



Welcome to Year 1!



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year. We hope that you all had a great summer holiday! We are looking forward to a busy and exciting term ahead...

Mrs Younger will teach the class on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Mrs Hitchcock will teach the class on a Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday. We will have 2 Teaching Assistants, Mrs Gibson will be in the class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Mrs Martin will be in on a Tuesday and Thursday. Mrs Gibson will teach the class for part of Monday afternoons and Friday afternoons to cover the teachers' Planning, Preparation and Assessment time.

Our History topic this term is 'Toys.' We will start by talking about toys in general and the children will have the opportunity to share their special toys in class. The children have been asked to **bring in their favourite toy** from home on **Wednesday 13th September**. We will also be looking at toys from the past. If you have any toys from when you or even your parents were young we would love to see them and show them to the rest of the class. We will make sure we handle any delicate items very carefully! We will then go on to look at lives of significant individuals in the past. In Geography we will be looking at weather in the UK.

Our Science activities this term includes work on the uses of everyday materials. We will be identifying, testing and comparing different materials. You can support your child at home by asking your child to name and describe different materials, and begin to describe their properties, for example, bendy, hard, soft etc.

Other topics we will study this term are:

R.E. - Creation and Harvest traditions, Light, personal reflection and Christmas

Computing - Using programmable toys and creating an electronic Christmas card.

D&T - Food - Make a healthy snack.

P.E. - Throwing & catching and Dance

Music - Rhythm work; singing; Hip hop style music and Christmas songs.

Children will continue to have Read Write Inc Phonics lessons every day. In class we will be reinforcing these skills in further English activities and through guided reading sessions. Please support your child's individual reading at home through short and regular reading sessions and continue to use the Reading Diary as before. It is important to write in the reading diary as it provides a crucial link between you and us and helps us all to support and further your child's reading. The children will be responsible for changing their individual reading books. They will choose 2 books each week providing they have returned their previous weeks books. We will remind the children to choose a new book out of the appropriate coloured box. We will move your child up to the next reading level when we feel

they are ready, based on Guiding reading sessions, individual reading and comprehension skills. There is a Year 1 recommended reading list on the school website.

Children will be given spellings to learn at home and these will be put in their red spelling book. These books need to be in school on **Fridays when the children will have a spelling check and new spellings for the next week will be stuck in.** These spellings will be based around the phonics the children have been learning in school. Please support your child to learn these spellings.

We will be visiting the library each week on a Wednesday afternoon, when the children will have a chance to choose a new library book, if they have returned their old one. We need a volunteer(s) to help the children to change their books, so if you think this is something you can help us with one afternoon, then please do let us know.

Our work in Maths includes lots of oral work and number games to support the children's learning. We shall be counting in 1s to 20 and then on to 100, working on place value and counting in 10s from a multiple of 10. We will be learning addition for pairs of numbers and subtracting 1- digit numbers from teen numbers. We will be using the vocabulary 'more than' and 'less than' and comparing length using non-standard units. We are also learning the days of the week and the seasons of the year, learning the names and properties of common 2D shapes. Lastly we will be learning the doubles up to 5 and learning about coins and their values.

P.E. takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the daily run will continue as before. We hope to be using the field for games activities. Children must have a pair of trainers in school as we cannot let them do P.E. in their school shoes. As the weather gets cooler please ensure your child has a pair of jogging bottoms and long sleeve top or jumper. **Please ensure that all items of clothes are clearly named.**

Weekly homework will include daily reading practice, weekly spellings to learn and an additional, optional maths task. This may be a worksheet, activity/game to do at home or an online activity. This will come home on a Friday and be due in by the following Thursday.

Water Bottles will be sent home **every night** for a good wash and need to come back into school **every morning with fresh water.**

At the end of the day we dismiss the children from the classroom. They will only be allowed to go once we can see the adult picking them up. **If your child is going home with someone different from normal please can you fill out the form that will be on the window just inside Year 1 and remind the person picking up about the password!** Please do this before the whistle blows at 8:50 to avoid congestion at the classroom door - thank you!

Show and Tell will take place on a Thursday. Children are encouraged to bring in something that they would like to share with the class. An additional letter will be sent home next week with more information and a rota so that you know which week will be your child's turn.

Birthdays will be celebrated within the class. The children may bring in one present and a few cards to share with the class.

Finally, we will put messages from us on the window and send them on parent mail. Please remember to look out on the school website, <http://www.maple.herts.sch.uk/> for school news and our twitter account @MapleSchoolYr1 for class updates.

We hope that you will come along to the 'Welcome to Y1' parents information meeting on Monday 11th September at 2.30pm, when we will give you more information about life in Year 1.

If, during the term, 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.

With thanks for your support,

Mrs Younger, Mrs Hitchcock, Mrs Gibson and Mrs Martin.



Year 1



I am often asked: "What can we do at home to help our child(ren)?" Here are some suggestions! I hope they are useful for you.

Reading:

Enjoy books together and share the reading, particularly books borrowed from the library. If a child is stuck on a word that is phonetically decodable, help them to sound it out phonetically, e.g. c-a-t or sh-o-p and then blend the sounds together to read the word. If a word is not phonetically decodable, phonetically sound out the parts of the word that can be sounded out and then discuss the tricky bit and why it is tricky. For example, the word 'was' is tricky. Discuss that the 'w' makes the usual sound but the letters 'a and s' are not making the sound that you would expect. You can then point out similar spelling patterns in the books you share with your child over the next few weeks. Try not to just give your child a word they are struggling with, but rather support them to work it out. You may be able to look at the initial sound of a word and then use the pictures on the page as clues.

This is a web page that has a video of the articulation of all the sounds we teach children in school <http://www.ruthmiskintraining.com/en/resources/sound-pronunciation-guide/>. Talk about the story, the events and the characters and ask your child to predict what may happen next in fiction books. This will help to develop higher order reading skills, as will talking about the information/the things found out from non-fiction books. Remember, it is not just about reading the words on the page, understanding the story is just as important. Remember that reading is not just about books, look for labels, signs, adverts etc!

Writing: Notes, post cards, lists, letters, messages, reminders on post its, thank you cards, name places are all useful. Write notes to your children with questions to encourage notes back!

Maths:

- Sorting and counting money and other objects, from pasta to teddies!
- Counting forwards and backwards from 1 to 20 and then from a given number, e.g, 6 to 20. Extend above 20 once children are confident with 0 to 20. This can be done while going up and down the stairs, in the car etc.
- Reading and forming numbers, look at number plates, price tags etc.
- Board and dice games.
- Telling the time and talking about what time things like dinner happen.
- Estimating questions such as, "How many shoes do you think are on the rack?" Children do not need to give an exact answer but they should think about whether their answer makes sense.
- Remember to use your maths pack to support.