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Headteacher: Mr Iain Horner

## **Maple Class Newsletter – Autumn Term 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year! Whether this is your first September as parents of Chesterton school, or one of many, I hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer. It has been a wonderful couple of weeks getting to know the new members of Maple Class. I am looking forward to building great 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 few weeks and helping your children with their transition to "Big School". They have adjusted to the classroom routines and school rules fantastically, 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 (or with the support of some very helpful Year Six pupils!). 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 hall 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 or I have a form in the classroom that you can pick up at the end of the day. If it is a last minute collection arrangement, please phone/e-mail the school office.

### **Staffing Arrangements**

Our usual weekly routine is that Mrs Leonard will teach Monday to Friday with Mrs Rotherham and Mrs Bowkett as our teaching assistants to support the learning in Maple Class. On Friday mornings, the children will take part in an Outdoor Learning session, followed by a Fine Motor Skills session, led by Mrs Rotherham with the support of Mrs Bowkett. 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.

### **P.E.**

P.E. will take place on Tuesday afternoons. However, it is essential that children have their P.E. kit in school every day. We will send P.E. kits home at the end of each term so



that they can be checked and washed. **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 quite 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 make sure that they are eating a reasonable amount of food to sustain them for the afternoon activities. 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.

## Homework

Homework activities are 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 practice 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 on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September** (If you require a paper copy, please let me know) 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!**

## 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 on the playground at the end of the day. However, this can be a busy time, so you are very welcome to email me directly at [ileonard@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:ileonard@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk) with any questions or messages. Don't think that any query or concern is too small – I 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.



Here's to an exciting and productive year!

Kind regards,

Mrs Leonard and the Maple Class team