

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 12th March 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

This week has been fantastic! I cannot stress enough how lovely it is to have the children back in school and to see them already starting to settle, to engage with their learning and to rebuild relationships etc. There is a happy chatter to the building and it feels very full! We have missed them all very much and I think a lot of them have missed us too - though some might pretend they haven't!

Moving forwards we need to strike the right balance between allowing the children the time they need to resettle and the direction they need in order to be able to continue with their education. There are strategies we will be putting in place to support academically, socially and emotionally.

As you may be aware from the news, the government has made funding available to all schools this year to enable us to support the children with the lost time that they have had due to the two national lockdowns; this is referred to as 'catch-up funding' and is for schools to utilise as they deem most appropriate.

I, personally, do not like the phrase 'catch-up' as I feel that it sets us on a course to try and achieve a moving target, something unattainable. Therefore, at Maple Tree, we refer to this as 'reducing impact' so that we can positively work towards closing the gaps that will have appeared for many children over the past months. On our [website](#) you will find our COVID-19 Impact Reduction Strategy which details the amount of funding we receive as a school along with our aims and actions.

Reducing this impact is not a quick fix, we are looking at months of knowledge and skills that the children will not have, or may have forgotten, and therefore we need to ensure that these gaps are isolated and attended to, to ensure the children have a robust grounding for their continued education.

In the remaining weeks before the Easter holidays we are focusing on reintegration into classroom routines and being with peers, whilst also allowing the teachers to discretely assess the needs of the children to identify those children where significant impact is evident. We have assessment data from December 2020 that we will also use as a baseline, which will support our planned interventions. As mentioned in the Autumn Term, we are also taking part in a number of projects across the school such as the Nuffield Early Language Intervention, a Mastery Maths project and a Reading Fluency Project in Years 5 and 6 which will be accessed through interventions and small group/individual work etc.

With this newsletter you will find a series of questions and answers which should enable you to learn more about the strategies we will be putting in place to support your children as they reintegrate into school life. Sharing our intentions with you will hopefully demonstrate our ongoing commitment to supporting the children on their return and striving to reduce the impact of lockdown on our learners.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

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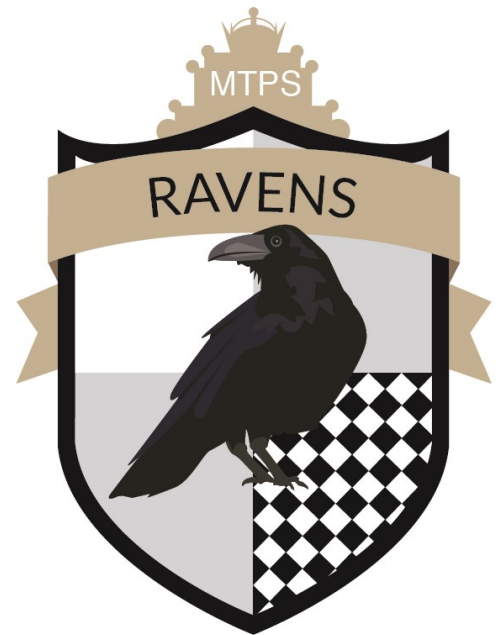
Bubble Closures

It is possible that over the coming weeks, school may be forced to close bubbles and send some children home if positive cases are identified; we will keep you informed and follow the guidance as provided by the Department for Education and Public Health England.

We will try to give you as much notice as possible, though I would ask for your understanding that we are required to wait for a positive test confirmation before taking action, which could require you to pick your children up from school at short notice. We appreciate that this will be an inconvenience but is essential in order to ensure safety for all concerned.

Remote learning will continue if these situations occur, though please be aware that this may look slightly different from what you will be used to. Please see our [Home Learning Policy](#) for details; please also be assured that this continues to follow the requirements of the Department for Education.

This week's
House Winners



Congratulations!

Asymptomatic testing for parents and adults in households with children at school or college

All adults in households with children of school age without symptoms can also now access regular [rapid coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing](#). This includes childcare and support bubbles.

There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home twice-weekly:

- through an employer, if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site – you may need to book an appointment
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most