



7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hello from Maple class!

Maple class have had an excellent start to the term, showing great maturity as they settle into Year 3. It has been lovely to get to know the children and see them reconnecting with friends and sharing holiday news. The children have shown great enthusiasm towards their new learning so far, including place value work in Mathematics and beginning to write their own narratives in English. They have also enjoyed the start of our Geography topic, 'Where in the World'.

The start of the new school year is always busy, so please can I make you aware of the following:

- We will encourage the children to be as independent as possible this year, however sometimes help from at home (and school) will be required.
- Just like last year, the children will be expected to complete homework. This will be set on Doodle Maths and ideally, we would like children to complete 10 minutes over the course of the week. Now that they are in Year 3, Maple Class will also be expected to log on to Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) at least once a week (for 5-10 minutes at a time), to practise their times tables.
- In conjunction with this, children will bring home between 3-6 personal spellings on Fridays. These will be written into their red home spellings books every Friday and tested by their partner the following Friday. Please can you ensure their spellings books come back to school by Thursday each week.
- Please can children be heard to read **AT LEAST** 3 times a week at home. At Longvernal, we are passionate about getting children reading regularly as it has been shown to have such a positive impact in every area of a child's learning, so your support with this would be much appreciated.
- This year, we have decided as a school that each child will have a Reading Journal and will stick in a set of activities based on the book they are reading. This could be anything from 'Write a letter to the author about your thoughts' to 'Design a new front cover', or even 'Write the voice-over for a film trailer based on the book'. They can be as creative as you like. Children will complete at least one a week and should not do the same activity more than once in a half term. At school, they will be given the opportunity to engage in Book Talk and show the class their Reading Journal. Reading Journals will be collected in on Thursday, ready for Celebration Assembly on Friday as The Reader of the Week will be based around their journaling and book talk.
- P.E. is on a **Friday afternoon** this year. Please could children where the correct kit (Longvernal P.E. t-shirt; school sweatshirt or fleece; black shorts or sports trousers; and daps or trainers) to and from school on these days.
- Forest School is on a **Wednesday morning**. Forest School lessons will take place regardless of the weather (unless extreme) so please can you ensure your child is wearing the appropriate items of clothing; long-sleeve top and trousers on Wednesdays and spare socks, gloves and a hat for colder months. Could children also bring their wellies and waterproofs in a septate bag to change into and out of during the day.
- Finally, please could you email myself or the office with an up-to-date 'approved pick up list' for your child. This should include anyone who may be likely to pick your child up at the end of the day. For safety reasons, I will not let your child go home with anyone who is not on the list or been discussed with either myself or the office prior to the pick up.

I will be available on the playground every morning and when I dismiss at the end of the day so please do not hesitate to speak to me or contact me via email if you have any concerns or queries. Thank you for all your support and I look forward to what promises to be an exciting year with Maple Class!

Kind regards,

Lucy Friend