



# Year 1 Newsletter

## Summer 2017

Dear All,

I hope you have all had a lovely holiday. Here are a few details about the term ahead.

Our Science topic this term is 'How does your Garden grow?' We will be exploring plants and trees that grow in the local area. The children will become familiar with the common names of flowers and trees and have a go at planting a sunflower seed and observing and recording how it grows. We are hoping to visit a local garden centre, details of which will follow shortly.

In Design and Technology the children will be designing and making a healthy sandwich. They will then practise being TV Chefs and film themselves making their sandwich using the class ipads.

In Computing we will also be illustrating a traditional tale using painting and drawing software and in R.E. we will be learning about special religious books and stories. If your child has a **special book** that they would like to share with the class, please could they bring it in **as soon as possible**, as we will start the topic by talking about books that are special to them.

Children will continue to have Read Write Inc lessons every day. In class we will be reinforcing the skills learnt in further English activities and through guided reading sessions. Please support your child's individual reading at home through short and daily reading sessions and continue to use the Reading Diary as before. It is important that you write in the reading diaries what your child is reading at home so that we can see the books your child is reading without our support and find out how they are doing, to help inform our assessments.

Children will continue to take home spellings to learn on a **Friday**, which will be either common words for Year One or spelling patterns based around the Read Write Inc book the children have been reading in school. These spellings will then be checked the following **Friday**. Thank you for your continued support with helping your child with their spellings.

Every **Monday** we will continue to visit the school Library and the children can choose a book, either fiction or non-fiction, to take home. Please can the children bring the book back to school on the following Monday - even if they want to keep the book for another week as it will then be "renewed" using the computerised system.

### Phonics Screening Check for all Year 1 children

The phonics screening check is a statutory assessment for all children in Year 1. It will take place during the week starting 12th June. The children will read a mix of 40 real and nonsense words. The results of the test will be reported with the annual written reports.

### How Can I Help My Child at Home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise - get them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to read a word, help them by encouraging them to use 'Fred Talk' to say each sound in the word from left to right.

Our work in Maths continues to include lots of oral work and number games to help the children's learning, especially their mental skills. This term we shall be working on adding and subtracting 1 and 2-digit numbers. We will also be working on recognising and knowing the value of coins, recognising halves and quarters of shapes and numbers and learning how to solve "word" problems using the skills from all the topics we have covered. We will also be measuring weight and capacity, and using tables, pictograms and block graphs. We will continue to practise our x2, x5 and x10 tables and telling the time to the half and quarter hour on analogue and digital clocks. Mental maths skills will continue to be developed through the use of our weekly 'Big Maths' timed challenge which will enhance the speed of recall of the number bonds (2+8 = / 7-4= etc).

Maths and SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) homework will continue to be sent home on Fridays. Even though this is optional, we encourage children to do it with their parents, as it really helps to consolidate their learning in these areas.

P.E. takes place on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**. We hope to be using the field for athletics/games activities and the children will need a pair of **trainers** for this. Please also ensure that your child has a **pair of socks** in their P.E bag. A reminder to make sure that all items of clothing are clearly named. As the weather warms up and children take their jumpers off outside it can be extremely difficult to get your jumpers/cardigans back to you if they have not been named!

Please also remember to bring in a named water bottle. Children should take these home every day to be re-filled for the following morning.

Birthdays will continue to be celebrated in class and the children can bring in cards and one present they have received.

Finally, notices and messages from us will be placed on the windows or sent via parent mail/ brought home by the children. Also, please remember to look out on the school website <http://www.maple.herts.sch.uk/> and our twitter account @MapleSchoolYr1 for class updates.

Show and Tell will continue on a Friday afternoon. Please see the separate rota.

If you have any questions or queries please come and see us. If we cannot speak there and then we will arrange a mutually convenient time. We are looking forward to the busy term ahead and, hopefully, some warm weather! Thank you for your continued help and support.

Mrs Younger, Mrs Turner and Mrs Mann.

**Don't forget:**

- **Open Evening on: Weds 26<sup>th</sup> April 5.30pm to 7.30pm**

