have a few updates to share with families regarding staffing this term.

Mrs Smith, is known by many of you and most of the children as her role as an HLTA and Lunchtime Manager typically means that she works across most of our classes throughout each week. Many of you will therefore be aware that she has not returned to school following the summer break and she has asked for us to share with you all that she is thinking of everyone at Maple, but that she is not very well at the moment and is therefore taking time to receive some treatment. We know that you will join us in sending her our love and thoughts at this time.

SENCO

From the beginning of September, Miss Allen is the new Special Educational Co-ordinator at Maple. She is currently working closely with Miss Funnell to ensure a smooth transition handover, however, Miss Funnell will remain in her role as Inclusion Manager and will therefore still be carrying out lots of partnership working with both Miss Allen, parents and of course the children.

Miss Thompson

Having been a parent in the school alongside working in the school office for many years, we are sadly saying goodbye to Miss Thompson. We know that you will join us in thanking her for all of her hard work and organisation and wish her well for the future.

Keeping Children Safe at Maple Infants' School

The safety and welfare of all of our pupils is the greatest priority for all of the staff at Maple Infants' School and although all staff share this responsibility our Senior Leadership Team hold specific roles to lead this commitment.

If you have any concerns, no matter how small they may seem, about the safety or welfare of a child, please contact our school's Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Funnell. If Miss Funnell is not available, please ask to speak to the Senior Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Barwell or one of our other Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads Mrs Banks or Miss Mason.



Harvest Celebration

Each year we look forward to celebrating this time of year with the children and taking time to be grateful for all that we have through our harvest celebration. This year we are looking forward to welcoming families into each class at the allocated times below to hear the children sing some harvest songs and read some harvest poems.

- Monday 10th October 2:45pm - all Year 2 Classes
- Tuesday 11th October - 9:00am - Laurel and Chestnut
- Tuesday 11th October - 2:45pm – Hazel
- Thursday 13th October - 9:00 am - Oak and Copper Beech
- Thursday 13th October - 2:45pm - Cedar

As well as being grateful for all that we have, we also take time to think of others at this time of year and we welcome donations from families.

For a number of years now, we have taken kind donations of food from our families to the local Kingston Foodbank to support our local community at harvest time. With the current cost-of-living crisis, our local Kingston Foodbank have seen an increase in demand and so we feel that it is even more important to support our community in this way. We will therefore be sending out some information shortly about the donations which you may wish to make and when these can be brought into school.

Many thanks in advance for your kindness.

School Voluntary Fund

At Maple Infants' School, we wholeheartedly believe that early years' education sets the scene for the children's learning journey as they begin their school life. These early years play a crucial role in igniting and inspiring learning from an early age and our mission statement '[together we learn and grow](#)' reflects the importance of establishing that learning is a journey which continues as we grow.

It is therefore crucially important for us to be able to provide the children with rich experiences that not only broadens their understanding, knowledge and skills but also supports their own personal development and enables them to extend their own cultural capital. We strive to provide a rich programme of experiences and events that would not be possible without additional financial support.

We have a number of ways families can financially support our school and in turn enhance the experiences of their child.

One of these ways is through our School Voluntary Fund:

**Maple Infants' School Voluntary Fund
Registration Number is 1179348.**

You can see full details on the Charity Commission's website:

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/showcharity/registerofcharities/RegisterHomePage.aspx>

At a time when all schools in England are facing significant government funding cuts we rely on any additional funding to support the provision, which we provide the pupils at Maple Infants' School. Our Governing Body has set up a School Voluntary Fund that welcomes regular donations, as well as those given on a more ad hoc basis. The money raised by this fund is used to enhance our children's education by contributing, for instance, to the improvement of recreational and teaching facilities or to provide added value to the curriculum beyond what is funded by the government.

Our requested donation is £60 per year per child or £5 per month. If half of our families made this regular donation, it would provide the school with approximately an additional £10,000.

We can receive your donation in the following ways:

- +Pay - the easiest (and our preferred) method is by using +Pay (our online payment system), which is accessed via your ParentMail login. You will be able to pay your voluntary contribution by logging into ParentMail and going to the 'Payments – To Pay' tab, where you will see "voluntary contribution" as an option to purchase.
- Standing order payments - please use the following bank details to set up a standing order with your bank:

**Account name: Maple Infants' School Voluntary Fund
Account Number: 2358 1660
Sort Code: 30-99-08**

Please also remember to tick the Gift Aid declaration box - it will boost your donation by 25%, at no cost to you.

- Cash or cheque – these can be given to the school office. If you use Amazon, we ask you use AmazonSmile and tick the Maple Infants' School Voluntary Fund as your chosen charity. Amazon contributes to the fund with no extra cost to you every time you make a purchase.

Any financial help, no matter how big or small, is greatly appreciated – thank you in advance

The Friends of Maple Infants' School – AGM

The Friends AGM is to be held on **Thursday 13th October at 7:30pm** in the school hall. We warmly invite you to attend and become part of the Friends team.

The Ribbon Project – Maple Infants' School

Earlier in the term, Maple Infants' School, alongside St Andrews and St Marks Junior School, Lime Tree Primary School and RHACC Hillcroft Campus, were invited to take part in The Ribbon Project. This project has been conceived by local Community Interest Company, Surbiton Art Trail and is designed to connect local schools and their community, with visitors to Surbiton.

