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Maple Class Newsletter – Autumn Term, 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year! I hope that you have had an exciting summer. It has been wonderful to welcome all of the new faces into Maple Class. I am really looking forward to getting to know everybody and to sharing a great year of learning opportunities with you.

I'd like to begin by thanking you all for being so organised during our first few days and helping your children with their transition to "Big School". They are quickly adjusting to the classroom routines and school rules, and I am incredibly proud of the way that they are taking on their new responsibilities and developing their independence. I would also like to thank you for being so supportive during the morning drop off and allowing the children to enter the cloakroom independently after the bell has rung. I understand how difficult it must be to put on a positive face and wave them off if they are feeling a little nervous or teary! I would like to reassure you that within minutes of being in the classroom and sorting out their things, they are always absolutely fine!

Daily Arrangements

I would kindly ask that parents and children do not enter the classroom/cloakroom area in the mornings unless a member of staff is present. If your child needs to use the toilet before the morning bell, or after you have collected them at the end of the day, they should use the toilets in the entrance to the school hall.

At home time, we will only release a child on to the playground when an adult is there to receive them, so please ensure that we know who is collecting your child. If there are any changes to your usual routine, please let us know – we have a blue clip board next to the cloakroom door with 'end of day arrangement' slips. Alternatively, you can phone/e-mail the school office.

P.E.

P.E. will usually take place on Tuesday afternoons. However, it is essential that children have their P.E. kit in school every day. **Please make sure that all kit and uniform is named** – young children really don't recognise their own clothes!

Outdoor Learning

Maple Class will have regular Outdoor Learning sessions throughout the term, and they will take place come rain or shine (or snow!). We have a class set of "Muddy Suits" (all-in-one waterproofs), so all your child needs is a pair of wellies (named!) in school every day and a coat as the weather becomes colder.

Homework

Homework will be posted in the Maple Class area of the school website on **Friday 22nd September** (if you require a paper copy of the homework activities, please let me know) and a pink homework book will be sent home in your child's book bag. We ask that you aim to complete one activity each week and should be **handed in on a Wednesday**. The homework box is located just next to the classroom door. Homework books will be checked and returned each Friday ready for the next task! We hope that offering a range of open-ended Maths, Literacy and Topic activities for the term will make it easier for children to select an activity that will 'fit' around other family activities each week.

It is not meant to be a test or too much like hard work – let your child be creative! Hopefully, they will find the activities fun rather than a chore! Please help your child to complete homework tasks if they need it, but as far as possible let the work be their own. It is really useful to know how the children get on with the tasks they select (e.g. they found something very difficult, or really enjoyed something) so please feel free to write a brief comment in their homework book. If you don't have chance to complete any homework, or your child is not willing one week, please don't worry!

Contact

I am very much looking forward to working in partnership with you to ensure that your children reach their full potential. I am aware that for our new children (and parents!) this can be a challenging time, so I will always try to make myself available outside the classroom before the morning bell and at the end of the day. However, these are often busy times of day, so you are very welcome to email me directly at ileo5968@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk with any questions or messages. Don't think that any query or concern is too small – we would much rather put your mind at rest than have you worrying. Please be aware that any emails sent may not be seen until later in the day or after school. In all cases, I will endeavour to reply to you within three working days. Obviously if the matter is more urgent, for example about attendance or changes to the routine of collecting your child, then you should contact the school office or speak to one of the Maple team at the start of the day.

Events:

For a full list of events taking place at school this term, please refer to the "What's On" button on the school website.

Here's to an exciting and productive year!

Kind regards,

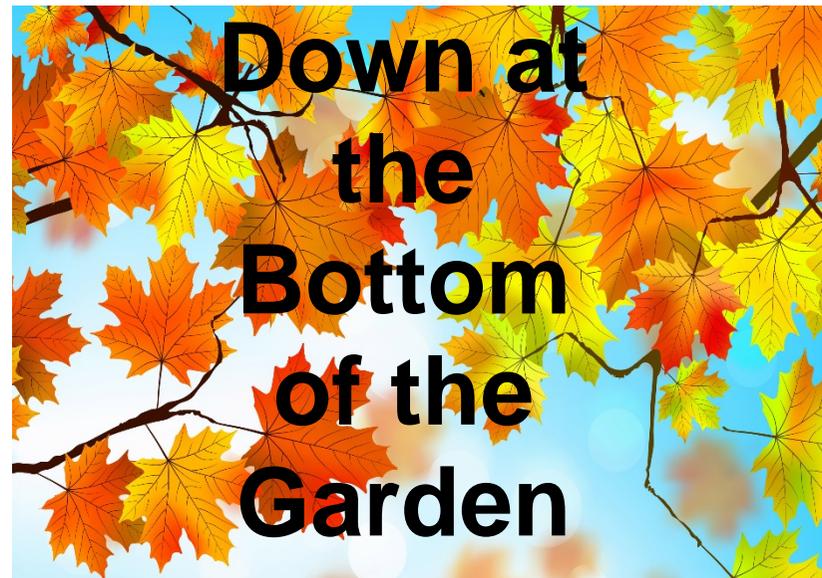
Mrs Leonard and the Maple Class team



**Maple Class
Reception
Autumn Term 2017**

Understanding the World In Science, we will be learning all about ourselves and labelling parts of the body. We will then move on to exploring the creatures that we might find at the bottom of the garden – mini beasts and UK wildlife. We will explore animal food chains and the homes that they live in. As part of our Computing work, we will discuss what we use computers for at school and home, and what to do if something goes wrong. We will also learn how to turn the school computers on and off safely, control the mouse and type our names. Our Geography and History work will focus on the local area. Exploring the school and Chesterton using maps, and going on a walk around the village. We will also be finding out about life in Chesterton 100 years ago. We will learn about the differences between life in the past and present, explore a variety of homes and how materials used to build houses have changed.

Literacy: This term, we will focus on stories about school, home, insects and woodland animals. We will retell the main events of these stories and discuss our favourite parts. We will also be learning to write lists, labels and captions. Later in the term we will explore Christmas themed poetry. In Phonics, we will focus on letter recognition and their sounds. We will practise writing letters with the correct formation and identifying words that start with the same sound.



Mathematics: In Maths, we will focus on numbers and the number system. We will practise counting and recognising numbers up to 20, and counting amounts of objects accurately. We will use these skills to make Tally Charts and Pictograms linked to our topic work. We will also explore positional language and ways to describe and measure weight. Later in the term, we will learn about simple addition and subtraction calculations.

Religious Education:

'Is the word "God" special?' We will find out about special things and how they are treated. We will learn about the job of a vicar and why God is special to them. Later in the term, we will learn about the Nativity story, who Jesus is, and why he is so important to Christians.

PSED: This term, we will focus on *'ME – a special person'*, and discuss different feelings, share our likes and dislikes, and learn the classroom rules and routines. We will explore *'Being Involved'*, and learn to follow instructions, make good choices, take turns, and take responsibility for our actions.

Physical Development:

This term, we will learn to get changed for P.E. independently. We will explore different ways of moving and safely negotiate spaces. Later in the term, we will focus on gymnastics skills, such as balancing, jumping and rolling.

Expressive Arts and

Design: Our work this term includes painting self-portraits and parts of the village that we spot on our walk. We will be making mini beast models, woodland animal collages and pictures using natural objects that we find during Outdoor Learning. We will also create a variety of Christmas crafts.