

Summer Term 2023-2024

Information for Maple Class Parents/ Carers

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We can hardly believe that we are entering the third and final term of the year. We hope that you had a wonderful Easter break and are looking forward to the lighter evenings and warmer weather that this term brings. We are certainly excited to continue to watch our Maple Class children grow and progress.

As before, our Preschool children will be known as the caterpillars and our reception children will be known as the butterflies within the classroom but we will very much be one class and teaching each child as an individual based upon their own starting points and next steps. We will begin to think about transition into Year 1 for our Reception children and into Reception for our children who start 'big school' in September.

Topic

This term, we have two big questions that will be guiding our teaching and learning.

Throughout the first half term, our thought is "I wonder where that came from...". We look forward to learning about growing plants and animals throughout this half term. We will be learning how to garden and look after our own plants as well as learning about different animals and their life cycles. Maple Class will soon be home to some caterpillars who we hope to look after until they become butterflies and can be released back into the wild.

For the second half term, we will be thinking "I wonder what it's like there...". Throughout this topic, we expect to be learning about lots of different places – maybe the desert, maybe the arctic, maybe even outer space! We are looking forward to seeing where the children's interests take us.

More information about our topics and our Early Years curriculum can be found on our website.

Maths

Preschool will continue to learn about numbers and quantities through their play and through adult led teaching. They will participate in short small group number sessions where they will begin to recognise numbers, begin to count and sing number songs together.

Reception children have developed a good sense of number and throughout this terms will be learning how to apply their number knowledge to solve problems including addition and subtraction as well as simple halving and doubling problems.

Phonics/English

Preschool children who are due to start Reception in September will begin the preschool unit of our Read Write Inc. scheme. They will meet all of the single letter sounds and begin to learn how to orally blend and segment. This will give them a good basis for when they begin to learn how to read and write in Reception. Preschool children who are not starting school will continue to develop their communication, listening and attention skills.

Reception children will continue on their individual phonics journeys. Some children will continue to consolidate their Set 1 sounds and use them to read and build CVC words while others may begin to move forwards to reading and writing simple sentences. Every child is unique and we will ensure that they are reaching their full potential for their individual starting points.

Reading

All children will continue to bring home a selection of books from school. We really appreciate parents taking the time to read these books with their children at home. Research shows that sharing books with children has the biggest positive impact on their future success and we would love for children to grow up with an interest and enjoyment of reading.

For **Reception** children, their reading books are linked to their phonics groups and will be changed regularly depending on their phonics schedule. Reading books and reading records should come and go from school every day in children's book bags. (Please do not carry water bottles in book bags with books as spillages will damage them.) Repetition and discussion with these books over the week will help develop the early reading skills and support progression. Please read with your child as often as you can and sign their reading record to let us know that they have read. Children will be awarded Dojo Points for reading at home!

All children in Maple Class will be bringing home a book of their choice every week – this will be a book that they have chosen from our library and hopefully a book that looks interesting and appealing to them! Please enjoy sharing this book throughout the week at home.

PE

Maple Class will have PE on a **Friday** afternoon. Reception children should come to school in their school uniform and will get changed for PE once at school. Please send PE kit in a PE bag and ensure that all items of PE kit are clearly labelled. PE kit will stay in school but we will send it home at the end of each half term to be washed. Preschool children should come to school dressed for PE in their red polo shirt and jogging bottoms/shorts depending on the weather and trainers. This term, PE will be happening on the school field so children will need an outdoor PE kit. We are also hoping for the children to experience bell boating – please keep your eyes peeled as we inevitably ask for parent paddle power!

Swimming

Reception children will begin their block of swimming lessons in the 22nd April. Please spend some time supporting children to become independent in getting dried and dressed after a bath or shower. We would also ask that, where possible, children are introduced to the water/swimming pool prior to the lessons beginning.

Outdoor Learning

This term, Maple Class will be participate in outdoor learning on **Thursdays**. All children should come to school ready for forest school – long trousers and long sleeved top/jumper. Our aim is to spend as much of the day as possible in our forest school area – weather permitting! Even as the weather warms up, our policy is that arms and legs must be covered to help prevent any potential scratches.

Please, please, please can we ask that anything that comes into school be clearly labelled with your child's name. Things like hats, water bottles, clothes, shoes etc. are much easier to reunite with their owner if they have a name in then.

Every day, children will need to bring:

- Coat
- Filled water bottle
- Lunch box (unless you have ordered a school lunch or are not staying for lunch)
- Reception children - Book bag with reading book and reading record

If you would like any further information or if you ever have any worries or concerns, please don't hesitate to arrange a phone call or face to face appointment – we would be happy to meet with you.

The Maple Class Team