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Maple Class Newsletter – Spring Term, 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas holiday and a positive start to 2017. I would like to say a huge thank you for all of the support and get well messages during the end of last term – they were greatly appreciated.

Since returning to school, Maple Class have been very busy getting stuck into our new topic. We have been creating artwork with food, finding out where food comes from, and most excitingly, trying and tasting lots of food! The children have already shown great enthusiasm towards this topic and are looking forward to the term ahead!

During the Spring Term, we will be joined by Maddie Day on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Maddie is an Early Years Education student and will be completing her final placement at Chesterton. The children have already welcomed Maddie into Maple class, and I hope that you have the opportunity to meet her over the coming weeks.

Curriculum

Our topic this term is “**Food, Glorious Food**”. We will be focussing on Science, Geography and DT skills, through the exploration of food, where it comes from and how we can use it. The children will also be taking part in some cooking activities, learning about ways to stay healthy and finding out about the impact of Fairtrade foods.



In Literacy, we will learn about the features of story books and retell stories that we have read. We will then work together to adapt a one of these stories to include some our own ideas. We will also be writing recounts linked to Science experiments, exploring the features of poetry, and following and writing instructions linked to our cooking activities.

In Maths, we will be learning basic calculation skills for addition and subtraction and practising our number recognition and formation. During the second half of the term, we will begin to look at doubling, halving and sharing with amounts of objects. We will also use opportunities during cookery sessions to explore weight and measures.

Our R.E. work will focus on the use of food during celebrations followed by Easter, where the children will learn the Easter story and think about the importance of the cross symbol for Christians.

For more information, you can view our Topic Wheel, which can be found on our class page of the school website and is also displayed on the classroom door.

Reading Books

The children have really picked up the pace with their reading, so thank you for all your efforts to read with them regularly at home and fill in their reading diaries. If you feel that your child is ready to move on to a new level, please let me know and I will check as soon as possible.

Homework

This term's homework is now up on the Maple Class section of the school website. Please continue to leave a note in your child's homework book about the tasks they complete each week, it is really useful! Children should continue to **hand in their homework each Wednesday**.

Reminders

Absence and sickness – Just a reminder that Health Protection Agency guidance states that children suffering from sickness and/or diarrhoea should not return to school until 48 hours after the last episode of illness. In addition, if your child is not able to attend school due to illness, please ring the school office to let us know.

Wellingtons, coats, hats, gloves etc. – as the weather is now certainly colder and wetter, please make sure that your child is prepared for outdoor play by providing wellies and a warm, waterproof coat every day. If your child is also bringing in hats, scarves, gloves, ear muffs etc. Please ensure that they are clearly named!

P.E.: This will continue to take place on Tuesday afternoons. However, it is essential that children have their P.E. kit (**with name labels!**) in school every day. Please could I also remind you that clothing should be appropriate school colours – there are quite a few bright pink or patterned tops and trousers at the moment! Please refer to the “uniform” section of the school website for clarification of suitable clothing.

Contact

As always, please feel free to contact me about any matters arising. Please use the following email address to contact me directly: ileo5968@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk.

Please be aware that any messages sent may not be seen until later in the school day or after school. If the matter is urgent, then you should contact the school office or speak to one of the Maple team at the start of the day.

Kind regards,

Mrs Leonard and the Maple Class team