

Dear parents / carers

Welcome to the Summer Term! This will be a very different type of term to the Summer Term that we were expecting at the beginning of the school year. Both us, as teachers, and you, as parents and carers, are finding ourselves in a position where we are trying to deliver the curriculum in a very unusual way.

At present every Monday we will post suggestions for school work on our website on your child's Year Group page. As a school, we will not be offering online lessons. Despite the staffing constraints, in some cases health constraints, we are operating under, we are currently reviewing plans to offer Google Classroom to enable access to further activities. We intend to introduce this on a rolling programme over the next few weeks.

You may be aware that BBC Bitesize have created a detailed programme of daily on-line lessons for all primary age groups. This may be a useful resource for you to supplement or vary the school-based work that has been set by the teachers. As a school we are very happy for you to make use of this valuable resource.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

In the week ahead the teachers will be reviewing the new Oak National Academy materials for on-line lessons / learning, that was announced by the Government yesterday. These are materials for teachers to further support home-learning.

In the term ahead we will ensure that there will be a variety of home learning tasks set each week that are in line with the work that your child would have been covering in the classroom. We are very mindful of the fact that we are not able to teach new concepts and methods in the methodical and detailed way we would at school. However, we will seek to introduce them within and through the home learning set and we will ensure that guidance is given where appropriate, including learning objectives. Learning resources in a range of media will be used. If your child develops a particular interest in one of the topics, then this will be a fantastic opportunity to explore this with them in a variety of different ways. Please do not feel constrained by the suggestions that we give - use this opportunity to ignite your child's natural curiosity and desire to learn in a way that is best suited to him/her.

In the current climate, we are unable to accept any work in for marking, but you may like to share photographs of some of the best pieces of work with your child's class teacher by emailing photographs to [admin@maple.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@maple.herts.sch.uk) Many of the websites that we will suggest will give the answers to the tasks set, therefore providing some valuable feedback for your child. Your feedback - correct answers, what has been done well, suggestions for improvement - will also encourage your child and help him/her to progress. In addition, you may like to save your child's completed work in a 'special file' from this unprecedented situation to look back on and discuss in times to come.

Many of us teachers have children of our own, so we fully appreciate how stressful educating your own child can be! Both teaching and learning at home is very different to teaching and learning in the classroom. We do understand that children often behave differently at home than they do at school and they will respond differently to a teacher than they will to a parent / carer. At school, we have, on average, 30 pupils in a class so everything we do in a day will naturally take longer. In the classroom we account for transition times, interactions and inevitable interruptions. Different levels of need means that children take differing amounts of time to complete tasks and this must be factored in to the time that the child spends focused on their learning. The wonderful advantage that you have at home is that you can give your child the necessary time to complete a task - you will need to judge how much time needs to be given to a task for your child to achieve to the best of their ability and you will know if they have put in the necessary effort.

There is no magic answer to the question 'How long should they be doing schoolwork each day?' However, the suggestions below may help you to structure your child's home learning. You are in the best position to decide how to structure the day, depending on the age, ability and needs of your child, along with your personal work commitments.

A typical day at school for the very small number of children of key workers (during temporary closure) is as follows:

9.00-9.30	9.30 - 10.30	10.30 - 11.00	11.00 - 12.00	12.00-1.15	1.15 - 2.30	2.30 - 2.45	2.45 - 3.15
PE with Joe Wicks (YouTube)  Or  Daily run (laps around the field)	English Task  To include time for pre task discussion, planning, writing, proof reading, editing and sharing the final version.	Break  Outdoor play	Maths Task  To include mental warm up (counting, times tables recall, maths game), calculation practice, reasoning response.	Lunch  Outdoor play	Foundation Subject Task  Different approaches, including:  Art ICT D&T Investigation Reading Writing Discussion Research	Break  Outdoor play	Story / Reading

You and your child will experience a range of emotions from frustration to elation when embarking on home learning. We know that you will be doing your best for your child and we appreciate that this may not always be easy. In their own way, your child will be

missing school -their friends, the staff, the playground, the structure, possibly even the work! Whilst social distancing, many of you, we know, will be exploring different ways for your children to keep in contact with each other- or perhaps even learn together - using such platforms as Zoom or Houseparty. Your child's (and your own) mental health is just as important as their physical health and their academic progress, especially in these times.

As a staff, we share your concerns and we do miss teaching your children. Although we do not know when school will be 'back to normal', we are looking forward to settling back into routine and teaching your children in the classroom as soon as we are able.

In the meantime, if your children are missing us, they are invited to watch a short video message that has been prepared. A special thank you to Mr. Feather (Yr 2 parent) for his expertise.

<https://vimeo.com/404624059>

Password: Maple2020

Wishing you and your families well.

Tim Bowen - Headteacher

Shanti Johnson - Assistant Headteacher