

Reception  
Autumn Term 2023



Dear All,

Welcome to the Reception Class at Maple Primary School. We hope you all had a lovely summer break and are ready for the exciting term ahead. Our main priority in these first few weeks is to get to know your children, for them to feel safe and happy in their new environment and ultimately for them to enjoy coming to school. We understand that the children and you may be feeling nervous about starting school but we will do everything we can to ensure the children have a smooth start to Reception. We look forward to seeing the progress they make in their learning and development across the year.

**Weekly Routines and Reminders:**

- Our **PE** day is **Thursday**, where we will have our formal lesson in the hall/field. The children will not need their P.E kits in school this half term as we will not be getting changed until the second half of the Autumn Term. Outside physical activity will take place most days along with our daily run, on the running track around the field. When we will begin getting changed for our PE lesson, the children should wear Maple PE kit, trainers and an appropriate tracksuit if necessary - either a plain and unbranded tracksuit top and bottom, or a Maple school hoodie and suitable leggings/jogging bottoms (school colours). No football team or high fashion tracksuits should be worn. Please could you ensure that all items of clothing are named.
- The children often work outside during the course of the day so they should be sent with a warm/waterproof coat and appropriate footwear every day; we recommend trainers or sturdy shoes (no sandals or crocs please).
- **Shoes** - The shoes they wear to school (black trainers or black school shoes) will be the shoes they wear all day. As the weather changes children can bring in a pair of wellies to keep at school if they would like to (these will be used when we take our learning outside and during our Forest School lessons).
- Please send your child with their book bag everyday as this is used for their books, any letters, information or pieces of work.
- **Water Bottles** - these will be sent home **every night** for a good wash and need to come back into school every morning with fresh water.
- Over the course of the year we will be doing cooking sessions and food tasting. Please could you let us know if your child is allergic to any foods, or has any dietary restrictions.
- **Library** - The children will visit the school library on a Thursday; our first visit will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September. They will get to choose a book to take home for 1 week. Please make sure the library book is kept in the bag so they can swap it during their library visit.
- We will provide your child with a reading book wallet for them to keep all their school books and reading diary in (this will come home once they are in full time). Please encourage your child to use this wallet as it will help keep the books in good condition and prevent them from getting wet from any water bottle spillages.
- When you collect your child, please could we ask you to make yourself visible to your child and the teacher when they come out, as it is hard to spot individual people quickly. Your child will not be dismissed until you have been acknowledged. Please be patient with us as it may take a little while initially for us to recognise all your faces and link them to the right child! **If your child is going home with someone different from normal please can**

**you let one of us know or email the office. We use a password system for when somebody other than yourselves is collecting your child.**

- Children including pre-school children are **not** allowed to play on the apparatus or in the Reception garden area before and after school.
- If there is any relevant information, we should know that may affect your child's behaviour or mood in school (such as if a parent is away on business, a grandparent is poorly, a pet has died or changes in your home situation etc) please could you let us know as this helps us respond appropriately to them.
- Whilst your child is still settling into the school routine, we will be assessing them in their main areas of learning which we will be sharing with you during the October consultations.
- **Reading** - The children will take part in guided reading sessions alongside phonics within Read Write Inc lessons. This will all be explained in the Curriculum presentation evening on **27<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.**
- **'Show and Tell'** will take place on a **Friday**. This provides an opportunity for your child to bring into school items such as souvenirs and photos from visits, models they have made, a book or game they like to use at home so they can share their outside experiences with the class. Please ensure your child is prepared to talk about their item and answer questions from the children. We ask however that they do not bring in toys. A rota system operates to ensure all children have an opportunity to participate. This will begin on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September and groups for this will be emailed to you. They will also be put on Google classroom and the classroom window.

### **Staffing**

We have two teachers in our class Mrs Hitchcock (Monday - Wednesday) and Miss Baylis (Thursday and Friday). We have three Teaching Assistants (TA's) working in our class - Mrs Hobbs (Wed-Fri), Mrs Saltmer (Mon and Tues) and Mrs Davies (Mon - Fri).

Mrs Hobbs will teach the class in her role as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant on a Wednesday afternoon covering Mrs Hitchcock's PPA time.

### **Reminders**

**Week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> September** - children start full time, finishing school at **3.15pm**

**When the children are in full time the school day timings are:**

School start time: 8.40-8.45am (the gates will be locked at 8.50am)

School finish time: 3.15pm pick-up.

Please continue to wait with your child outside the gate in the mornings. Thank you for your cooperation and support. We look forward to getting to know you as we all work together to make your child's first year at Maple School a happy and successful one. We are looking forward to the busy term ahead and we hope that this newsletter is helpful. If, during the term, you have any questions or queries please email us or make an appointment to see us at a mutually convenient time.

**Google Classroom** – We will be using Google Classroom to set optional homework tasks and communicating group messages and reminders to parents. Please go onto Google Classroom to join the class (our class code is: **c4viu3r**). If you are unable to join or don't have access then please let us know and we will make alternative arrangements.

**Next week** - Our first topic of the year is 'Marvellous Me!'. As part of our topic we would like to celebrate the children's different nationalities and the countries that are important to them and their family. Please bring in a photo or drawing of your child and write on the back the countries that are important to them and any languages they speak/ understand. These photos will be used on a display board in school. Please label the photo with your child's name and put it in your child's book bag. Any questions, then see a member of the Reception team.

With thanks for your support.

Mrs Hitchcock, Miss Baylis and the Reception Team