



# MAPLE TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Climbing the branches of success

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Deputy Head: Miss A Hyde PGCE

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a restful Easter break and welcome to our very first remote Summer term! I have been thinking about our pupils and their families over the last few weeks as these are challenging times for all of us, however, we know that lockdown is the right decision to reduce the spread of the virus.

### **It is essential that we follow government guidelines:**

- ❖ Stay at home.
- ❖ Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home).
- ❖ If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people outside of your immediate family group at all times.
- ❖ Wash your hands as soon as you get home.
- ❖ Do not meet others, even friends or family.
- ❖ You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

It is heartening that people, far and wide, are coming up with some creative ways of keeping our children fit, healthy, entertained and educated at home. We know contact with family and friends (via the internet) will help. As a school we are also responding to the challenge of educating our pupils at home so we will be sending out a weekly newsletter during term time to keep you up to date.

### **Communication**

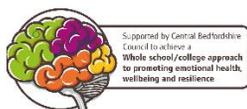
It's definitely been a strange and challenging time, so it's ok if you and your child feel wobbly and worried at the moment. We're here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together. Remember, if you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by contacting us using the email [homelearning@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:homelearning@mapletreepriamaryschool.com) or you can contact the main school office using the email [office@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:office@mapletreepriamaryschool.com). During the lockdown the school office is closed as staff are working from home to keep themselves safe but emails are being checked daily.

Emails will still be sent via Parentmail – this will include a weekly newsletter sent on a Friday.

Teachers will use Marvellous Me to contact you so please contact the office team on the email above if you do not have access to either of these.

### **Critical Worker Provision**

We miss the children very much, but we must follow the government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe. Our approach is to ensure ALL pupils are at home with a parent/carer as we know this is



the safest place for all. We have been making provision for a small number of pupils who qualify under critical worker provision – according to government guidelines. We want to help but also keep our staff safe. If you feel you meet these criteria then you can contact using the following email: [info@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:info@mapletreepriamaryschool.com) .

### **Home Learning**

Just because we're not all in the same building, doesn't mean we can't have some fun together! Your children will have lots of activities they can get stuck into over the summer term. This week we have added a lot of new activities for the children onto our school website which can be found [here](#). From next week, we are hoping to start using an alternative platform which will enable teachers to have more 1:1 contact with pupils; further guidance will follow about this at the end of this week.

Yesterday the government also launched two fantastic resources to help your child with home learning activities as well: [BBC Bitesize](#) which has a raft of daily lessons for children aged 3-11 and also an online [National Academy](#) which is run by qualified teachers nationally from across the age groups. As a school, we will be using some of these resources when we set classwork so that the children have a common focus to their learning across the week.

### **Home Learning Tips**

*We are currently developing pages on our website for Home learning and we have created a Parent Help sheet to help you with Home Learning tasks. We have tried to give as many ideas of our own (and other schools) as we can to lighten the load. This will accompany this letter and will hopefully help so please read.*

Some good tips that have come from other teachers/parents are:

- ❖ Work for one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon, take turns to work with the children and don't expect to do too much.
  
- ❖ A school day is not as intensive as working at the table at home. We have playtimes, practical activities and lessons start with activities on the carpet in groups. The children also move to different locations for others lessons such as PE and computing which breaks up the day. Letting your children still have time to play and to go outdoors is very important. They also need some time to relax and occupy themselves for a while. This is good for their imagination, independence and probably your own wellbeing!
  
- ❖ We need to be aware of the amount of time children are using a screen. The children have TT Rockstars and Sumdog but young children in particular still need to use their fine motor skills and have opportunities to communicate and to be as practical and physical as they can.

### **Reading at home**

Please encourage your children to read books they have at home. They can also read online. Amazon has cancelled all subscriptions of books and audio stories for children of all ages as long as schools are closed. Children everywhere can instantly stream an incredible collection of stories, including titles across 6 different languages that will help them continue to read and listen.

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/books/>

Accelerated Reader has also opened up the quiz options so that children can continue to take these whilst they are at home. They have also made their online books free to read as well.

<https://readon.myon.co.uk/library/browse.html>

### **Maintaining Positive Mental Health**

Please access the range of resources available from [www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk](http://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk) . There are a range of resources and ideas to support families through this difficult time.

There are also a range of ideas from [actionforhappiness.org](http://actionforhappiness.org) They have produced a coping calendar: Keep Calm, Stay Wise, Be Kind <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/coping-calendar>

[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk) have also produced useful guidance and resources for parents and carers to access [https://youngminds.org.uk/media/3702/how-to-support-your-child\\_corona.pdf](https://youngminds.org.uk/media/3702/how-to-support-your-child_corona.pdf)

### **Understanding Coronavirus for Pupils**

We understand that our pupils will still be finding it difficult to understand the gravity of our situation. Although they may have heard the news, different organisations have created videos and powerpoints that you could watch with them so that you can answer any questions.

The Children's Commissioner has created a powerpoint:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/cco-childrens-guide-to-coronavirus.pdf>

Newsround is another great resource where our pupils can keep up to date with age appropriate reports

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>

### **Sharing the good work**

We also love seeing the children's fantastic learning at home – please keep sending their work in by taking a picture and sending via email at [homelearning@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:homelearning@mapletreepriamaryschool.com) . We are showcasing some of these on our [website](#).

We can't say yet when we'll be able to open the school fully, but rest assured that we'll continue doing our utmost to keep your child learning and our school community connected.

Let's get cracking with our Summer Term!

Kind regards

*C Bainbridge*

Cath Bainbridge