



# Maple Infants' School

October 2020

Newsletter No. 2

## Diary Dates:

### 2020-2021

#### AUTUMN TERM

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept to Fri 18<sup>th</sup>  
Dec

**HALF TERM:** Mon 26<sup>th</sup> – Fri  
30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020

#### SPRING TERM

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan to Wed 31<sup>st</sup>  
Mar 2021

**HALF TERM:** Mon 15<sup>th</sup> – Fri  
19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021

#### SUMMER TERM

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> April to Fri 23<sup>rd</sup>  
July 2021

**HALF TERM:** Mon 31<sup>st</sup>  
May – Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Jun 2021

**INSET DAYS** (School  
closed to pupils)

- Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept
- Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct
- Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan
- Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Jun
- Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> July



It seems as if the first half of the autumn term has gone by quicker than any term in the past and the children have certainly settled well to the new regimes within school. The staff have been working incredibly hard to ensure that the curriculum within each year group acknowledges the time that the children have spent away from school last term. Our recovery curriculum, has supported the children to re-establish the school learning environment which we recognise is very different from home learning, and also supports not only their academic development but also focuses on their social and emotional well-being. The children have particularly enjoyed learning over the last week and continues this week, which is focused on the specific text 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. Miss Corfield, our reading subject leader, was inspired by this text and wanted it to be used at Maple to celebrate the end of a successful return back to school, uniting us as a school community and allowing children to recognise their place in our ever-changing world. We wanted to particularly focus on supporting our sense of community as our school came back together, as well as promoting the children to think about what makes us special and how to protect our world. I am sure that you will agree that this is a beautiful text to be supporting learning, especially at a time when we have all needed to take time to reflect.

We certainly seem to be seeing signs of autumn rapidly appearing as the term progresses. This includes a change in our weather and the children have definitely noticed this. Please do be aware that part of our increased safety measures this term are to keep our classrooms appropriately ventilated, so please do make sure that your children are wearing layers as the temperature falls and as usual please do make sure that they bring a coat to school as we will be trying to make sure that the children are outside as much as possible.

We recognise that the half term ahead of us and our run up to the Christmas break is going to look quite different to how it has in the past due to all of the safety measures which are in place. We will share with you any events which are able to take place as the term progresses.

*Mrs. Barwell*

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### School Voluntary Fund

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. We recognise that families may be facing a number of challenges especially at this current time, but if you are able and would like to donate, you can find more information in the attached document.

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### Clerk Appointment

The governors at Maple are looking to appoint a highly organised and self-motivated clerk to join our school. The clerk ensures the smooth running of the governing board by helping to prepare agendas and meeting papers, taking and distributing minutes, giving administrative support, keeping records and up to date information on policies and dates of reviews and providing procedural and legislative advice to the governing board. If you are interested in applying or know someone who may be, then the job is advertised online via ETEACH and so more information can be found there or by speaking to a member of the school office team who will be able to put you in contact with our School Business Manager, Mrs Eleanor Arnold.

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### **The Friends of Maple Infants' School**

The Friends of Maple Infants' School held their AGM on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October and the previous committee were able to share all of their fund raising efforts from the previous academic year. Despite experiencing a national lockdown throughout the summer term, they still raised an exceptional amount of money for the school. All of the staff and Governors at Maple would like to thank the previous committee for all of their hard work and dedication throughout an exceptional year.

At the AGM, the Friends were also able to vote in the new committee members. We really look forward to working creatively with them to establish any fund raising events which can go ahead, as well as supporting the strong community which we have at Maple.

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### **Remote Learning**

We have a clear plan for Remote Learning, should this be needed for children to learn at home if they are self-isolating. Our full contingency plan is attached to this newsletter and can also be found on our school website. We have ensured that our remote learning is of a high quality and aligns as closely as possible with in-school provision. It is integrated into school curriculum planning and takes into careful consideration the age of our pupils as an infant school. Should your child require remote learning, then a member of the office team will ensure that this is sent to you.

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### **Communication**

As an infant school, we greatly value the communication and relationship which we typically establish, especially at the beginning of an autumn term with parents and carers. However, we recognise that due to the safety procedures in place, this is something which families and staff are not able to develop in the same way or as quickly as we have been able to previously. We hope that our weekly communication, which focuses on the learning taking place in the week ahead, has been helpful, but please do make contact with the school office if you have any questions or queries for any member of staff. We do have parents evening coming up, so this will provide a good time to speak to your child's class teacher about how your child has settled and their learning and well-being, but please do not wait to make contact if you have any concerns.

We are also aware that many classes have very positive communication streams between families, for example, WhatsApp groups, but would like to take this opportunity to remind parents to ensure that all communication is respectful and if there are any concerns raised about any element of school life, that this should be raised via the school in the appropriate way.

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### **PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

Although we are unable to invite families into school for parent consultation appointment, we will be offering appointments to families via an online meeting. More information is due to be sent to families shortly about how to book and access these appointments.

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### **Maple Infants' School Website**

We are currently updating our school website to ensure that it is easy to navigate for current and prospective families and contains the most relevant information. We are also refreshing the design of our website and will be launching this after half term. Please look out for these exciting changes.

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### **After School Clubs**

We know just how popular our after school clubs have been in the past and have been exploring whether we would be able to establish these before the end of the autumn term. Unfortunately, due to the strict safety measures which we have in place, which also includes the significant cleaning regime which takes place at the end of the school day, we are not in a position to be able to re-establish our after school clubs on the school site during the rest of the autumn term. We greatly value the extracurricular opportunities which this provides our children and would like to reassure families that we will continue to review this as the term progresses, taking into consideration any changes to the advice from the Department of Education as well as any changing picture locally.

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### **Christmas Card Competition – ‘Caring at Christmas’**

We are delighted to have been invited, along with other Kingston schools, to take part in a Christmas Card Competition by The Rt Hon Sir Edward Davey (MP). The overall winner will have their design printed as an official Christmas card and will be invited with their family to have tea with Edward Davey at a location that is covid-secure. Information about how to enter will be sent to families shortly. Good luck to everyone who enters!

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### **Keeping Safe**

The clocks go back on Sunday 25th October, which will mean that families may be travelling to and from school with less daylight and may be out and about when it is dark. After half term we will be talking to the children in about keeping safe, especially at this time of year. We are preparing to discuss how to be safe and be seen as well as raising specific age appropriate awareness of firework safety.

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### **Dates for your Diary:**

**INSET DAY:** we have an **INSET** day on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** so school will be closed to pupils on this day

**HALF TERM: Monday 26<sup>th</sup>– Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

**INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

**NASAL FLU VACCINES FOR RECEPTION – YEAR 2 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

**PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

*We would like to wish all of our families a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.*