



# Mapledene News

February Issue  
2021

## Key dates for March

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 **St David's Day**  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March **World Book Day**  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March **British Science Week**  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March **Virtual Mother's Day**  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March **St Patrick's Day**  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March **Red Nose/Comic Relief**  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March **Parent Teacher Consultation**  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March **Easter Parade**

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

## Extended Services



Mango room will soon reopen its doors to our targeted families offering sessions both indoors and outdoors. Mango room staff will contact families personally to invite them in. A full range of activities will be on offer where staff will be available to give guidance on parenting issues. If you do not receive an invitation, you are welcome to join sessions on line. A full programme of activities remains available to all. Please visit Mapledene children's centre website for further information.

## Maples



Maples class 1 and 2 have been focusing their attention on science activities. They have shown a big interest in science as they take part in experiments such as 'Magic Milk, Pepper and Soap focusing on hand hygiene, Skittles Rainbow and Grow your own Rainbow. On Monday, Maples will participate in the Sticky Ice experiment. Both classes have focused on books such as Look Up, Riley can do anything and the Mega hair swap. These books have been selected to help children have a better understanding of differences. Mark making and creative play; is still very popular amongst the pre-school children as friendships are starting to be formed. Staff work very hard to provide activity which is rich in diversity and inclusive for all.

## Termly News

Mapledene's new chef is working hard to update our menu. All meat products are now Halal and we now offer Soya as an alternative to milk. Parents will no longer have to provide this for their children. The new menus will be available to view very soon, the children are currently trialing them to determine what works in terms of new flavours and vegetables. Due to the kindness and support of Mapledene's parents, we have been able to purchase 10 brand new iPads which will be used to support the children's learning. You should have all received notification regarding our wider opening on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. It is still very important that we all adhere to the guidelines and practice social distancing during drop off and pick up. Remember to wear face coverings and be on time. **The centre closes promptly at 5.45pm**

## Apples



The children in Apples and Seedlings have been learning about turn taking using a fun song called "The Hat Song". The children put the hat on as staff sing to them. They are then encouraged to choose a friend to pass it to. They have also been enjoying interactive story sessions with props, especially "The animal boogie" where they join in dancing along to the story and choosing which animal puppets to hold. Children have been focusing on facial expressions to fit in with this term's theme "The way I feel". They have really enjoyed looking at themselves in mirrors and attempting to imitate different expressions.

## World Book Day

To celebrate our love for books, illustration and print our library area books have now been colour coded. Children from babies to pre-school access this area to select reading material for their room. On **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March** as a centre we will be celebrating World Book Day. Please allow your children to bring in their favourite reading book and dress up as their favourite character. Every effort will be made to ensure all books from home are wiped down with antibacterial wipes.

## Reminders

If you decide to reduce your child's days, please give the centre manager four weeks' notice of this in writing. Once your days have been reduced it is very highly unlikely that you will be able to increase them again. The waiting list is extremely long; any reduced days are quickly taken up by other families. We open for all our children on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 however, we are unable to allow parents into the centre just yet. With this in mind Mother's Day celebrations will be held via Zoom. Our children have been working very hard practicing songs and making gifts in preparation for this. We hope you can all join and enjoy the special moment.



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

## Understanding the World

To help our children gain a better understanding of people and communities. Staff have worked hard to organise interactive Zoom sessions. Links have been made with the emergency services. Mapledene's children have watched and listened to Michael Edwards, (staff member Krystle's father) who is an NHS Paramedic. The children were able to look around his ambulance as he spoke to them about the importance of washing their hands to stay safe. Police Constable Stephen O'Hara (staff member Jennifer's brother) spoke to the children about the police equipment he carries and what he does to keep members of the public safe. On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March Valentina will deliver a Zoom session based on Buddhism. She has kindly given us books to read with the children before their Zoom session. We also thank Murial for continuing to deliver French sessions, the children really enjoy it. If you would like to deliver a learning session to our children, please see a staff member in your child's room. It would be great to have Doctors, Nurses, Bus Drivers and Postal Workers to name a few.

## Palms

Palms children have had fun exploring small world play. Staff set out dress up clothes, tools, hard hats and soft bricks to support play ideas and develop language. Palms children now have a focused area within the room dedicated to small world play. Children are able to use this area throughout the day.

## Useful links

Anxiety in Children <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/anxiety-in-children/>

Every mind matters <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health>

Safety Makes Sense <https://www.capt.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=44e36e43-bd5e-4dd0-acae-e040f37fe2ef>