

***Jesus promised, "I came that you may have life and have it to the full."
John 10:10***



*Every child at Fladbury will know they are loved by God, have a **happy heart** and be part of a flourishing, well-led school. When they leave Fladbury, they will be well-prepared to meet challenges, confident in their abilities and look forward to their **bright futures** with an **open mind**.*

AUTUMN TERM 2024-2025
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS – Maple Class Preschool and Reception

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Hello and welcome to the start of a new and exciting year in Maple Class!

All of the children have made an excellent start to our school year together and have settled well into new routines and activities. So far, we have had a lot of fun exploring our classroom, making new friends and getting to know our new reception and preschool children. We have been learning about our class rules and routines and how to keep ourselves safe in Maple Class. We are very excited for the year ahead and can't wait to get to know our children and their families better throughout the year. We are very lucky to have a fabulous team working in Maple Class and we are excited to share the coming year with you all.

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.

Topic

We are allowing the interests of the children to guide our teaching and learning throughout the year. Our aim is to promote curiosity and excitement to enable children to lead their own learning. To support this, we have planned some broad questions to guide our thinking throughout the year. This half term our question is "I wonder what makes me special?" Throughout this topic, we will be learning about ourselves, our families and sharing our own interests with peers in the class.

We will also be spending a lot of time together in class learning how to appropriately use our classroom environment and the continuous provision within it. Learning will take place throughout the year through a balance of adult led teaching and learning as well as through carefully planned continuous provision.

Maths

Preschool will begin 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 will begin their mathematical journey this year by learning about each number in depth. We will learn to recognise each numeral, match quantity to numeral and find different ways to make each number. As we meet each number, we will also link our learning to coins and shapes with the same value/number of sides. This is an important part of Maths to ensure a secure foundation of mathematical knowledge to build upon moving forward.

Phonics/English

Preschool children will begin their phonics journey through 'phase one' listening games. They will begin to hear, identify, match and differentiate sounds as well as begin to learn concepts such as first and last. These are all important skills that will eventually support children in beginning phonics learning in the summer term.

Reception children will begin learning their single letter sounds and begin to apply their sound knowledge to segmenting and blending as well as word building with magnetic letters. Children will also be taught correct letter formation as we meet each new letter. After all Set 1 sounds have been taught, Reception children will be assessed again and grouped according to their phonics stages. Children in Reception will bring home homework linked to the sound that has been taught that day. We strongly encourage you to complete this homework as it comes home as it really helps to reinforce new learning. Once homework has been completed, please upload a photograph of the sheet onto your child's portfolio so that we can see it and award Dojo points for working hard on their homework. Of course, we want phonics and learning to read and write to be an enjoyable thing so please don't stress about homework – just do what you can.

Reading

All children will soon be bringing home a selection of books from school. This is a really exciting time and we hope that children enjoy some special reading time at home with you. We recommend short sessions to begin with, perhaps just reading a few pages at a time.

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 every time 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.

Reception Baseline Assessment

All Reception children nationally take part in a baseline assessment as required by our government. These baseline assessments will be carried out with children in Reception over the coming weeks. This is a short task that they complete independently with an adult. An information booklet will be uploaded to Class Dojo if you require further information.

Key Information

Reception - Doors open at 8:45am for drop off and home time is at 3:25pm. Drop-off is at the children's Entrance and pick up for Reception children is through the Maple Class door.

Preschool – Children should be dropped off and collected for their booked sessions at the Maple Class door.

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

PE

Maple Class will have PE on a **Thursday** 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.

Outdoor Learning

Maple Class will be participating in outdoor learning on **Wednesdays**. All children should come to school ready for forest school – long (and warm) trousers and long sleeved top/jumper. Please could we ask that all children are provided with a set of waterproofs. Either an all in one overall or waterproof trousers and a jacket as well as a pair of wellington boots. We do suggest that they are big enough to fit a warm coat on underneath during the winter months! Please label all items clearly and put them in a named bag. Waterproofs and wellington boots will be kept in school and put on over the top of the clothes that they wear. Our aim is to spend as much of a Wednesday as possible in our forest school area – weather permitting!

Children are also asked to keep their wellies in school all year as we access the grassed area which can be wet so children swap their shoes before heading out.

Please, please, please can we ask that anything that comes into school is 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 them.

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.

We look forward to working with you all over the next year!

The Maple Class Team