



Unit Newsletter Autumn 2017

We hope you have all enjoyed the holidays and the children are relaxed and ready for the new term.

Kieran and Max have now left us to join Year 7 at Beaumont School (St. Albans) and Chauncy School (Ware). Arminah and Ashar have joined us in Reception. This term Mrs When will continue to teach all week and Mrs Baldwin will teach on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Mrs Wells and Mrs Moloney will continue to support us, along with Mrs Armitage, Mrs Butler. Mrs Hitchcock will be teaching in the Unit on Monday and Tuesday mornings for the first half of this term, prior to an additional Teaching Assistant appointment being made.

Please check which dates effect you and your child and make a note of them in your diaries.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 4th September | Term starts |
| Monday 11th September | Parent's start of Year meeting for Year 1 at 2.30pm (CR) |
| Tuesday 12th September | Parent's start of Year meeting for year 2 at 2.30pm (AV) |
| Wednesday 13th September | Parent's start of Year meeting for Year 3 at 2.30pm (SG) |
| Thursday 14th September | Parent's start of Year meeting for Year 5 at 2.30pm (KO)
Parent's start of Year meeting for Year 6 at 7 to 9.15pm (OF, |
| KS and ND) | |
| Friday 15th September | Parent's start of year meeting for Year 4 at 2.30pm (AS) |
| Weds 20th to Fri 22th | Consultations for new Reception parents (pm) on one afternoon (AB and AK) |
| Tuesday 3rd October | Curriculum Meeting for new Reception entrants 7.30pm to 9:00pm (AB and AK) |
| Thursday 5th October | Harvest Assembly for the whole school. Children to please bring a Harvest gift. |
| Tuesday 17th October | Parent consultations -3:30pm to 8pm. (all pupils) |
| Thursday 19th October | Parent consultations -3:30pm to 8pm. (all pupils) |

Friday 20th October INSET day school closed.

Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October Half term

Friday 10th November Individual photos.

Friday 8th December Key stage 2 Christmas Craft Day.

Saturday 9th Christmas Fair (provisional date)

Tuesday 12th December 2:00 pm Christmas Production for parents, siblings and grandparents. (CR and AV).

Wednesday 13th December 9:00am Reception Christmas Performance for parents, siblings and grandparents. (AB and AK).

Christmas production to parents 6pm. (CR and AV).

Thursday 14th December Christmas Production to parents 6pm. (CR and AV).

Friday 15th December Carol service 2pm at St. Peter's Church.

Tuesday 19th December Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 19th Junior Disco from 6:30 to 8pm. (SG, AS, KO, OF, ND, KS,)

Wednesday 20th December term ends 1:30pm (Return Thursday 4th Jan.)

ANNUAL REVIEWS

KAS: Tuesday 26th September at 2.00pm

ND: Tuesday 17th October at 2.00pm

OF: Tuesday 14th November at 2.00pm

AS: Tuesday 5th December at 1.15pm

AB: Tuesday 5th December at 2.30pm

REMINDERS:

- It is always helpful if you can let us have photos or a little note regarding your child's activities over the weekends or holidays. The children are keen to tell us about their lives out of school but without visual resources it is difficult to develop their language skills.
- Homework for the Unit pupils in the **Juniors** is handed out on Friday, along with weekly spellings. The folder needs to be returned on the following Thursday. This year, Maths homework will be online. The children should read with you every day. The spellings from the Friday are tested from Monday onwards, so need to be learnt over the weekend. As parents ourselves we appreciate that completing homework can be a chore, but it is a vital part of your child's educational development. Planning and

marking homework is extra work for us, but we do it because it is proven to be beneficial for children. However, our workload is significantly increased if all homework is not handed in punctually. We would therefore ask for your cooperation in supporting your child with completing their homework and **handing it in on time**. Your child may also be asked to do some class homework by their class teacher.

- The children will be allocated books to read on 'Bug Club'. The books are online and the children can access them by using their personal username and password. The books are interactive and fun. We have had very positive feedback from the children who enjoy the books and reward system. As always, we ask that you read with your child, questioning, checking understanding and explaining new vocabulary and concepts. Please read the tips below for helping your child with reading, maths and writing.
- Please could you make sure your child has a supply of batteries in school.
- Please make sure you read the Home/School book each day and return it to your child's book bag. It is the method we use to communicate with parents who we do not see regularly.
- You can see some of the activities your child is involved in, photos from school trips etc. by following the Unit's twitter feed -twitter.com/mapleschoolunit.

If you have any questions or queries please do come and see us, phone us, email theunit@maple.herts.sch.uk or put a note in the Home/School book. We thank you for your continued help and support.

From the Unit team.

Helping your child with reading, maths and writing.



Learning is as much an **emotional** activity as an **intellectual** one so.....

- ✓ Set up a relaxed atmosphere.
- ✓ Make your input into reading and maths different from school - less teaching and more learning together.
- ✓ Make learning a game where the adult and child can equally guess or win - or such that the child sees that they are equal in the activity.
- ✓ **Read with a cuddle.**
- ✓ Always **praise** the child at the end of each small activity.
- ✓ Give feedback about what they did well - a beautifully written number, a good thought process, their 'stick ability' at a task.
- ✓ Avoid rewards of a more pleasurable variety - 'you can ride your bike once you've done your homework' as this sets the tone that reading is a poor choice and a chore. Better to say 'we have 3 great things we can do, what order shall we do them in?'
The outcome may be the same but the message is much more positive.
- ✓ You may have negative feelings about your own experience of reading and maths. Think of the positive applications of reading and maths in your life today and feed those into your conversations e.g. 'I can't wait to read the travel brochure for our next holiday.'

- ✓ Make reading an everyday occurrence- reading the cereal packet, signs, a newspaper headline etc. - **not a lesson.**
- ✓ Invite your child to read to other members of the family, siblings, even (non-judgemental) pets!
- ✓ TV series and films can lead to story books.
- ✓ Read repetitive stories when children are young, encouraging them to read along with the familiar lines, pointing to the words as you go eg. *Going on a Bear Hunt*.
- ✓ Talk about the book, its illustrations/ cover what will happen next, what was the best bit etc.
- ✓ Boys and girls like different types of books eg boys may like books with data and factual detail, so choose books accordingly.
- ✓ Boys may be less interested in reading, so male adults need to be seen as role models and be seen reading.

Remember!

- Good reading comes from speaking so ask questions and build conversation time into your day.
- Speak in sentences using adjectives and verbs - so an 'incredible blustery day' rather than 'great wind'.
- Play word games
- Play 'I - spy' when taking a walk or drive.
- Build vocabulary
- Buy a children's dictionary. Maybe choose a 'word of the day' and make a game of how it can be used.