It was also decided that the ribbon project would also serve as a tribute to Queen Elizabeth II. This artwork will form part of the art trail that will be unfolding around Surbiton in the coming months. We hope that families have been able to take time to add your ribbons, which we sent home to you, to add to the instalment.

On Friday 16th September, our Year 2 School Parliamentarians proudly attended an event at the station to launch this project and met with the Rt Hon Edward Davey MP, Lord Major of Kingston, Councillor Diane White and Deputy Lieutenant, Mr Ranson. We were incredibly proud of how the children represented Maple and really enjoyed being part of the launch.

Safety at the beginning and end of the school day

It has been brought to our attention that many families are queuing outside the school prior to our gates being opened in the morning and this has become a safety concern.

At Maple, we want our children and their families to remain safe at all times and so we will be opening our school gates slightly earlier, from **8.35am** in future, which will hopefully, alleviate any queuing on the street. Parents must ensure that their child or children are supervised at all times when entering the school site and that whoever is dropping their child off ensures that they enter their classroom before leaving school. We really hope that this supports our community.

We would also like to remind all parents and carers, that when entering the school playground at drop off or collection times, children **must not** use the school-climbing frame and equipment. We also expect the children with scooters to be walking with their scooters whilst in the playground as the playground is very busy at these times. Please also be aware that families are able to leave scooters in school during the day in the mushroom pods at their own risk. However, we are unable to accommodate any other form of transport e.g. bikes.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Partnership with Parents – Communication

We know that a positive partnership between home and school really contributes to any child reaching their full potential and so communication is always very important in our school setting. At Maple we therefore welcome communication from you and would always encourage a parent or carer to make contact with their child's class teacher in the first instance should anything arise that they would like to discuss.

Communication can also be directed to our phase leaders (Mrs Banks - EYFS Lead Nursery and Reception or Miss Mason KS1 Lead Year 1 and Year 2). Arranging to speak to any of these members of staff can either be done directly at the classroom doors or via the school office. Should you wish to discuss anything directly with Mrs Barwell or Miss Funnell then please do make contact with the school office who will be able to arrange this. Part of Miss Funnell's role is Maple's Inclusion Leader and should you have any specific questions or concerns relating to special educational needs, we would ask you to contact the school office to arrange an appointment with her and or Miss Allen who is our SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator).

It is also essential that we make regular contact with our families to share events and to keep you well informed but also at times as part of our local community. We would therefore like to make our communication with you clear so that you know what you will be receiving:

*Telephone & email - we reply to any emails sent to us via email. We may also call you; this is generally when we need to make quick contact with you. Any individualised contact we need to make with you will generally be via email.

* ParentMail - this form of communication is often used to share wider general communication. When we need to send information to a group/class/year group/whole school, we tend to send this via ParentMail. Wherever possible, if we receive information to pass onto parents

from others within the local community e.g. local authority, we will endeavour to title this 'Community News' and share multiple communications rather than individually wherever possible, as we have had feedback that school communication can be overwhelming.

You will also receive monthly newsletters, just like this one, which highlights events which have taken place in school, general information and towards the end of the newsletter we highlight any forthcoming dates for your diary.

We also have regular communication that the teachers share, which supports you to understand what the children are learning about in school. These are sent at the end of every week for each year group and share with you what the children will be learning about in the week ahead. We really hope that these overviews help you to understand what your child is learning in school and therefore help to aid discussions at home. We know that vocabulary is incredibly important to children's learning and that the more words known is an indicator of academic success in later life, so it is really important to us to share key learning and vocabulary with you. These overviews will also highlight what is being taught in phonics, reading and maths. Please do encourage your child to talk to you about what they are learning in school and to use the vocabulary highlighted. If you have any questions about the overviews, then please do speak to individual class teachers.

Considerate Parking

Please could you ensure that should you need to drive to school to bring or collect your child, that you **park with consideration**. Unfortunately, we have recently had several instances of parent's cars blocking driveways and entranceways to flats, homes and businesses around our school.

Dates for your Diary:

Harvest Celebrations in Classes

- Monday 10th October 2:45pm - all Year 2 Classes
- Tuesday 11th October - 9:00am - Laurel and Chestnut
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- Thursday 13th October - 2:45pm - Cedar

Y1 The Learning Dome - Planetarium Visit Tuesday 18th October 2022

Year 1 are learning all about 'Space' this term and so The Learning Dome will be visiting year 1 children in school on Tuesday 18th October for an interactive show to support their learning.

Prospective Parent Tours


Prospective parent tours will be taking place next term for any parent looking to apply for a school or Nursery place for September 2023. Booking for these events will open in September on our website.

- Wednesday 19th October: 9.15 – 10am & 10.15- 11am
- Wednesday 2nd November: 6pm
- Wednesday 23rd November : 9.15 – 10.00am

Parent Workshops

We are looking forward to holding some parent workshops this term. We have already planned a few, but more opportunities will follow:

- **Friday 14th October 9.15am Communication and Language Workshop** – aimed at families with children in Nursery or Reception

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- **Friday 14th October 2.30pm – Parent Helper Workshop** – we are looking forward to being able to welcome parents in to help at school after the October half term. **If you have time to spare and are interested in helping the school then you MUST attend our Parent Helper Workshops.** More will be scheduled in the year.

Parent Evenings

- **Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th November 2022** – more information will follow about this event in due course, but it will be held in school and parents will be able to make an appointment to meet with their child's class teacher.