

Kindness and Co-operation	Thankfulness	Friendship and Sharing	Respect	Patience and Perseverance	Responsibility
Hope and Peace	Unity	Trust and Honesty	Happiness	Courage	

MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND CARERS FROM THE HEAD

It is lovely to see the children return to school with some sunshine – it feels long overdue. I am sure it goes some way to making the work feel better and the children certainly look rested after the holidays.

I am very aware that whilst there is a climate of confusion and fear surrounding school places we still remain positive. As was mentioned in the letter from Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services, immediately before Easter, we are in discussion with the Local Authority regarding the possibility of bringing our transition forwards to keep Year 4 children from this September. I would ask our current Year 4 parents to respond to the separate email sent to you to register your expression of interest with us in regards to staying at Maple Tree for Year 5 in September 2018. This is, of course, subject to any decision made by the DfE but will allow us as a school to see what the uptake could be so please respond by Wednesday 25th April. Irrespective of when this transition happens we have already started to look at our facilities and curriculum to ensure we can meet the needs of children in Upper Key Stage 2 when the time comes.

Whilst I appreciate that no news or a firm plan is unsettling, what I can assure you of is that I will endeavour to ensure that the children of Maple Tree are considered in whatever decision is made; we will keep you informed as things develop.

These are truly testing times and the thing that impresses me most is how resolute the people of Sandy are and how special our own school community is: it is something to be proud of!

Holidays During Term Time

Please see the reminder below from our Attendance Policy

Holiday requests during term time are not permitted unless there are exceptional circumstances. Exceptional covers rare, significant or unavoidable circumstances which means that the event could not reasonably be rescheduled at another time. Circumstances where absences may be regarded as exceptional will vary from school to school and family to family.

There is however, no legal entitlement for time off in school term time to go on holiday and in the majority of cases holiday will not be authorised. Parents/Carers wishing to apply for a leave of absence need to fill in an application form (available from the school office) in advance and before making any travel arrangements. If term-time leave is taken without prior permission from the school, the absence will be unauthorised and if the number of sessions of absence reaches the threshold in Central Bedfordshire Council Penalty Notice Code of Conduct (10 sessions of absence in 12 school weeks) parents/carers may be issued with a penalty notice or other legal action in accordance with the code.

Taking holidays in term time will affect your child's education as much as any other absence and we expect parents to help us by not taking children out during school time.

Maple Tree Lower School, Hawk Drive, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2WA

Tel: 01767 699806 email: mapletree@cbc.beds.sch.uk

www.mapletruelowerschool.com

Head teacher: Mrs Cath Bainbridge

Deputy Head: Mr Steve Venus

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Climbing the Branches of Success

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 20th April 2018

Before the Easter holidays the children were asked to write out a poem in their neatest handwriting for a competition. All schools in Sandy took part and the following children were the winners for Maple Tree: Isla in Year 1, Lewis in Year 2, Otis in Year 3 and Evie in Year 4.

Congratulations to these four children and also well done to all the children in Maple Tree who continue to work hard on their handwriting and presentation. Keep it up!

Please visit the library in Sandy Town centre to see the display of all the writing.

Sandy Handwriting Competition



Message from Friends of Maple Tree

Thank you to everyone who attended the Easter Egg Hunt. We hope that despite the torrential rain the children all had fun.

We have a few events planned for this term including the annual Summer Fete. If you would like to help organise the summer fete (or any other events) we have our next committee meeting on Tuesday 24th April at 7.30pm in the meeting room at school. We would love to see some new faces at the meeting. Please do let us know if you are planning to come along.



Please ensure that you have named your child's school uniform – especially at this time of year when jumpers are taken on and off regularly and are left on the playground.

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