



MAPLE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ST. ALBANS

23rd April, 2019

Dear Parents,

We were pleased to welcome your children back to school today after the Easter break. The Summer Term is always a special time at school, with many activities taking place and, hopefully, some excellent weather for the children to enjoy their playtimes on the field.

STAFFING

We welcomed Mrs. Caroline Aust today as a new part-time teaching assistant (TA), based mainly in the Reception Class. She will be covering the maternity leave of Mrs. Michelle Hogg, who left at the end of last term.

Mrs. Shonagh King (Yr 5 part-time TA) will be leaving on 26th April and Mrs. Julia Gibson (Yr 2J part-time TA) will be leaving on 2nd May. Both are moving on to other career opportunities, after many years of service at Maple. We thank them for all their hard work and wish them both every success for the future. The majority of their current hours worked in class will be covered through the redeployment of existing staff.

KEY DATES FOR THE TERM

As usual, a list of Key Dates for the term is being sent out with this letter. Further details about the events listed will be given out in due course, as appropriate. Termly newsletters from the class teachers will be sent home at the end of this week on Friday.

DATES FOR THE 2019 / 2020 AND 2020 / 2021 ACADEMIC YEARS

Also attached to this letter is a list of term dates for the next two academic years (2019 / 2020 and 2020 / 2021).

I appreciate that many of you want to book holiday dates well in advance. By giving you these dates now, I expect that all future family holidays will be planned to coincide with the school holiday dates. Please understand that, due to the disruption to the children's learning, I will not be able to authorise any holidays or days off in term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you believe your circumstances are exceptional, then please discuss your request with me prior to making a booking. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

OPEN EVENING - WEDNESDAY 1 MAY

We will be holding our annual Open Evening on Wednesday 1 May from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. As usual you will be able to visit all the classrooms with your children to see work that has been produced during the year or which is currently ongoing. The displays in the hall will relate to work produced during the 'Outdoor Learning' Special Events Week that took place during the final week of last term.

Representatives from the school's Governing Body will be attending, and will be present in the hall and touring the classrooms, to listen to any questions or points of view that you may have. They will wear names badges to enable you to identify them, if necessary.

Some children will be giving musical performances in the hall during the course of the evening (either individually or in an ensemble). If your child has reached a competent standard on a musical instrument and would like to perform, then please encourage him/her to sign up for one of the 5 to 10 minute slots available.

Some of the members of the Young Voices Choir (Years 4, 5 and 6) will be performing a few of the songs from their Spring Term concert, in the hall at 6.15 p.m; and the Yr 2 parents' choir will perform at 7 p.m.

This is a special celebratory evening and I very much hope that you will be able to attend with your children.

OFSTED PARENTVIEW WEBSITE

Ofsted, the school's inspectorate, has established a website to enable parents to record their opinions about their child's school. This is used by the school as one of many measures to ensure that we are providing the best possible levels of teaching and care; and results can also be viewed by prospective families when choosing a school. You are welcome and encouraged to log on to this site to give your opinions about Maple in a short and anonymous survey.

The website link is: <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk> Thank you.

BALL GAMES ON THE FIELD

When we are able to use the field, the children will be able to play football / touch rugby on the field on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays this term. Children are welcome to bring in other PE equipment from home to play games with on the field on Wednesdays.

HOT WEATHER

It is quite likely that we will get some hot weather over the next few months. If that is the case please ensure that your children come to school with caps to wear and, if appropriate, some sun-cream to apply. We are fortunate to have various shaded areas on the playground and field and, if there is a heat-wave, the children will be allowed outside to use these but will be discouraged from playing in the direct sunlight. We will also encourage them to drink plenty of water.

A FEW REMINDERS

May I remind you that at 3.15 p.m. or as soon as the pupils are dismissed, they should be supervised by their parents/carers. No children should play football on the Top Playground. The children are not allowed on the field or the climbing apparatus before or after school. For safety reasons the children are not permitted to ride bikes/scooters on the playground and these should be left in the racks at the front of the school. Older pupils who are walking home by themselves are not allowed to play unsupervised after school in the playground.

Please do not park in the school car park when dropping off or collecting children, as there is not enough space for parents to do this. Adults and children should never walk across the car park, which is particularly busy at the beginning and end of the school day, due to taxis for our unit pupils arriving and departing.

Parents dropping off and/or collecting from Re:play are, however, welcome to use the school car park before 8 a.m. and after 4.30 p.m., but not in-between these times.

Following on from the successful trial last term, we will be continuing with a rolling start which will allow pupils to come into school as soon as they are on the playground. The classroom and Junior entrance doors will open at 8.40 a.m. and pupils can come into school anytime from this time until 8.50 a.m., the official school start time. Pupils who arrive late, after 8.50 a.m., will need to report to the school office (with their parent). Please note that older pupils coming to school by themselves should not arrive before 8.40 a.m.

I would encourage you to wave 'goodbye' in the playground and allow the pupils to enter by themselves, but obviously if you have an important message for the class teacher you can accompany them to the classroom door. Please remember, however, that I would like the teachers to be greeting each and every pupil and therefore would ask you only to do this if it is urgent.

Either I, or Mrs. Kemp (the Deputy Head), will continue to try to be out on the playground in the mornings from 8.40 a.m. onwards, whenever possible and will be available if any parents want 'a quick word.'

Thank you for your support of these rules/reminders which are there to ensure the safety and well-being of all pupils.

Finally, the teachers, support staff and I are looking forward to working with your children over the next few months. Annual written reports will be sent home on Friday 5 July when you will also be informed about class/teacher allocations for September; but if you have any queries or concerns as the term progresses, then please feel free to either 'pop in' and speak to one of us, or make an appointment to do so, if necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Timothy Bowen
Headteacher