



Welcome to Maple Class

Autumn 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Maple Class. I hope you all had a lovely summer. I look forward to getting to know you and your child over the course of this exciting year. This letter outlines some of the things that will be happening in Maple Class.

For the first half term, as a whole school, we are focussing on a lovely book; 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jefferies. Our primary focus will be the wellbeing of our children and ensuring they are happy and settled at school, especially as they are starting in a new classroom with a new teacher!

For the first half term, P.E will be **outside** on a **Wednesday** and **Thursday**. All children should have their full PE kit in school all week. For the first half term it would also be beneficial for the children to have tracksuit bottoms in school for when the weather gets colder. Please ensure all items are named in case things get muddled up. All PE kits will be sent home at half term. Long hair should always be tied back. Small, plain stud earrings may be worn, but please ensure they are removed for PE days.

Every child needs to have trainers and wellies in school for outside play please. Additionally, all children need to have a named water bottle in school. They can fill this up from the tap in Maple Class.

Reading

Your child will have a 'Home/School Diary' in which you can find notes about their reading, comments and letters. The children will participate in a guided reading group ('Book Club') every week. It is *really* important that you continue to read with your children as much as possible! **5 - 10 minutes a day** will be very valuable. Our library time will be on a **Monday** and a **Tuesday** so please ensure that your child brings in their books to be changed. Inside your child's home school diary will be a note to inform you of the day they will attend the library.

Targets

The children will have a target book to take home once new targets have been set. These targets will be taken directly from the Year Two curriculum expectations and will be reviewed every half term or sooner if this is appropriate. Please support your child with these targets at home; working on them **once a week** or more would be beneficial as it really helps to reinforce what they learn in school.

Spellings

Phonics sessions will continue on a daily basis, where the children will be practising sounds and tricky words. The children will take part in handwriting every Monday when they will practise writing the Year 2 spelling words. The children will also have a new set of 'non-negotiable words' to practise: because, were, where, very, really. These are the high frequency words we expect all our Year 2 children to read and spell correctly. There are a copy of these in the home school

diary. I have also attached a copy of the Year 1 and 2 common exception words. These are 'tricky' words that we will focus on throughout the year.

Maths

We will soon be starting our Maths Matters Challenges for those children who are ready. Please ensure their Maths Matters books 'live' in the book bags and support your child in working towards these challenges **every week**. These quick mental maths skills are vital in supporting all other areas of maths. Please do not worry if your child has not started Maths Matters, I will introduce it to them when I feel they are ready.

Homework

We hope that you will enjoy working at home with your child: reading, working on targets and supporting Maths Matters. In addition to this I will set occasional homework to support our topic learning.

Please feel free to talk to me on the playground if you have any questions or queries: your support and comments are greatly appreciated. We are however currently restricting visitor access to the classrooms. We are very much looking forward to the Autumn Term as Marvellous Maples!

Very best wishes

Miss Ashton