



Chesterton CE Primary School  
Alchester Road  
Chesterton  
BICESTER  
Oxfordshire  
OX26 1UN

Telephone: 01869 252498

Email: [office.3082@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3082@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk)

Website: [www.chesterton.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.chesterton.oxon.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr Iain Horner

## **Maple Class Newsletter – Autumn Term 2023**



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 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 few 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 class 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 via email to the school office. If it is a last minute collection arrangement, please telephone the school office.



### **Staffing Arrangements**

Our usual weekly routine is that Miss Spencer will teach Monday to Friday with Miss Wheatley and Miss Day 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 Music lesson, led by Miss Wheatley and Miss Day. 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.



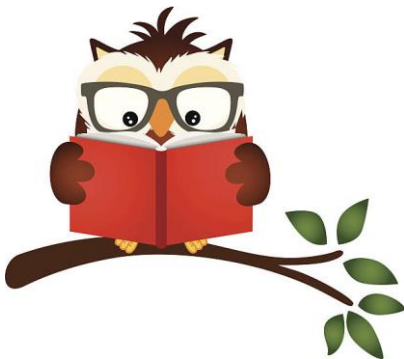
### **P.E.**

P.E. will take place on **Thursday**, with the children coming home in their P.E. kit that afternoon, with their school uniform in their bag. 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!) or if we decide to have an extra P.E. lesson. **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 supervised during lunchtimes and encouraged 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 or other sugary alternatives are not particularly healthy for teeth if sipped throughout the day and also 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. 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 change them throughout the week.

### 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 is posted on the Maple Class area of the school website 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 this year to 'The Everywhere Bear'! Each child will bring home 'The Everywhere Bear' for a week (starting on a Tuesday until the following Monday). 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.

### 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.
- As you will have seen in the recent communication from Mr Horner, emails should now 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				
<a href="#">Letters</a>	<a href="#">Gallery</a>	<a href="#">Home Learning</a>	<a href="#">Curriculum</a>	<a href="#">Class Prayer</a>
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 will 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



**Chesterton CE Primary School**  
Respect Compassion Resilience Hope Integrity Humility