



F2 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you have all had a relaxing summer and enjoyed lots of family time together. We are looking forward to having lots of fun in Foundation 2 and we hope you are too! For those of you that are new to Mapplewells, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and we hope that you are beginning to find your feet and settle in. There is lots of information in this newsletter which we feel may be useful and answer questions you may have. Over the coming weeks, you may have questions about the routines of our class, the home learning set or how you can support your child at home. Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the Foundation team should you have any questions. In Foundation 2, there are spaces for 45 children altogether who are split into two classes of 22 and 23. Each class has its own class name. Mrs Holmes' class are Birch Class and Mrs Blackwell's class are Elder Class. These names will be used throughout school and the children will become familiar with the class they are in. Miss Ryder also works in Foundation 2, supporting the children with their learning. We hope that you enjoy your year in F2. We are really looking forward to it! This is the start of your child's future so let's work together to make it a brilliant one!

Curriculum Enquiry

Each term, we focus our learning around an enquiry question based on a whole school driver. This term our driver is 'Understanding of the world' with a focus on history and our curriculum enquiry question is 'Are celebrations always positive?' During the Autumn term, we will be reading a variety of stories linked to the enquiry and the provision will be set up to enhance and support the children's learning.

Home Learning

We will not be setting weekly home learning, instead we ask that you prioritise reading with your child every night at home and recording this a minimum of four times a week in their reading record. Alongside this, each half term, we will post a range of activities that you can complete at home with your child.

Hot Snack & Playtime

Every morning the children will go outside for a 15-minute playtime. During this time, they are able to have hot snack. If you would like your child to have hot snack, please order on Scopay before the deadline.

Reading

We encourage you to read with your child every day at home. For each read, that your child completes, and is written in their reading diary, your child will contribute towards the total class reads. When a child reads 4 times in one week, they will have their name put into a hat for the chance to take home Bedtime Bear. Our children in EYFS and KSI take three books home with them each week.



- ❖ A new decodable book that the children can read at an instructional level. The book has the GPCs and common exception words they know. Children can read it with at least 90%-word accuracy. This book is given to the children based on their most recent Phonics assessments, these are undertaken every half term. This book will have an I next to it in the reading diary.
- ❖ A decodable book that the children have already had for a week and that the children can read at an independent level. The book has the GPCs and common exception words they know. Children can read it with at least 95%-word accuracy. This book will have an F next to it in the reading diary.
- ❖ A book to share and love. Our children will choose this book from their class reading area. The children might have heard it lots in class so can take it home to retell or it's a book that someone at home can read to them. These books are marked with a red love heart sticker. This book will have a ♥ next to it in the reading diary.

Coming into school

The school gates will open at 8.35am. The classroom doors will open at 8.40am. Children will go straight into the classroom independently, hang their belongings up & sit on the carpet. The classroom doors will close PROMPTLY at 8.50am. This is to ensure that children can begin the learning for that day. Please do not knock on the door or window if it is closed, as this will cause disruption. If the door is closed, your child must come through the school reception.

Outdoor Equipment

For safety reasons, please make sure your children are not playing on the equipment in the Foundation Unit playground before and after sessions and with the activities set out.

Physical Education

Children will take part in PE once a week, this will be on a Friday. Your child will need to come to school dressed in their PE kit on this day. If your child has their ears pierced, can you please ensure that on PE days their earrings are taken out before school and that jewellery is not worn. It is part of our Uniform Policy that every child at Mapplewells wears the correct PE kit.

Our PE Kit:

- ❖ White short sleeved polo shirt
- ❖ Royal blue shorts
- ❖ Plain black/grey/white socks
- ❖ Plain trainers (outdoor) or plimsolls (indoors)
- ❖ A plain tracksuit in keeping with school colours of blue, grey or black



Fruit & Milk

Every day the children will have the opportunity to have fruit and milk in the afternoon. All children are allowed 1 piece of fruit per day. If you wish for your child to have milk, please sign up via the Cool Milk website.

Belongings

Please ensure ALL your child's things have their name on, as I am sure that you can imagine how difficult it can be if items are not clearly named. If something does go walkabouts, please report this to a member of the Foundation Staff straight away. It is easier to find things if we know straight away. We do encourage the children to take responsibility for their own items and we ask that you too take this approach. Also, please only bring belongings that the children need in school (book bag, water bottle etc.)

Wow Cards

Each half term you will be given a set of 'WOW cards'. These are for you to celebrate your child's achievements outside of school. Please send them into school so that they can be shared with their peers and the cards can be displayed on our 'WOW' display. Reasons to celebrate your child may include sleeping in their own bed all night, using their knife and fork correctly, using their manners or swimming a length etc.

Contributions

We love to get creative in EYFS and use all our senses to explore. We always try to plan exciting learning opportunities for the children to enjoy. Some of these activities require us to use lots of resources. If you would like to make a voluntary donation towards these consumables each half term it would be greatly appreciated.

Class Dojo

As a school, we continue to utilise Class Dojo as an amazing tool for communicating with home and school and supporting your children's learning. Whilst we aim to reply to messages as soon as we can, this is not always possible. Please be mindful that staff have their families to go home to and spend time with and will not be expected to reply or check messages outside of working hours which are between 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday-Friday.

If something is particularly important, please contact the school office, as staff may not check messages until the children have gone home due to teaching commitments. Thank you for your continued support in using Dojo to support our children's learning.

Forest School

In your welcome packs you should have received a permission form for Forest School, please ensure this is returned to school as soon as possible if it hasn't been done so already. If you require a new form, please let a member of Foundation know.

Forest School will take place on a Wednesday afternoon. On this day, the children will need to come to school dressed in their Forest School clothes. We will be attending Forest School whatever the weather and we will not be held responsible for the damage of any clothes during the sessions, so please be aware your child's clothing may return home damaged, dirty and muddy. The correct clothing is listed below:

- Warm trousers
- Thick socks
- A long-sleeved top (no t-shirts or short sleeves)
- Wellies or walking boots (named, to stay in school)
- A hat (when appropriate)
- A pair of gloves (when appropriate)
- A scarf (when appropriate)



Please see below the dates for the Forest School sessions for the Autumn term:

- 23rd, 30th September
- 7th October
- 11th, 18th, 25th November

Key Dates

- Thursday 3rd September - 1st Day of Autumn 1
- Friday 16th October - Last day of Autumn 1 (Non-Uniform)
- Monday 2nd November - 1st Day of Autumn 2
- Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th November - Parents Evening
- Thursday 12th November - Diwali Dance Workshop
- Tuesday 1st December - Panto
- Tuesday 8th December - F2 Christmas Play 2pm & 5pm
- Friday 18th December - Last day of Autumn 2 (Non-Uniform)

We would just like to reiterate how excited we are for the year ahead. We have many plans in place already to make it a memorable year for both the children and yourselves. We hope there will be lots of opportunities for you to join your child in this important stage of their lives so do look out for any letters and upcoming events! It is a huge part of your child's lives starting full time education but we are confident they are going to enjoy every minute of it and we hope you do too!

Mrs Holmes & Mrs Blackwell