

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**.*

SPRING TERM 2023-2024 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS – Maple Class

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to Fladbury after what we hope was an enjoyable Christmas holiday with friends and family.

We had an amazing Autumn term in Maple Class. The children had a fantastic term full of fun and we were so proud of the progress that each and every child made. We particularly enjoyed going to Smart Trees, Cheltenham to see The Ugly Duckling and performing our Christmas Nativity in church and we are looking forward to what the spring term has in store for our Maple Class children.

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.

Topic

This term, we have two big questions that will be guiding our teaching and learning. Throughout the first half term, our theme is "I wonder how that works...". We will be very much guided by the children but anticipate to be learning about toys (new and old) as well as vehicles and machines.

For the second half term, we will be thinking "I wonder how we help each other...". Throughout this topic, we expect to be learning about the people who help us such as nurses and fire fighters and seeing where the children's interests and questions 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 will continue 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 continue 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 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.

Class Dojo

We use Class Dojo as our main tool to share information with parents and carers. We aim to give a weekly overview at the start of each week and like to share pictures from Maple Class, too. We love to read your comments and share these with the children as appropriate so please do feel free to get involved. Children also enjoy sharing their experiences from home so please do add photos to their portfolio at any time for them to share with their friends and adults in school.

PE

Maple Class will have PE on a **Tuesday** 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 continue to participate in outdoor learning on **Fridays**. All children should come to school ready for forest school – long (and warm) trousers and long sleeved top/jumper. Our aim is to spend as much of a Friday as possible in our forest school area – weather permitting!

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.

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