



Maple Infants' School

November 2020

Newsletter No. 3

Diary Dates:

2020-2021

AUTUMN TERM

Wed 2nd Sept to Fri 18th Dec

HALF TERM: Mon 26th – Fri 30th Oct 2020

SPRING TERM

Mon 4th Jan to Wed 31st Mar 2021

HALF TERM: Mon 15th – Fri 19th Feb 2021

SUMMER TERM

Mon 19th April to Fri 23rd July 2021

HALF TERM: Mon 31st May – Fri 4th Jun 2021

INSET DAYS (School closed to pupils)

- Mon 4th Jan
- Mon 7th Jun
- Fri 23rd July

It was great to join in with Anti-Bullying Week a few weeks ago and see all of the children wearing their odd socks to follow the theme of 'United Against Bullying' at Maple. The children really wore their socks with pride and this helped us to promote, as a community, the importance of individuality, acceptance and tolerance. The week itself, alongside subsequent lessons, has really engaged the children and I have had lots of conversations with children in and around school about how we look after each other at Maple. The children have really enjoyed thinking about how we care for our friends and together we have celebrated that we are all unique and that is what makes us all so special.



Well done everyone!

Mrs. Barwell

GOVERNORS CORNER

A message from our Chair of Governors (Margie Lindsay)

First, all the governors and associate members for Maple want to thank publicly the staff of the school for their outstanding work during the pandemic. We also want to thank all the parents/carers and pupils for adapting to the new drop off/pick up and classroom bubble rules.

One of the side-effects of covid-19 has been an increased financial burden on the school's budget. Unplanned costs for extra cleaning materials, barriers and screens to protect visitors and staff as well as other things have significantly impacted our budget.

Maple, like every maintained school, has seen the money allocated to it shrink over the last decade. Even with additional government funding, the current allocation falls well below what is needed.

One way you can help support the school financially is through the School Voluntary Fund (SVF), a charity the governing board set up to provide funding for items the school might not be able to afford.

One of the easiest ways to support the school financially is by always using AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.co.uk) and designating Maple Infants' School Voluntary Fund as your chosen charity. If you use Smile, it means Amazon donates 0.5% of all eligible purchases to your favourite charity every time you buy something. You pay nothing, but the school benefits. So far this year, the SVF has received over £100 through AmazonSmile. Please consider using this to help the school.

You can also support the fund by using +Pay (our online payment system), accessed via your ParentMail login. Login and go to the "Payments – To Pay" tab where you will see "voluntary contribution" as an option to purchase.

You can also set up a standing order payment or give cash or a cheque (in an envelope marked SVF) to the school office.

If you have any questions about what governors do, would like to become a part of the governing board or want to give us feedback, please email me: Margie Lindsay, Chair of Governors (mlindsay14.314@mapleinfants.co.uk).

Finally, the governors at Maple would like to wish all of you a happy, safe and joyous holiday time and look forward to welcoming everyone back in January.

School Meals Supervisory Assistant at Maple

We are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Jewers who has been a SMSA at Maple for almost 2 years. She has thoroughly enjoyed supporting the children at lunchtime and is now looking forward to spending more time with her family.

We are therefore looking for an SMSA to join our team and have placed an advert on the website Eteach. If you are interested in applying, please see the Eteach website for more details or contact a member of the school office team. Please be aware that the closing date for applications is 30th November.

Parent Consultation Evening

Many thanks to all of our families who joined us for our virtual Parent Consultation Evenings. We really hope that you found the meetings helpful and that families felt that they received valuable information about how their child and how they are progressing this term.

Maths with Parents

We have had an overwhelmingly positive response to our new 'Maths with Parents' home learning resource. We have received some really lovely photos and feedback from families sharing their child's learning – thank you! We have been particularly pleased to see children communicating with their families about how they solve problems together, rather than just providing an answer. Being able to explain how the children worked something out is such an important skill to have!

Drop Off and Collection Arrangements

Many thanks to all of our families who are arriving promptly to support the drop off and collection arrangements for children at the St James' Road entrance. We are successfully getting the children into school and distributed back to you at the end of the day as quickly as we can.

We have a few requests to help all members of our community by ensuring that things run smoothly and as safely as possible:

- We understand that the children can be excited to see their friends and want to play in the morning when waiting to come into school, however we need to ensure that all members of our community stay socially distanced and therefore would like to ask families to keep their children with them whilst waiting in the queue, rather than playing or running up and down the other side of the cones.
- Our neighbours would very much appreciate if children do not play in driveways or house entrances whilst waiting to come into school.
- Please may we ask families to try to move away from the gate entrance as quickly as possible when dropping off or collecting. We know that this can be a busy space, but we need to ensure that this narrowed space remains as clear as possible.
- The safety of all of the children is of paramount importance to us, so please do not call or gesture for your child to come to you when collecting. The staff need to ensure that we see you and that each child is collected safely.

Many thanks for everyone's understanding and co-operation particularly throughout this current time.

Dates for your Diary:



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY (Save the Children)

Friday 11th December – All members of our school community will be invited to come to school dressed in Christmas jumpers/tops. The children are invited to wear their own clothes if they would rather not wear Christmas jumpers. Any donations received will be sent to Save the Children – the suggested donation is £2, which school staff will be collecting at the gate during drop off and will donate to Save the Children on your behalf. Many thanks in advance for your kindness.

As a bit of Christmas fun and to promote a healthy lifestyle, the children will also be taking part in the '**National Santa Dash**' on this day. We therefore suggest that the children wear jogging bottoms and trainers with their Christmas jumper and they may also bring a festive hat (e.g. Santa hat or festive hair band) to wear when they are enjoying running, skipping or walking around our playground during the day. Miss Wright, our PE lead, will send more information out about this event shortly.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – Wednesday 16th December

END OF TERM:

Friday 20th December

The Friends of Maple Infants' School would like to invite all of the children to come to school dressed in Christmas mufti to celebrate the end of the term. Please ensure that the children are wearing festive clothing which is still suitable for school. If your child would prefer not to wear something festive, then they may wear their own clothes. The Friends will be collecting any donations at the gate at drop off.

The school will close early on this day; however, the collection times will be staggered to support the children's safe exit from school. Please see below the collection time for your child's year group:

Nursery: 11.30am

(please note that the last day for afternoon Nursery will be Thursday 19th December)

Reception: 12 noon

Year 1: 12.15pm

Year 2: 12.30pm

The Spring term will begin on Monday 4th January, however this is an INSET day and so we will be welcoming the children back on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**.