



Maple Infants' School

September 2017

Newsletter No. 1

Diary Dates:

Wednesday 13th
September - 2.15pm
Year 2 Parents Welcome Meeting

Thursday 14th
September - 2.15pm
Year 1 Parents Welcome Meeting

Friday 15th September -
2.15pm **Year R** Parents Welcome Meeting

No Uniform Days

*Friday 15th September – International Dot Day – wear one colour
*Friday 22nd September – Jeans for Genes Day – wear your jeans to school

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Will take place at St Andrews and St Marks Church. We are hoping to confirm that this will take place during the week beginning 2nd October – we will let you know which morning asap

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 4th September
Friday 30th October
Wednesday 3rd January 2018
Friday 25th May 2018
Friday 20th July 2018

Welcome back to school!



Welcome back to school everyone! It has been wonderful to welcome all of our children and families back to school and we have loved hearing about all of the adventures that you have been having. We have also been welcoming our new children and their families and everyone is settling really well into the new school routine. We are really looking forward to another exciting year at Maple. Our staff team have been planning some wonderful experiences for the children and already there is a great excitement around the new topics which the children are beginning to explore.

National Teaching Assistants Day – 16th September

As National Teaching Assistants Day approaches I would just like to take a moment to thank all of our Teaching Assistants who work so hard, alongside our amazing team of staff, to support the education and well-being of all of our pupils. Your care, dedication and commitment really makes such a huge difference to the experiences of our young learners – THANK YOU!

Mrs. Barwell

New Staff

We are delighted to be able to welcome some new staff to our team;

- Emily-Jane Corfield joins us as a class teacher within year 1
- Emma Khan joins us as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and will be working within Copper Beach class and KS1
- Janine Turland has joined our team of Teaching Assistants and will be working within Oak Class

School Communication

Following our commitment to continue to improve school communication we have been developing our systems and are pleased to inform families that ParentMail is now up and running. We will now be sending **all** school communication via email through this system. Should you still wish to receive paper copies of any communication, including our Newsletters, then please inform the school office by Friday 29th September.

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.

Year Group Welcome Meetings

Each year group team will be holding a 'Welcome Meeting' for parents during the first few weeks of term. This provides families with an opportunity to meet the teachers and find out what your child will be learning about. You will also have an opportunity to ask any questions. These meetings will be held in the school hall at 2.15pm on the following days:

- Year 2 - Wednesday 13th September
- Year 1 – Thursday 14th September
- Year R – Friday 15th September

For parents who are unable to attend these meetings, any handouts will be sent to you after the event and any direct information will be placed on our website.

Staff are always very happy to discuss any concerns which you may have with you. Please do speak to your child's class teacher to arrange a suitable time.

INTERNATIONAL DOT DAY – Friday 15th September

As many of our families will be aware, all of the children and staff at Maple LOVE celebrating a special event! These special extravaganzas are so important to us and often ignite and enhance our curriculum and the children's learning and engagement. This year we are starting the academic year off by celebrating **International Dot Day**. This special day is a global celebration of creativity, courage and collaboration and centres around the story of 'The Dot' by Peter H. Reynolds. This special story tells the tale of a teacher who encourages a student, who doubts her own ability, to trust in herself. It is a wonderful story which hopefully will help to inspire our young learners to believe in their own abilities, develop their own resilience and understand how important it is to develop a growth mind-set.

Each class will be celebrating this day by taking part in activities within their class which develop their creativity, courage and collaboration. **We are also asking the children to come to school dressed all in one colour to add to the celebration.**

Jeans for Genes Day – Friday 22nd September

This year we have decided to take part in the annual fundraising campaign for Genetic Disorders UK. This is a national charity which supports individuals and families affected by a genetic disorder. It is estimated that one in 25 children are affected by a genetic disorder and the money raised on Jeans for Genes Day funds a range of initiatives that improve the quality of life of children who are affected and their families. **We will be inviting our staff team and children to wear jeans (or something made of denim) to school on this day** and we would welcome any donations which families would like to make (the suggested donation is £1 per pupil). Children may also wear their own tops.

Attendance

We are continuing to strive to ensure that every child reaches their full potential at Maple Infants' School and ensuring that children attend school on time and regularly is part of our commitment in partnership with families. We will therefore be continuing to regularly monitor children's attendance to school. Our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) supports the school and families when the absence of a pupil is lower than expected and the EWO will make contact with families if absence is a significant concern. As well as continuing our half termly attendance awards we will also be continuing to award the class with the best overall attendance for that week to look after our school mascot 'EDI' - Every Day's Important. 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. Please contact the Office for further information or see Miss Funnell or Mrs Barwell.

Staying Safe

Keeping all of our children and their families safe is a very important priority and we have been sharing with the children in KS1 (Years 1 and 2) how we do this through age appropriate assemblies and class discussions. Miss Funnell is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for our school and she recently held an assembly to talk to the children about how we keep them safe. This included talking about our regular fire drills, checks which are made to our equipment, the importance of following our school rules and how to stay safe online. She also promoted with them the importance of sharing any concerns which they may have and reminded the children that each class has a 'Worry Monster' which enables the children to write down any worries that they would like to share. Please see Miss Funnell or Mrs Barwell if you are concerned about the safety or well-being of any child.

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. Your Child's Nasal Flu consent form will be given out shortly. Once received please complete & return to the School office as soon as possible. Many Thanks.

Considerate Parking

We informed families at the end of last term that we had been contacted by a local resident and asked to request that our families please consider our neighbours when parking to drop off and pick up their children within the local area. Unfortunately one of our neighbours has been in contact with us already this term regarding parking

difficulties especially around these key times. We are sure that all of our families understand how busy it can be around school at these busy times and the safety of our children, their families and members of our local community is a priority. Thank you in advance for your consideration and respect.

Reminder

May I please remind families to ensure that their children walk scooters or bicycles within our school playground. Our playground can become very busy especially during drop off and pick up times and we have many younger members of our community 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!

Data Collection

Over the next few weeks our office team will be sending data collection sheets to all of our families who have children in Years 1 or 2. This information is the most recent information 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.

Celebration Assemblies – Reception classes, Year 1 and 2

When your child celebrates their birthday we will invite you to join us for our celebration assembly, generally on the Friday of the week of their birthday. These special assemblies celebrate the hard work of pupils within each class as well as the birthdays of the week. The office will let you know of the date when we will celebrate your child's birthday. For Reception the assembly will be at 9.05 – 9.25am and the timings for the Year 1 and 2 assembly will be 9.30 – 9.50am. We also invite families to donate a book to the school if they would like to on this day.

PARENT WORKSHOPS

Friday 22nd September – Parent Helper Meeting 2.30pm

If you are or would like to be a Parent Helper then please come along to this meeting to find out more about how you can help.

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

At Maple Infants School we teach mathematics through an innovative maths teaching framework which supports schools, students and teachers to be successful at maths. We joined this programme in September 2015 and became a Mathematics Mastery partner. The programme aims to support all pupils to develop problem solving skills, deepen mathematical understanding and enhance pupils' mathematical language. All parents of children within Years R, 1 or 2 are invited to join us at this meeting to find out more about how we teach mathematics at Maple and how you can help your child/ren at home.