

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 1st newsletter of this new academic year (also available on the school website) and an especially warm welcome to our new parents and carers too - I hope you have all had a great summer holidays!!!

For those of you who don't know me, I thought I would introduce myself, provide an outline of my role and how to contact me. I have worked at Maple Tree since 2008 in various roles across all year groups, including Nursery Teaching Assistant, 1:1 Teaching Assistant and Qualified Teacher. I am passionate about working with and advocating for pupils with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and their families, as my youngest son was diagnosed with Autism in 2006.

The barriers faced in accessing services/support for him (even now) means that I empathise and understand the journey faced by pupils with SEND and their families, both from a parent and a professional perspective.

I am delighted to be the school's full-time Inclusion & Wellbeing Lead which incorporates SENDCo (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator), SMHL (Senior Mental Health Lead) and DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead). I have completed the Post Graduate National SEN Award, SMHL Certificate and regularly update safeguarding training. My role includes co-ordinating provision/support for pupils with SEND, liaising with their parents and external agencies. I also aim to continue implementing whole-school mental health approach in supporting all pupils, their families and school staff. If you have any queries/concerns about your child's learning needs or wellbeing, please speak to their class teacher or contact me. Any feedback/suggestions for future newsletters is very welcome!

My contact details are:

Tel: 01767-699806 or email: [send@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:send@mapletreepriamaryschool.com)  
Kind Regards, Chris Pond.



**This month's Central BEDS SEND Newsletter link:**  
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCBCC/bulletins/3261867>

**Info about SEND Coffee mornings, new CHUMS workshops and Disability Discounts.**

Please click on this link to access the Inclusion section on the school's website - lots of regularly updated links/info to services and referral paths for SEND, Wellbeing and Awareness Dates →  
**\*\*\*\*\*New Mental Health & Wellbeing page - please have a look!!**  
<https://www.mapletreelowerschool.com/page/?title=Inclusion&pid=60>

**Calendar for September 2022:**  
School Mental Health Focus:  
**EXERCISE**

**21st**  
**World Gratitude Day**

**FINAL CHANCE!!! Please enter Mrs Pond's 'Summer Scavenger Hunt'.  
Send your entries into the school office by 19th September.**

**1st prize: £5 Amazon voucher**  
**2nd prize: Haribo multipack**  
**3rd prize: Kinder chocolates**

There is also a mindfulness colouring competition for children to colour in and return by 19th September to the school office to win house points.