

Kindness and Co-operation	Thankfulness	Friendship and Sharing	Respect	Patience and Perseverance	Responsibility
Hope and Peace	Unity	Trust and Honesty	Happiness	Courage	



**MAPLE TREE**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Climbing the branches of success

## Newsletter

Friday 24th April 2020

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

As we continue to move into the Summer term, I want to reinforce to you the things we are putting in place to try and support as many children as we can whilst school is closed. I totally appreciate that your lives are up in the air at this time and you are trying to do many different things simultaneously and that is hard. There are also large numbers of you who are facing challenges such as trying to work from home during this emergency whilst at the same time 'teaching' your children, or struggling to find access time to computer screens so that the children have learning opportunities. Without a reference point, none of us could have predicted how this was going to go and I commend you all on doing what you can to keep your children safe at home.

Earlier this week I sent out a letter regarding new online learning activities that the Government had put together - [BBC Bitesize](#) and [the National Academy](#) - and I hope that some of you are finding your way around these. I also sent home a list of ideas to support your children with writing activities where a computer would not be needed. The most challenging thing of all will be the levels of independence that your children show. I also know, however, that a lot of our children will be learning very important life skills at the moment - these are the things that we would not discretely teach in school but are inherent in their make up - the values that they are using right now are extensive: patience, resilience, unity, courage...the list goes on and the children will benefit greatly from this.

I understand that many of you will have concerns over the progress of your children. Home is not school, we are not expecting the children to make great rates of progress now but I can assure you that we will address gaps in their knowledge and skills when they return and will pick up from where the children need us to.

In the meantime though, we have been looking for ways to have a more regular contact between the children and their teachers. There are some aspects we will not be able to do such as using interactive media (ie Zoom or Whats App etc) to interact with the children as we have strict safeguarding rules to adhere to and there are difficulties using this with younger children. We will, however, be setting up Google Classroom over the next week which will enable the children to log on and see work they have been set by their class teacher; they will also be able to send completed work back for individual feedback. We are hoping that a little more of a directed approach will support you all whilst we are closed. Miss Hyde and Cherry class have been trialing it for us this week and I thank them for their assistance. There will be a guidance sheet for parents and children coming out at the start of next week so that you have some help in setting this up.

*Continued over the page...*

Maple Tree Primary School, Hawk Drive, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2WA

Tel: 01767 699806 email: [office@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:office@mapletreepriamaryschool.com)

[www.mapletreepriamaryschool.com](http://www.mapletreepriamaryschool.com)

Head: Mrs Cath Bainbridge Deputy Head: Miss Amy Hyde

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We do understand, however, that there will be some families who perhaps don't want or need the support in this format, they are happy to use the information already provided, and we are ok with that too. It is about finding the balance that works best for your child within your family. Please do ensure the children keep reading on a regular basis though as this is a key skill which will falter without regular rehearsal.

There will be some families who will find this difficult as they do not have access to the technology to allow the children to spend time on the home computer. If you are struggling with access to computer and/or printer then please let us know via the [homelearning@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:homelearning@mapletreepriamaryschool.com) email address, we want to help where we can; as a last resort we can print off some things for you to collect but I would hope you would appreciate we would not be in a position to do this for everyone as this would require staff to be in for longer to prepare this which puts them at greater risk.

What I want to reinforce to you all though is that any learning sent out will not be new content. You are not teachers and we do not expect you to teach. Learning activities that will be sent out will reinforce prior knowledge to allow the children the opportunity to practice what they already know. This should also mean that the children, largely, should be able to work on this independently.

You should also, over the next week, receive a phonecall home from school, this won't necessarily be the class teacher, but will be a member of staff checking in with you to see how things are going and it would be lovely to talk to the children when we ring too. I cannot stress enough to you how much we miss them and worry about them when they are not with us.

The most important thing to remember at the moment is that through all of this you are doing what is right to keep your families safe. Whatever learning you are managing is great with us!

As a school we are committed to supporting families as best we can during this difficult time. Please continue to check your emails and Marvellous Me notifications from the school with updated information. The school email address [office@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:office@mapletreepriamaryschool.com) will be checked regularly each week day if parents have questions or concerns as will the homelearning@ email above. I am aware that most year groups/classes have their own closed Facebook groups so it would be great to share school messages there too so we can identify those who are not getting the support we are offering.

Please know that we as a staff miss seeing all of you in school but we are still here to help if you need us. We can help with learning and any difficulties you may be facing at home. Please get in touch if you need us.

Stay safe and stay healthy

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