

Summer Term 2024 - 2025

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 have been carefully looking after some tadpoles which will soon grow their legs to become frogs.

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 term 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 most **Friday** afternoons whether that is outdoor PE or bellboating. Children can come to school in their PE kits on these days – please keep an eye on our weekly updates to see what the PE session will be each week. We are so excited for the children to spend some time on bellboats on the river – please keep your eyes peeled as we inevitably ask for parent paddle power!

Swimming

Reception children will begin their block of swimming lessons on the 28th 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 continue to enjoy forest school sessions on **Wednesdays**. 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 provide light weight long sleeved tops and bottoms for children to wear. If it's dry, children will not wear waterproofs and children may prefer to wear trainers rather than wellies. Please be aware that there is a very high chance that shoes will come home a different colour to when they arrived so please don't send their best!

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 them. We encourage children to put their belongings on their peg, in their bag or in their drawer when they take them off to support their independence and encourage them to take ownership of their own things.

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