

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



Climbing the Branches of Success



Friday 6th October 2017

MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND CARERS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Thank you to the parents who attended the Parent drop-in on Wednesday, or who sent in comments, for our discussion regarding homework. It was good to hear your thoughts and we will pass these back to staff. We have re-written our Homework Policy this year as we have made changes to the expectations we have of the children. Getting the balance of homework right is a tricky thing and we have not made any decisions lightly as we know there will be some parents who approve of the changes and some who don't but we are considering the needs currently of our children here at Maple Tree.

As a result of the changes made we are no longer sending home Learning Logs. The feedback that we got from children and parents is that whilst some really enjoyed these others found it time consuming and competitive. We will be setting short tasks according to the age and stage of the children. You will be able to see these expectations on the back page of this newsletter.

We are also very aware that times have changed since some of us were at school ourselves and processes may be different to how you learnt. There will be a letter sent out on Monday to parents of children in Key Stage 1 and 2 from Exemplar Education who are a company who offer online support in Mathematics and English. There will be a reply slip for you to fill in and return to school to show whether you are interested or not in further information from the company. If we receive 30% of the reply slips back, then they will give us 30 free site licences for the children to use in school – this would be a great resource for us to use with the children and at no cost to you or us which in this day and age is quite unusual! You do not even have to show a positive interest on the response form – you just need to send it back. Further details will be available to you in the letter that comes out on Monday. I really hope that you will take the time to send the reply slip back into school so we can all benefit from your responses.

If you have any questions regarding homework please do chat to your child's teacher. We do not want to quash the creativity of any child and should your child want to do something that matches the topic outside of school then we would, of course, love to see what they have done but this will be up to families to choose to do rather than having tasks set.

Our new Homework Policy will be on our website by half term for you to read and we will also start to use our class/year group pages on the website to share homework expectations with you as well.

Have a good weekend.

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

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

www.mapletreelowerschool.com

Executive Head: Mrs Kim McCamley

Head of School: Mrs Cath Bainbridge

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Weekly Newsletter

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AWARDS

<p>Beech Class</p> <p>Jermaine Q</p>	<p>HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS</p>	<p>Chestnut Class</p> <p>Morgan S</p>
<p>Ash Class</p> <p>Elin T</p>	<p>Willow Class</p> <p>Alex R</p>	<p>Sycamore Class</p> <p>Lewis K</p>
<p>Oak Class</p> <p>Lucca C</p>	<p>Elm Class</p> <p>Jake S</p>	<p>Cedar Class</p> <p>Harry B</p>

Attendance Award 	
The best attendance award is presented to:	
Little Saplings 91.4%	Lime 96.6 %
Chestnut 99.5%	Beech 99.5%
Ash 91.8 %	Willow 97.8%
Sycamore 98%	Oak 98.6 %
Cedar 94.3 %	Elm 99.6% 

House Point Winners
Will return next week!
Our Year 4 House Captains have been taking part in a road safety day today and have not been in school to count!

Phonics Information Session

Mrs Vickery-Cox is running another phonics session for parents of children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 on Friday 13th October 9.00-9.30am in Sycamore Class.

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Children in Need

Our School Council are busy planning our annual Children in Need fundraiser. As you will be aware the 'round' pound will cease to be in circulation after 15th October 2017. Children in Need will still be able to collect them so if you can, please spare a few for Pudsey's Round Pound Countdown. How many can you find down the back of the sofa or in a money box? Just bring them into school on Pudsey day – Friday 17th November. Thank you in advance.



AR Information Evening for Parents Wednesday 11th October 6.30pm

Mrs McCamley is holding a meeting for parents who are new to our AR (Accelerated Reader) scheme or who would like a refresher. Please do come and join us in the school hall. We value your support with your child's reading.



It is really important that children read daily as part of their homework.

IMPORTANT DATES

Autumn 1

Tuesday 10th October School photos
 Wednesday 11th October AR Parent meeting 6.30pm
 Thursday 12th October KS2 Roman Day
Friday 13th October Phonics Session for EYFS and Year 1 parents 9.00 – 9.30am
 Wednesday 18th October Parents' evening 4-6pm
 Thursday 19th October Parents' Evening 5-7.30pm
 Friday 20th October Harvest Assembly 2.30pm

Half Term 23rd – 27th October

Autumn 2

Thursday 2nd November KS1 History off the Page
 Wednesday 8th November Parent drop-in 9-10am
 Thursday 30th November Grandparents' Breakfast 8.15 – 10.30am
 Wednesday 6th December Parent drop in 9-10am
 Wednesday 13th December Reception Performance 2.30pm
 Friday 15th December Nursery Performance 11am
 Monday 18th December KS1 Performance 9.30am and 5.30pm
 Tuesday 19th December KS2 Performance 9.30am and 6pm
 Wednesday 20th December Term Ends 3.30pm

Christmas Holiday 21st Dec – 3rd Jan

Spring 1

Wednesday 3rd January INSET day
 Thursday 4th January Children return to school
 Wednesday 7th February Parents evening
 Thursday 8th February Parents evening

Half Term 12th – 16th February

Spring 2

Monday 19th February Children return to school
 Friday 9th March Family Fun session 2.30pm
 Wednesday 28th March Easter Bonnet Assembly 9.15am
 Thursday 29th March Term ends

Easter Holiday Friday 30th March – Tuesday 17th April

Summer 1

Dates for this term to be confirmed later in the Autumn Term

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Homework Expectations:

Year Group	Time to be spent daily on reading and/or spellings and number activities	Homework Expectations
Reception	5 minutes	In Reception, children are given lists of words to practise reading/sight recognition as word cards. Children will not be given written spellings to practise as in other years. Parents' are encouraged to support their children with these at home. To support maths, Reception children need to practise counting and recognising numbers. They may also need, when writing numerals, help to ensure they are written in the correct formation. The children also need to be aware of numbers around them so parents are encouraged to point these out in the environment when they see them. We do not expect them to do any formal written calculations but it would also benefit the children if they were encouraged to play counting games (board or otherwise).
Year 1	10 minutes	In Year 1, children will be given 5-10 spelling words, weekly to practise at home which are linked to sound patterns and high frequency words. They will be sent home weekly. In Years 2, children will be given 8-10 spelling words, weekly to practise at home. These will be linked to the spelling patterns and objectives they have been learning in spelling sessions. Spellings may also be linked to the high-frequency words or words from their spelling journal. To support their maths learning, KS1 will have Abacus practice set weekly – mainly in the form of games and will be expected to work on number bonds and times tables as appropriate.
Year 2	15 minutes	
Year 3	20 minutes	In Years 3- 4, children will be given 8-15 spelling words, weekly to practise at home. These will be linked to the spelling patterns and objectives they have been learning in spelling sessions. Spellings may also be linked to the high-frequency words or words from their spelling journal. KS2 will be set maths challenges on Sumdog and times tables practice weekly. At Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined above but we expect them to begin to do more tasks independently. As a general matter of course, reading or a reading activity will be continued on a daily basis.
Year 4	25 minutes	

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