



**Mapledene**

**News**

**December Issue  
2020**

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021  
**Centre Closed for Christmas**

### Key dates for January 2021

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January Inset Day Centre Closed

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January Centre re-opens for children 8-5pm

Visit our web page at [www.mapledenechildrenscentre.co.uk](http://www.mapledenechildrenscentre.co.uk)

### Centre News

We welcome Mapledene's newly appointed Head Cook Habib Thomas. He will be supported by our long-standing domestic Christina. Habib will work closely with the senior management team to update the four-week menu in line with 'Eat Better Start Better' which is due to be renewed. Habib Thomas brings with him many years' experience providing healthy nutritious meals. In January 2021 our opening and closing times will remain the same 8am - 5pm. Drop off and pick up areas will remain in place also. We would like to thank you all for your support throughout this challenging year. We are hopeful things will get better and we look forward to welcoming you back inside the centre. We wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and new year. Please continue to follow the government guidelines, stay safe.

### Reminders

If you are running late and miss your child's drop off time. We kindly ask you to please wait until the next time slot. Drop off times are either 8am, 8.30am or 9am. Pick up times are 4pm, 4.30pm or 5pm. Parents using the black and brown gates at the back of the building, please refrain from using the front entrance to drop your child off. We must keep this entrance clear for Apples and Seedlings children to use. When collecting your child at the end of the day, please call the centre if you are running late. Palms and Maples parents can now use the intercom system to contact the office rather than telephoning us to say you are outside. We have many children who are in the process of being toilet trained. Please help your child by not putting them in skinny jeans and dungarees.

### Curriculum

This term's theme 'All About Me' has come to an end. Our children have been supported to recognise their feelings and emotions whilst showing care and concern for others. Our children's well-being and emotional health have been high on our agenda due to the current situation. An enormous amount of work has been achieved this term as children are now more able to talk about how they feel and come up with ideas and activities to make them feel better. Our new theme 'The Way I Feel' starts in January. This will be linked to encouraging children to have a positive self-image.

### Apples & Seedlings

Sensory play for our youngest children has contributed to developing their curiosity, imagination and explorational abilities. Staff use key words which cements understanding and builds language. Emotional development continues as staff involve their children in activities linked to the 'Box of Feelings'.

### Palms

Palms room children use the Makaton signs of the week to enhance their communicate, during circle time they are encouraged to revisit all the signs and use them throughout their day. Palms children use the learning garden as their outdoor bubble. Please provide wellington boots that can remain at nursery for your child to use. Small world play features heavily for this age group, staff ensure the children have areas to explore and make sense of the world around them.

### Maples

A lot of work this term has been focused on mark making activities to develop pincer grip. A large majority of children are now writing their name. Maples children have grown cress and onions focusing on the life cycle as they get deeper into their growing project. Phonics has been an area of interest for Maples children as they learn new sounds linking this to CVC three letter words.

## Transition

Children transitioning to their new rooms in January 2021 have had opportunity virtually to visit and meet their new key worker and staff. Unfortunately, your children are not able to physically enter their new room until January. This is because we do not want to break any bubbles. Staff recorded video of your child's new room and introduced new key workers. Please use the transition book to support your child while at home, go through the pages and talk about the room routine, activities and their key worker. Staff will also work on supporting emotions linked to specific activities from the 'Box of Feelings' as they prepare the children for change to come. Your child's items will be ready for them on their first day for example, blue clothes bag, peg pictures and any comfort items.

## Extended Services



Mango room continues to work closely with the community supporting families. They work in conjunction with their targeted families supporting children through Bookstart Corner and offering advice through the '2 Year Child Care Surgery'. If you require help and advice checking if your child is eligible or need support with your application, please call and speak to a member of Mango room staff on Wednesdays between 9.30am to 3pm. Don't forget clothes swap happens each Friday. A full programme of activities are available for you to participate in. Sessions booked in advanced.

## Staffing

We sadly say a fond goodbye and happy retirement to two wonderful ladies who have helped nurture your children by preparing breakfast, snacks, lunches and tea every day. Sylvia has been head cook for over 20 years at Mapledene supported by Maxine the assistant cook who has been with us for over 9 years. Together they have fed your children and staff providing balanced healthy meals. We wish them both an enjoyable retirement.

Please contact the office immediately if you have made changes to your contact details.

## Security Lighting

New lighting has been installed in the learning garden. As the days are shorter it was becoming dangerous during hand over due to darkness. The area is now illuminated thus making it safer for all.

## Thank You

We would like to thank Muriel for delivering a French session to Maples class. Muriel will include Palms room children in the new year. Lawrence did an amazing job being a virtual father Christmas to Maples children. Helene has kindly offered to teach French songs to the children in Apples and seedlings. Please let us know if you would like to help.



## Parents Forum

Minutes from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November Parents Forum is available to view on our website. The next Parent's Forum will take place on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. Details regarding this will be sent out nearer the time.

## Useful links

Oral Health <https://www.dentalhealth.org/>

Health Advice <https://hackney.gov.uk/health-advice>