



# Maple Infants' School

September/October 2021

Newsletter No. 1

## Diary Dates:

### AUTUMN TERM DATES:

**AUTUMN TERM 1:**  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>  
September - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
October

**AUTUMN TERM 2:**  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November -  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>  
December

**HALF TERM:**  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday  
29<sup>th</sup> October

**INSET DAYS:**  
(school closed for  
pupils)

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2021  
Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022  
Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

### SPRING TERM DATES:

**SPRING TERM 1:**  
Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Jan - Fri 11<sup>th</sup>  
Feb

**SPRING TERM 2:**  
Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Feb - Fri 1<sup>st</sup>  
April

**HALF TERM:**  
Mon 14<sup>th</sup> - Fri 18<sup>th</sup>  
February

### SUMMER TERM DATES:

**SUMMER TERM 1:**  
Tues 19<sup>th</sup> April - Fri 27<sup>th</sup>  
May

**SUMMER TERM 2:**  
Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June - Fri  
22<sup>nd</sup> July (Mon 6<sup>th</sup>  
June & Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
are INSET days)

**HALF TERM:**  
Mon 30<sup>th</sup> May - Fri 3<sup>rd</sup>  
June



The children have been really settling well into their new year groups over the last few weeks and have particularly enjoyed the new freedoms in school now that the strict safety measures have been relaxed since the summer. It has been particularly rewarding to see the children thoroughly enjoying playing together across the whole of the playground with other children from different classes. Whilst we continue to look to the future with optimism, we are still acutely aware of the potential challenges which COVID can present and so we greatly appreciate everyone's efforts and caution when children are unwell.

Each year group team are working hard to plan exciting learning experiences for the children in the year ahead. These plans will include experiences both inside and outside of school and we really look forward to planning a full curriculum to help all of our children learn and grow.

Change of date for the end of term: As the Queen's Platinum Jubilee falls during the May half term break, schools are able to choose an additional date to take this during term time. Maple will be joining SASM to support our shared community and will be taking this day at the end of the autumn term. This means that our autumn term will finish on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December will be the day chosen in lieu of the additional bank holiday.

*Mrs. Barwell*

## **Staffing**

Congratulations to Miss Stark who has begun her new role as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant at Maple this term.

We are very sadly saying goodbye to our KS1 Leader, Mrs Pickles at October half term. Following her wedding in the summer, Mrs Pickles and her husband are re-locating to be closer to family. I know that you will join us at Maple in thanking Mrs Pickles for all of her hard work at Maple and wish her well for the future. We are currently in the process of recruiting for her position and will let you know the outcome of this in due course.

## **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 Helen Funnell**. If Helen is not available, please ask to speak to the **Senior Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Claire Barwell** or one of our other **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads Miss Jess Dowd & Mrs Frankie Pickles**.

## **Year Group Communication**

All year groups will now be receiving weekly overviews to keep families updated with your child's learning. These weekly overviews will be sent every Friday in preparation for the week ahead. We are also in the process of ensuring that the children all have access to Google Classroom where we will provide resources for you to access from home. Google Classroom will also be used to support remote education for any children needing to self-isolate.

You will also shortly receive general information from your year group teaching team. This information will provide you with all of the information which you need to know about routines, expectations and plans for the year ahead. As always, if you have any questions or queries, please do raise these with your child's class teacher, either at the end of the day at the classroom door or through email via the office.

### **Beginning and End of the School Day**

We know that many children enjoy coming to school on 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 we would like to request that they are not left on our school site during the school day. 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.

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. With this in mind, could we please ask families to make sure that their children walk any scooters or bikes 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 parents ensure that children do not use the climbing frame outside of school hours as it is not supervised by staff at this time. The children are reminded of this in school.

**Many thanks in advance for your support in keeping all of the children safe at Maple.**

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### **Harvest Celebration**

A highlight of this half term has always been our harvest festival where we celebrate the autumn season and all of the things that it brings. This year we will be celebrating this festival in school. Unfortunately, we are not yet in a position to invite audiences to join us in school, but we hope that your child will share with you what they have been learning about at home.

We typically think about others at this time of the year too and so we are welcoming any donations which families would like to provide for our local foodbank. Please bring any donations into school, either via classes or the school office, from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October and staff will ensure that your items are taken to the local foodbank. At the moment the foodbank are particularly asking for juice (squash), instant mash, rice, household items (washing up liquid, washing machine tablets), shower gel and toothbrushes. They are also asking for toilet paper. Anything non - perishable can be donated, however they have got plenty of pasta, cereals, pulses, baked beans, pasta sauce and coffee at the moment.

**Many thanks in advance for your kindness.**

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### **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.

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### **Tissues**

As is typical at this time of year we have a lot of sniffles and colds in school. We are continuing to promote good respiratory and hand hygiene within school and so if anyone would like to donate a box of tissues to their class this would be greatly appreciated. Please just hand a box into your child's class teacher if you are able to donate – many thanks!

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### **Give someone the gift of laughter!**

We have all experienced such a change to the way that we have been able to live our lives over the last couple of years due to the pandemic and for many of us this has had an impact on our mental health. We will therefore be promoting with the children how the gift of a smile or a shared moment of laughter can make us feel really happy. We would love the children to let us know any jokes that they find funny and we will be sharing these in and around school. If your child has a joke to share, please encourage them to write their joke down, decorate it and send it into the school office. We really look forward to sharing them and laughing together!

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## **FUEL – Holiday Activities and Food Programme**

Achieving for Children are continuing to provide their holiday and food programme to families. The programme runs for four weeks in the summer break and one week at Christmas and Easter. All families who are signed up to benefits related to Free School Meals are eligible to attend the holiday provision for free. Please use the following link to find out more:

<https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/community-information/information-and-advice/fuel-holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- **Nasal Flu Vaccinations: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October**  
We will be welcoming the school health team to Maple to provide, with parental consent, a nasal flu vaccine for any child within Reception – Year 2. You should now have received your consent form, which must be returned, indicating whether you are accepting or declining this vaccine. Please speak to a member of the Office Team if you haven't received a copy or have any questions regarding this.
- **Inset Day – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**  
Staff training takes place on INSET days and so the school is closed to the children on these days.
- **Parent Consultation Evenings: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November**  
We will be holding Parent Consultation Evenings after half term. For this term, these meetings will be held virtually and families will be able to book their own appointments to meet their child's class teacher. Full details are on our web site.
- **Individual School Photos – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November**
- **Prospective Parent Events**  
The Senior Leadership Team will be holding a number of prospective parent meetings over the next few months for any families who are interested in applying for a school place for their child or children for September 2022. Due to safety measures in place, places are limited and must be booked in advance via a link, which will be soon available on our school website (Event Brite). We are planning to hold tours in January for any families seeking a Nursery place for September 2022.
- **END OF THE AUTUMN TERM (PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A CHANGE TO THE ORIGINAL DATE)**  
The autumn term will finish at **12 noon on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**