



MAPLE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ST. ALBANS

4th January, 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

Maple staff and I are delighted to welcome your children back to school today, following the Christmas holiday.

After all of their hard work throughout the Autumn Term and the excitement of the Christmas season, I hope that the children have had a good break, are feeling refreshed and are looking forward to a stimulating term ahead. The staff have planned lots of exciting activities culminating with our traditional Special Events Week which, this year, will have a Musical Theatre Theme.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the many parents, carers and children who generously gave me an end of term gift - your thoughtfulness and kind words are very much appreciated.

Key Dates for the term

A list of Key Dates for the term is attached to this letter. Further information about various forthcoming events will be sent out in due course, as appropriate.

Termly class newsletters, from the teachers, will be sent home this Friday (5th January).

On Wednesday 31st January, an ensemble of children from Years 4, 5 and 6 will be singing at a Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena.

Parent/Teacher consultations for all parents will take place on Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th February. Further details will be sent in due course.

Advance Notice: We will be holding our annual Open Evening, when parents and pupils are invited to come and tour the school to see examples of work undertaken throughout the year, on Wednesday 24th April, from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

PE Lessons / Playtimes

Children are expected to take part in PE lessons and go outside at playtimes.

If there are exceptional circumstances which prevent this, then it is essential that the matter is discussed in advance with the relevant class teacher.

Snow

Please find attached a separate letter regarding arrangements for opening / closing school, in the event of a moderate / heavy snowfall. Please read this carefully and keep for future reference.

Your attention is drawn in particular to a) the flexible opening time and b) the possible request for the children to bring packed lunches.

In the event of snowfall, a request will be made for parents to assist in clearing the car park and the paths around the school, both before the start of the school day and in the early part of the morning. The more parents who can help, the quicker the grounds can be made safe and the play area for the children increased. I would therefore greatly appreciate it if as many parents as possible would give of their time to assist in snow clearance if required. Please bring your own shovel if you have one, although we do have some school shovels for parents to use.

Charity Collections

As a result of the collections at the end of the Infants' Christmas Production performances last term, we were able to make a donation of £507.51 to support our chosen local charity, Open Door (assisting people at risk of homelessness).

In addition, your generous donations to the foodbank collection also meant that many families benefited from some wonderful treats over the holidays.

Thank you for your support and kindness.

Ill Health Guidance

If your child is physically sick or has diarrhoea, then the advice from School Health is that you should keep him/her off school for a full 48 hours, to reduce the likelihood of any spread of infection. I would ask all parents to please follow this advice. We also strongly encourage the children to use antibacterial hand gel after washing their hands, having been to the toilet and before having lunch. Reminders from home about doing so would also be appreciated, so the children continue to use the gel regularly.

A few other reminders

Please continue to use the one-way system for entering and leaving the school grounds - this ensures ease of movement, especially on the path to Hall Place Gardens, and is an important safeguarding measure.

Please allow sufficient time for your journeys to school to ensure that your children have been dropped off in time for them to enter the classrooms from 8.40 a.m. onwards and no later than 8.45 a.m. when the staff will be shutting the outside doors to enable a prompt start to registration and lessons. The school gates will also be shut at 8.45 a.m.

Towards the end of last term, we noticed an increasing number of parents dropping off their children late - after 8.45 a.m. It is very important that the children are in class promptly and not late for school.

School ends at 3.15 p.m. From 3.15 p.m. onwards, when the children are dismissed, the playground is not supervised and the children should be collected and supervised by their parents/carers, who are responsible for their behaviour and safety. Older children, who are walking home by themselves, are not allowed to stay and play in the playground unsupervised. The children are not permitted to play on the apparatus or play on equipment before or after school; ball games on the Top Playground are also not permitted before or after school, unless as part of an organised club. Also, please ensure that pre-school children do not play on the apparatus at these times.

For safety reasons, parents should not park in the school car park or drop off / pick up children there at the start and end of the school day. Pedestrians should enter school via the front gate.

Parents who are dropping-off and picking-up children for Re:play breakfast and after-school club may use the staff car park before 8.00 a.m. and after 4.30 p.m, but not in-between.

Many thanks in advance for your co-operation in following the above points.

Finally, I hope that this term is a happy and successful one for your children. I look forward to meeting with you either in the playground at the start or end of the school day, at one of the events or at the parent/teacher consultations.

Kind regards,
Shanti Johnson
Headteacher