

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



MAPLE TREE
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Climbing the branches of success

Newsletter

Friday 8th January 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

This week has been full on for everybody and I start with my thanks to you all for your resilience and speed at making the changes necessary to support your children with remote learning. There has been a lot of media attention on schools recently and we will aim to communicate with you some of the facts that have come out this week:

Firstly, schools are open to children of critical workers and vulnerable - if you think you meet the [criteria](#) as a critical worker and are unable to have your child(ren) at home safely then please contact us on info@mapletreepriamaryschool.com

Secondly, remote learning is expected for all children who are not in school. We will provide what is needed for your children. The government guidance has been updated and now states that KS1 (Years 1-2) should be receiving 3 hours per day and KS2 (Years 3-6) 4 hours per day. We totally appreciate that you are not home-schooling - that is something you elect to do - you haven't had a choice in this and we do not expect you to be able to teach the children in the same way we do.

Plans that we send home mirror what is being taught in class so that the children are, to some extent, given the same experiences, but we fully appreciate that you will be juggling your own working life and at least one child, probably more, who will all be doing different things. It is perfectly ok to deviate from those plans if you need to.

The BBC have announced that from Monday morning there will be 3 hours of TV programmes for Primary pupils from 9am every day. Whilst this may not exactly copy what is going on in school, it is still relevant and age appropriate learning so please feel free to choose what you need in order to get you through. I said earlier in the week it is ok to mix in practical activities if you want to, or add in some physical activities too. 3 or 4 hours learning at home is different to school - the children would have discussion time or break times or movement breaks which help to sustain their learning. Sitting solidly in front of school work for intense periods of time could lead to fatigue and overload which may lead to poor concentration or engagement levels.

If you are struggling to access google classroom as your access to technology is limited then you may request paper packs from school using the homelearning@mapletreepriamaryschool.com email address. You may already know that your children can access google classroom through a variety of consoles such as PS4/5 and Xbox one/series X. Support for how to do this can be found with a google search or there is a poster over the page. If you need further help with this, please let us know. Similarly, if you do not have access to any technology at home then please let us know so that we can support where able.

There has also been a lot of talk in the news that if you are unhappy with your child's remote learning then you can complain to Ofsted. I really would hope that before it came to this stage that you would embark on a conversation with us to talk through your concerns. We are always looking for feedback, constructive

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criticism or praise, so we can get the measure of what we are doing. We will find ways to canvas your opinions in the next week or two so that you have the opportunity to share your experiences and/or worries. Staff will be calling to talk with you and your children whilst they are not in school so please share any concerns with them or email into the [homelearning](#) email address if your concern is urgent. We want to do what we can to support you at this time.

Thirdly, there is now definitive guidance surrounding school based nurseries and that the government's hope is that they will be open to all. We would love this to be the case at Maple Tree as we know our very youngest children learn in a way that is not so possible virtually, but we do not currently have the staff to be able to offer provision to this age safely beyond those who are listed as children of critical workers or the vulnerable. We will of course be reviewing this provision and will let you know when we are able to open more fully to this group of children.

Finally, I want to clarify that all formal assessments have been cancelled again this year. This means that we will not be taking part in external assessments at the end of Year 6 which is disappointing as we were hoping this year to have our first set of results as a primary school. We will do some internal assessing so that we can measure the progress that the children have made across the key stage and will share end of year data with you in the reports which come out in the Summer term.

With regards to progress, I do want to assure you though, that the majority of children did make progress in the Autumn term when schools reopened fully in September and I am in no doubt that once the children are able to return safely to schools, that they will, again, make progress. Please do not compare what you are doing with what others are managing, every family is unique. Whatever we can do to help you manage a little more easily then please let us know.

I hope you all stay safe and well. Please do let us know if your child tests positive for Covid19 so that we can offer support if needed.

Have a lovely weekend.

HOW TO ACCESS GOOGLE CLASSROOM FROM AN XBOX OR PS4



ON PS4:

1. Turn on PS4
2. Use your controller to scroll to the far right of the bar with games to **'LIBRARY'**
3. Select **'LIBRARY'** application
4. Within the library, use the search bar to type in **'INTERNET'**
5. Select the **'INTERNET BROWSER'** app
6. Start Internet Browser and press the triangle button on the controller to search
7. Once on the internet, type in the search box **'GOOGLE CLASSROOM'** and then select the first link that comes up
8. Select **'GO TO CLASSROOM'** then log in using student email and password.



ON XBOX:

1. Go to **'HOME MENU'**
2. Select **'MY GAMES AND APPS'**
3. Scroll down to **'APPS'**
4. Go to **'MICROSOFT EDGE'** application
5. Search for **'GOOGLE CLASSROOM'**
6. Select **'GO TO CLASSROOM'**
7. You will need to log in using your student email address and password