



# West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

Telephone: 01243 811247    Headteacher: Mr C Williams



We do our best in all we do, with God's love.  
'Love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another.'  
John 13



Welcome to Maple Class

Autumn 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Maple Class. I hope you all had a lovely relaxing summer and 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. Before that though, I would like to take a moment to introduce Mrs Palmer who joined us at the start of this year. Mrs Palmer is our new teaching assistant in Maple Class and will be working with us on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We are very much looking forward to working with her.

For the first half term we will be looking at two topics: The Windmill Farmer and Spectacular Space. We hope to have lots of fun as well as ensuring the children are happy and settled. When we reach the second half of the Autumn Term our topics will be: The Great Fire of London and Celebrations around the world. To find out more exciting details please read the Maple Curriculum grid attached.

## Important Information

For the first half term, P.E will be on a **Wednesday** and **Friday**. All children should have their full P.E. kit in school all week. It would also be beneficial for the children to have tracksuit bottoms and perhaps a top too in school for when the weather gets colder. Please ensure all items are named in case things get muddled up. All P.E. 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.

## Google Classroom

Please make sure you have signed into the Maple Google Classroom. This is where I will share any important information and little snippets of life in Maple Class. To sign in please use your child's email and password from previous years and then you will find a link to join the Maple 2022 classroom. If you need any support in doing this please contact myself or the office.

## Show & Tell

'Show and Tell' will take place each **Friday** for every child. A separate timetable has been sent out and is also available on the Google Classroom. Please bring in one small item or photo to share with the class.

### Forest School

Forest School will take place later in the year. Maple class will be allocated a half a term slot and I will send out additional information closer to the time.

### 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. Also, the children earn a cube every time they read at home and when our jar is full the class will be rewarded with a lovely treat!

### Library

Our library time will be on a **Tuesday** and a **Wednesday** 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 if appropriate and will be reviewed every half term or sooner. 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, during which 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 copies 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

Over the Autumn Term I will begin to introduce our Maths Matters Challenges for those children who are ready. Maths Matters is a system of mental maths challenges which are designed to support the children's arithmetic skills. 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. Maths Matters will take place on a **Friday Morning**.

### 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.

Additionally, the classroom will be open after school on a Wednesday for you to come and look at your child's work.

We are very much looking forward to the Autumn Term as Marvellous Maples!

Very best wishes

Mrs Reynolds & Mrs Palmer