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Maple Class Newsletter – Autumn Term 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome to a new school year! Whether this is your first September as parents at Chesterton school, or one of many, I hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer. It has been a busy couple of weeks getting to know the new members of Maple Class. I am looking forward to building strong relationships with each and every one during what will hopefully be a great year of learning opportunities.

I'd like to begin by thanking you all for being so organised during our first couple of weeks and helping your children with their transition to "Big School". They are adjusting to the classroom routines and school rules, and I am incredibly proud of how well they have taken to school life. I am confident that they will continue to develop their independence and enjoy the challenge of some new responsibilities! I would also like to thank you for being so supportive during the morning drop off as the children enter the playground independently. I understand how difficult it must be to put on a positive face and wave them off, especially if they are feeling a little nervous or teary! I would like to reassure you that, within minutes of walking over to the classroom and sorting out their things, they are always absolutely fine!

Daily Arrangements

At home time, we will only release a child from the gate when an adult is there to receive them, so please ensure that we know who is collecting your child. If there are any one-off changes, or you have a regular arrangement, e.g. a childminder or grandparent collecting on the same days each week, please let me know. This can be done either via email. If it is a last minute collection arrangement, please phone/e-mail the school office.



Staffing Arrangements

Our usual weekly routine is that Miss Spencer will teach Monday to Friday with Mrs Tyrrell and Mrs Davies as our teaching assistants to support the learning in Maple Class. We are all committed to the care and education of your children and the 'Maple Class Team' meet regularly to plan and discuss children's progress and share information.



Chesterton CE Primary School
Respect Compassion Resilience Hope Integrity Humility



P.E.

P.E. will take place on **Tuesday**, with the children coming home in their P.E. kit that afternoon. We ask that P.E. kit is in school throughout the week, so please could the kits be returned to school

the following day, just in case we need them as a change of clothes (quite common at this time of year!). **Please make sure that all kit and uniform is named** – young children really don't recognise their own clothes!

Lunch time

I know that lunch time can be a concern for parents at the beginning of the year, especially if you know that your child can be very selective with the foods that they will and will not eat! The children are closely supervised during lunchtimes to encourage them to eat a reasonable amount of food to sustain them for the afternoon activities. In the classroom, we have planned in lots of learning opportunities that will allow your children to become independent when using a knife and fork and when carrying their own food tray. We will always gently encourage the children to try new foods, but if they are not eating a lot, or there is a particular meal that they didn't enjoy, we will let you know so that you are able to adjust their meal choices for the following week. Please can I also remind you that water bottles should only contain water – squash becomes very sticky when it gets spilled!

Reading

Reading is an integral part to your child's journey at Chesterton and the building blocks for that begin in Reception. Your child will take part in daily 'Bug Club' phonic lessons where they will learn to read and blend sounds and learn to read and spell tricky words. Each week, your child will be sent home with a book that is matched to their phonic knowledge. At Chesterton, we call this book a '**Learn to Read**' book and is recognised by a small sticker in the corner of the front cover. Reading this book at home will allow your child to develop and cement vital phonic skills. You can also use the book to ask questions to check your child's understanding of what they have read, for example, 'Who are the characters in the book?' 'How did ... feel when ...?' When you have read with your child at home, you can make a small comment in their yellow reading diary. Please ensure all **reading diaries and books** are brought to **school each day** so I can check and change them throughout the week.

Your child will also be issued each week with a '**Love to Read**' book. This is also recognised by a small sticker in the corner of the front cover. This book is not matched to your child's phonic ability and is therefore meant to be read by/with an adult at home. This book can be used to foster a love of reading by enjoying the story, learning new facts and talking about key events and characters.

Homework

Homework is intended to allow school and family to work in partnership to promote children's learning and progress by providing opportunities for them to become more independent learners and practise the skills they have learnt at an appropriate level. We hope that offering a range of open-ended Maths, Literacy and Topic tasks for the term, as well as a selection of online activities, will make it easier for children to select homework that can 'fit' around other family activities each week.

Homework will be posted on the Maple Class area of the school website by **Friday 13th September** and a pink homework book will be sent home in your child's book bag. We ask that one activity is completed each week and should be **handed in by the following Wednesday**.

Homework books will be checked and returned each Friday ready for the next task.



Homework 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 about the task 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!**

The Everywhere Bear

Maple Class will be home to 'The Everywhere Bear' this year! Each child in Reception will bring home 'The Everywhere Bear' for a week. Your child will get the chance to look after the bear for the week and then document what they got up to in the accompanying scrap book. For example, this could be joining them when they read a book, playing with their toys or sitting and having tea with them. **Please do not worry about organising something special** - normal everyday activities are perfectly fine! It's just a fun experience for the children that they can then share with their classmates.



Each child can use a full page in the scrap book to draw some pictures, make marks or write their name. Please do not panic and think their page has to look perfect!

I will endeavour to start this up very soon but I just wanted to provide a full explanation in our newsletter. If you have any questions please just contact me.

Dates for your diary

I will send more information about the events nearer the time but here are some important dates for your diary.

Wednesday 25th September - 5pm - Curriculum Evening (approximately 45 minutes)

Tuesday 22nd October - 2pm-3pm- Stay and Play, Session 1 (one adult per child to attend)

Thursday 5th December - 2pm - 3pm - Stay and Play, Session 2 (one adult per child to attend)

Contact

If you wish to make contact with me, there are a number of ways that you can do this

- You could send a message (written or verbal) with your child.
- You are able to phone the School Office, who will be able to help you or pass on a message.
- Alternatively, I will usually be available at the end of the school day once all of the children have been collected and this would be a good time to have a quick conversation. A longer meeting can then be arranged at a mutually convenient time if required.
- Emails can be sent via the school office (office.3082@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk), who will forward your message to me if necessary, and you can expect a response within 3 working days.



Chesterton CE Primary School website

————— Welcome to Maple Class: Letters —————

Letters	Gallery	Home Learning	Curriculum	Class Prayer
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Welcome to Maple Reception Class 2023-24: Miss H. Spencer

Make sure you check the Maple section of the school website. Here you will find electronic copies of any correspondence, half-term Home Learning sheets and, most importantly, gallery images of all the wonderful learning we get up to in Maple Class!

I am really looking forward to teaching your children this year - we have so much to look forward to! I strive to ensure your child has a positive and happy start to their school life at Chesterton in which they build the resilience to become life-long learners.

Kind regards,

Miss Spencer and the Maple Class team