

MAPLE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ST. ALBANS

15th April, 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the Summer Term!

It was lovely to welcome your children back to school today after the Easter break. We hope that the Summer Term will be a special time at school, with some warm and sunny weather for the children to enjoy the field and the outdoor apparatus.

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.

Also attached to this letter is a list dates for the next academic year (2024 / 2025).

I am mindful that many of you may want to book holiday dates in advance. By giving you these dates now, I trust 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 24th April

We are delighted to be able to welcome you to an Open Evening on Wednesday 24th April from 5.30 to 7.00 p.m. 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 'Magic of the Musicals' 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 name badges to enable you to identify them, if necessary.

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>

BALL GAMES ON THE FIELD

When it is dry, the children will be able to play ball games on the field on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Friday will be a 'ball free' day across the school. The school will provide balls for use during playtimes. Children should not bring their own balls from home.

HOT WEATHER

It is possible 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 sunhats/caps to wear and, if appropriate, 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. Please ensure that your child has a water bottle that is clearly named.

A FEW REMINDERS

A polite reminder that at 3.15 p.m. or as soon as the pupils are dismissed, they should be supervised by their parents/carers. The children are not allowed on the top playground, 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 deaf children 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.

We do have a soft 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 8.45 a.m., the official school start time. Pupils who arrive late, after 8.45 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 if you do have an important message for the class teacher you can accompany them to the classroom door. Please remember, however, that the teachers like to greet each and every pupil and therefore I would ask you only to do this if it is urgent.

The side gate nearest the School Office window will be locked at 3.30pm daily to ensure that the site is secure once children have been collected. Please note, however, that if a sports match is taking place, the gate will remain open until 4.30pm in order to allow parents/carers to watch the match. All afterschool clubs will dismiss children from the front of the school.

I will continue to try to be out on the playground in the mornings from 8.40 a.m. onwards, and at the end of the day at 3.15 p.m. whenever possible and will be available if any parents / carers 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, Annual Written Reports will be sent home on Friday 5th July when you will also be informed about class/teacher allocations for September.

The teachers, support staff and I are looking forward to working with your children over the next few months. If you have any queries or concerns as the term progresses, then please feel free to contact us via email or telephone, or make an appointment to do so, if necessary.

Kind regards,
Shanti Johnson

Headteacher