



Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to the fourth newsletter – I hope you have found previous newsletters informative and thank you to everyone who provided and continues to provide feedback. This newsletter is now also available on the school website. I have kept a few useful links from previous newsletter such as the Local Offer which was updated last month. In this edition, I am focusing on the December Awareness Dates below. I have shared an assembly about disability with classes for International People with Disabilities Day which was 3rd December.

If you have any queries/concerns about your child's learning needs, please speak to their class teacher initially. If you have queries/concerns about your child's wellbeing, please contact me or their class teacher.

Please share any feedback with me on 01767-699806 or email send@mapletreepriaryschool.com Kind Regards, Chris Pond.



**WISHING YOU ALL A HEALTHY AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS
and VERY BEST WISHES FOR 2022!!**

Calendar for November 2021:

National Grief Awareness Week

**3rd International People with
Disabilities Day**

International People with Disabilities Day What's a disability?

From a peer with dyslexia to a cousin who uses a wheelchair, your child may be curious about people with disabilities. Talking to your child about disabilities can help them gain a better understanding of why some people look, talk, act, or move a little bit differently. Don't try to convince your child that someone with a disability is just like they are. Instead, acknowledge that they are a little different, but make it clear that just because someone is different, that doesn't make that person bad. Then, show your child how to talk about those differences in a respectful manner. Give your child the language to use to talk about someone who has a learning disability or a physical disability. Educate your child about disabilities in a matter-of-fact manner. Say things like, "The muscles in your uncle's legs don't work like yours. That's why they have trouble walking," or "They were born with one leg. So they have a prosthetic leg that doctors made for them that they use to walk." For more information, please go to: <https://www.verywellfamily.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-disabilities-4142349>

National Grief Awareness Week

The Good Grief Trust exists to help all those affected by grief in the UK. Our vision is to help those bereaved from day one, acknowledge their grief and provide reassurance, a virtual hand of friendship and ongoing support. We bring bereavement services together, to ensure that everyone receives the tailored support they need to move forward with their lives. With approx. 650,000 deaths in the UK every year, at some time in our lives ALL of us will be affected by grief and none of us know how we will react to the death of someone close until it happens. Run by the bereaved, for the bereaved, we aim to normalise grief and raise awareness of the impact of grief on a national platform. We aim to encourage talking about grief in a more honest, straightforward way, help to make the pain a little more bearable for those at the early stages and offer inspiration and hope to the bereaved further along their own grief 'journey'. For more information, please go to: <https://www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/>

SUPERKIDS A virtual support group for parents or carers with children who have a special educational need or disability.

Thursday Mornings 10.30-11.30am.

A free online support group facilitated by Sandy and Biggleswade Children's Centre, to share experiences with other parents and carers in a similar situation

A chance to speak to professionals from the CDC, Early Years Support Team, Speech and Language plus more. For more information, please contact: karen.burton@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Sandy and Biggleswade Locality Children's Centre

Please have a look at our school website under the 'Inclusion' tab for information about provision for SEND at Maple Tree and also the school's SEND policy and annual SEND Report. There are links to useful websites, in particular, the Central Beds Local Offer (UPDATED) here: <https://localoffer.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/centralbedfordshire/directory/home.page>

It sets out what local support/services are available for Children & Young People with SEND.

There is a Specialist Nursing and Early Support Service Child Development Centre that can help families with sleep and behaviour issues at Ivel Valley HUB, Ivel Valley School (Primary Site), The Baulk, Biggleswade, SG18 0PT. Last Monday of the month (09.30 – 11.30am). Tel: (01234) 310278

Link to current Central Beds SEND Newsletter containing info about local events and family support: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCBCC/bulletins/2ff74bc>

Parents and First Teachers

Parents as First Teachers (PaFT) is a voluntary, early intervention programme for parents of children pre-birth to three years of age.

Parents as First Teachers goals are to increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices.

Intentions of PaFT Programme:

Parent child interaction, Child Development, Parenting Behaviours.

Development centered parenting – attachment, sleep, safety, health, nutrition, discipline, transitions.

Family well-being – Goal setting, resourcing and family needs, mental health, relationships.

For more information about PaFT please contact Claire.Racher@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or 0300 300 6515 .

SENDIAS - Central Bedfordshire SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and disability Information, Advice and Support Service) is a statutory service, provided by but working at arm's length from the Local Authority which offers a free, confidential support service for young people with SEND and their parents and carers.

For more info please go to: <https://cbSENDIASS.org/>

Or look at: <https://youtu.be/54R4cDbX6L8>

TECH CORNER:

Below are a number of apps for iOS and android devices for this month's Awareness dates:

Nelson's Journey: Smiles & Tears - this app support children 0-17 years old who have experienced the death of a significant person in their life.

SEND Virtual Coffee Session run by Sandy Children's Centre on 1st December 1pm-2.30pm Please email Karen.burton@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Theraplay corner:

Theraplay was developed to support healthy child/caregiver attachment. Strong attachment between the child and important adults in their life is believed to be the basis of lifelong good mental health and builds resilience. In each issue I would like to share a couple of Theraplay activities for you to try at home that are used in school 😊

Crawling RACE: You and your child crawl on your hands and knees as fast as you can around a stack of cushions. Try to catch each other's feet. Switch directions too!

Mirroring: Sit facing your child – move hands, arms and face in a gentle simple way. Ask your child to mirror your movement and then swap roles so your child takes the lead 😊

Parentline

A confidential text messaging advice and support line for Bedfordshire parents and carers of children aged 0-19.

Text: 07507 331456

Parenting advice and support Sleep Contenance

Immunisations Mental health Minor illness

Speech Behaviour Temper tantrums

Infant feeding Diet & exercise

Child development Parenting

and much, much more....

We might inform someone if we were concerned about your safety but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we've received your text. If you need help before you hear back from us contact your GP, nearest walk in centre or dial 111. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). To find out what we do with your information, please internet search: "NHS CCS privacy notice" or use this link [bit.ly/nhsprivacynotice](https://www.nhs.uk/privacy-notice). Prevent the health professional from sending messages to you, text STOP to our number. Messages are charged at your usual rates.

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We stock children's books from baby to young adult and everything in between. We also have a small but perfectly formed selection for grown-ups and we can order pretty much any book that's currently in print.

We specialise in books that support and celebrate diversity in all its forms, and particularly neurodiversity. We search out books with characters who are autistic, have dyslexia or ADHD, are anxious about school, or who have difficulties with communication and much more! We work with individuals, families, schools and libraries to make sure you can find a book that speaks to you.