



# Welcome to Year 1!



Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school term in Year 1! We are looking forward to a busy and exciting term ahead.

Mrs Kite will teach the class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings and Mrs Turner will teach the class on Wednesday afternoons, Thursdays and Fridays. The class Teaching Assistants will be Mrs Martin on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and Miss Giddens on a Wednesday. Mrs Martin will teach the class for part of Tuesday 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 **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> 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. If your child would prefer to bring in a photograph of their favourite toy or of an old toy, that would be fine too.

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:

Geography - Looking at the UK and what the weather is like during the 4 seasons.

R.E. – Being thankful & Harvest traditions and festivals of light including Christmas.

Computing – Making a short film and Creating an electronic Christmas card.

D&T – Food Technology: Making a healthy snack.

P.E. – Outdoor games/skills and Dance

Music – Rhythm work, Hip hop style music and Playing percussion instruments.

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 but we will give them regular reminders. They will choose 2 or 3 books each week providing they have returned their previous weeks books. It is important that your child reads a book several times as re-reading a text helps to build their fluency and reinforce their word recognition. 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. Please remember to also read the Bug Club books that we allocate the children online. Your username and password is the same as it was in Reception. We will replenish these regularly.

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 story book the children have been reading in school. Words are often repeated in their spellings, in order to help them 'stick' in their long term memories. Please support your child to learn these spellings.

We will be visiting the library on alternate Thursday afternoons, when the children will have a chance to choose a new library book, if they have returned their old one.

Our Maths work will include lots of oral work and number games to support their learning. This term we shall be using positional language & ordinal numbers, finding patterns in numbers, counting & comparing, estimating & ordering, solving addition & subtraction problems, doing problem solving investigations, doubling & halving, exploring odd & even numbers and the names & properties of 2d and 3d shapes.

P.E. takes place on **Mondays and Wednesdays** and the daily run will continue as before. We hope to be outside as much as possible for P.E. **Due to new Covid prevention regulations, the children should now come to school on these 2 days in their Maple P.E. kit, including an appropriate pair of trainers. They will come home in their P.E. kits at the end of the day so will not need school uniform on these days.** As the weather gets cooler, the children should wear a plain/unbranded tracksuit top and bottom or a Maple school hoodie and suitable leggings/jogging bottoms. If your child forgets to wear their P.E. kit on a P.E. day, they will have to do P.E. in their normal school uniform. **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, an activity or a game to do at home or an online activity. This will be set on Google Classroom every Friday. The Year 1 code for access to Goggle Classroom is 2bn7csc. If you cannot access Google classroom, please let us know. There is no need to send in this completed work to school. The homework set on Google Classroom is put on there for your information, it is not for a 2-way conversation, so comments will not be monitored and replied to on the Google Classroom platform. Therefore, please come and see us or email the office if there are problems or queries about the homework.

**Every child needs a named water bottle** in school and this will be sent home **every night** for a good wash and needs 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 outside of the classroom window using your own pen, and remind the person picking up about the password.** Your passwords will be the same as in Reception. If you wish to change it, please see one of the teachers.

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 Monday Messages.

Alongside this newsletter, will be a Powerpoint with more information about life in Year 1. This is usually presented to parents at our start of year parents meeting, which will not be happening this year. Please do not hesitate to come and see us or email, if you have any questions, queries or concerns. If we cannot speak there and then, we will arrange a mutually convenient time.

With thanks for your support,

Mrs Kite, Mrs Turner and the Year 1 Team.