

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 June 2020

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

I hope that you have all had a good week. I have a few things I want to share with you this week...

#### Thank you

The first of these is to thank the parents of the children we have had on site this week for their calm, patient attitudes whilst settling the children into new routines. We are immensely proud of how the children have displayed resilience and positivity this week and it is lovely to have more children back in school.

#### Home Learning

This brings me to the second thing I want to share: I can only imagine the disappointment and frustration that a lot of families are feeling having heard the news this week that children in Years 2-5 will not be coming back to school this academic year. We are also saddened that this is how we will be ending the year but our resolve to support remains strong. Striking the balance with home learning was always going to be difficult; some children are able to be self reliant and others need the constant motivation and support. The senior leaders have met this week to discuss our ways forward to ensure that we are supporting as many children as we can at home as well as providing for those in school. This is a challenge, but one we are determined to get right, and as such you will see over the next week or so, some changes that we will be putting into place. This may include things such as support for those children who struggle with the work given, or provide more opportunities for stretch and challenge for those who are recognised to be more able; these are things that we do naturally in school through our teaching - we use talk and development through questioning in school - but it is becoming apparent that this is not so easily done when they are working at home.

We have noticed, along with a lot of schools nationally, a downturn in the amount of work that is being returned and am sure that there is a lot of fatigue at the moment, balanced with parents having to use the technology and time during the day to return to work themselves. We want to support you where we can and we also want to ensure that the children remain motivated to carry out work at home. Some of you prefer to use Google classroom and some of you are doing your own things with the children. We are happy for you to find the balance in your families and each situation will be different but we are aware we need to ensure the support is there for you all.

#### Motivation and the fun stuff!

We will be reinstating House Points, virtually, as the children generally respond well to these and we will be running some events that they can take part in too - one of these will be a virtual sports day; there will be more information about this in next week's newsletter. We will be awarding a 'Home Learner of the Week' from each class whilst we do not have the weekly Headteacher awards. We will also be looking at creative ways for the staff to 'speak' to the children whether this is through phone calls home or pre-recorded messages etc.

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I do want to stress that this will take some time, as staff will need to find the balance between the additional things we are asking of them alongside the planning and delivery of work for children in school, which is why these changes will roll out gradually from next week.

There is a newsletter for the children this week which will also mention some of these things and where the children are old enough to take responsibility for their own learning, we would fully expect them to do so. There will be an updated Home/School agreement next week that we would like you all to sign as well, in discussion as a family, so that we are all aware of the expectations on us as partners in home learning.

I hope you will appreciate that this has, again, been an unusual week and lots continues to happen. We are constantly meeting challenges head on but I want to confirm to you that we are here to support you, we are aware of your frustrations and we are working hard to move forwards. Please use the [homelearning@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:homelearning@mapletreepriamaryschool.com) for queries or difficulties you have regarding learning.

### Other news



#### Message from Friends of Maple Tree

We would like to introduce you to the Maple Tree Rock Snake.

At the moment the snake is only very small and we would love to see him grow. Get creative and add your decorated rocks to our rock snake but please do not take any rocks away. You can find the snake in the Fallowfield park along the fence adjacent to the school car park.

Our rock snake needs a name so if your child has any ideas please let us know. We have already had a few great suggestions over on our Facebook page. We hope that the children enjoying adding the rock snake and seeing all the other wonderful painted rocks.



#### **A Plea to Yellow Bubble Parents**

Please could you send your children in with spare clothes that stay in school in a carrier bag - not just for accidents but it's a bit soggy outside at the moment.

A healthy morning snack needs to come from home at the moment and water in water bottles (rather than juice) please.

Thank you!

I hope you all have a good weekend.

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