



Mapledene Termly News Winter Issue 2021

Key dates for January to April 2022

Tuesday 4th - Wednesday 5th January **Inset Day Centre Closed** - Thursday 6th January
Centre re-opens for children 8am - 5.45pm
 Tuesday 1st February **Chinese New Year** - Monday 7th February **Extended Services Parents Forum**
 Monday 11th February **Day Care Parents Forum** - Monday 14th February **Valentines/friendship Day**
 Thursday 17th February **Wild Walk** - Wednesday 23rd February **Red Book Day**
 Tuesday 1st March **St David's Day & Shrove Tuesday** - Thursday 3rd March **World Book Day**
 Friday 11th - Friday 8th March **British Science Week** - Thursday 17th March **St Patrick's Day**
 Friday 18th March **Red nose/Comic Relief** - Friday 25th March **Mother's Day**
 Monday 21st March **Parent/Teacher Consultations** - Tuesday 19th April **Inset Day Centre Closed**

Visit our web page at www.mapledenechildrenscentre.co.uk

Termly News

We are about to start our second term in January 2022, the new early year's curriculum is now in place as staff work more closely with your children. We are happy to have you all back in the building which has contributed to the smooth transition of your children. We thank you for continuing to wear your face masks while inside the building, we ask that you continue with this in January. Mapledene's COVID risk assessment is updated regular to protect us all and keep the building open to parents. The car park area will have extra lights installed in January for security reasons. To keep safe, please use the nursery entrance and do not allow your children to walk through Mapledene's car park which is in constant use. Remember to only use your mobile phone in the parent's room or outside the building. Thank you for paying your nursery fees on time, this is important to ensure your child keeps their place here with us. We are looking into going paperless as much as possible, the way we issue invoices will be changing soon. We apologise for the sporadic delivery via Telegram of 'what we did today' Mapledene have been experiencing issues with the internet. We would all like to thank our parents/carers of Mapledene for their support and kindness. We thank you also for the many lovely Christmas gifts and hope you all enjoyed your child's Christmas performance. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and New Year! We welcome your children back on Thursday 6th January.

Apples & Seedlings

Our youngest children have spent this term discovering their independence and extending vocabulary linked to their weekly music and movement sessions. Staff support their children by describing actions as the children dance, balance and run. This has encouraged the children to repeat words, understand simple context and follow positional language and direction and also use describing words of their own. To support Apples and Seedlings children next term, emphasis will be put on developing an environment which is rich in language to support all children. This will be achieved by using flashcards, interactive stories, 'what's in the bag' and emotion masks and props. Sing and sign sessions will also be used to enhance children's early language and give more confidence in early communication. Apples and Seedlings core book for the new term will be 'I like myself', 'Not now Bernard' and 'Sometimes I feel sunny' If you would like to know more about how you can support your children, please see a member of Apples and Seedlings staff.

Maples

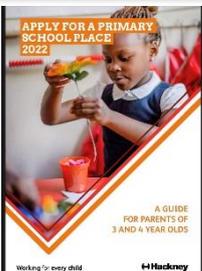
Maples children have settled well and made full use of activities made available to support confidence and form friendships. The focus for the coming term is linked to the new theme 'emotions and behaviour'. Maples will use their core books such as Ruby's worries, the ABC book of feelings and the Invisible string as teaching tools to help Maples children to understand how they can express themselves and how their actions may harm others. Children will contribute to the changeover of their role play area into a shop which will support their understanding of number recognition and cardinality. Staff will set out activities to support the children's use of one handed tools such as playdough, scissors and pegs in preparation for school. You can support your child by helping them to reflect on their day, ask them what their high and low part of their day was and how it made them feel. Together come up with a solution your child can use at nursery or with friends.

Curriculum

Mapledene staff work hard to offer children a broad and inclusive curriculum to support children in all areas. Next terms theme will be based on supporting 'emotions and behaviour'. Please see the link for ways you can help support your child in this area. Some children require additional support to access the curriculum, staff work closely to ensure these children receive one to one or very small group work which is tailored to their specific needs. We encourage the children to participate in their own learning by giving them opportunity to decide on what is set out for them in the afternoon. Some children enjoy helping staff set up actual activities, this gives the child a sense of belonging and ownership. Working closely with parents is a good way to find out what the child is interested in. Staff then use this information to inform their planning. Staff use the early year's curriculum as a tool to measure if children are developing at age expected or below. Early intervention is key in terms of offering support to raise the attainment of that child thus lessening the gap.



Here are a few samples of some of the work your children have been involved in that supports their understanding of the world. Parental involvement plays a large part in supporting children. Our children experience working, eating and playing together as a family. Exploring other cultures and traditions, support them to understand the importance of mutual respect for others.



If you have not already completed your primary school application for your child to start school in September 2022. Please do so before the closing date of Saturday 15th January. Applications received after the closing date will be deemed as late which can affect your choice list of schools. If you need help with your application, please let the office know.

Special Educational Needs with Disabilities SEND

TacPac draws together touch and music to create a structured half an hour of sensory communication between two people. Here's how to create your own TacPac at home, you will need...a hand held fan  two wooden spatulas  small hand held mops  pot scourers  massage oil and a blanket . This activity will need to be carried out in a quiet room with no distractions. Music is played that has a particular rhythm/beat which is important that you stick to the beat. This allows the resipiant to feel at ease, if the beat/rhythm is different from one day to the next it may be very difficult for the child to understand and suddenly have to adjust to change. Once the session is over use the blanket to wrap and hold your child in your arms. Use the makaton sign finished to indicate the end of the session. 

Extended Services

Mango room have brought back services which were suspended previously due to COVID. The new winter programme of activities is now available on our website or you can pick up your copy from the front desk. Parent gym of the mind...is a six-week course starting in January 2022. The course starts on Monday 24th January at 9.30am - 11.30am with a break in between for half term from Monday 14th February. The course will end on Monday 7th March. There will be a crèche provided, for more information please contact a member of staff in Mango room. There is a volunteer support drop-in which runs every 1st and 4th Tuesday from 3.30pm - 4.30pm if you are interested in this please see a member of staff in Mango room for more details. Music and movement sessions with Michelle will now be delivered in the afternoon. The citizen's advice bureau is back by appointment only, from 10.30am - 1.30pm every 1st Wednesday of the month. ESOL classes will return term time only from 10am - 3pm every Friday. You are welcome to join Mango room activities; we ask that you wear your face masks at all times. First steps drop in by appointment only, is back from 18th January for parents wanting advice on managing their child's behaviour, eating, sleeping and more. Please see a member of staff to make a referral.

Christmas Performances



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

Useful links

Tacpac <https://tacpac.co.uk/>

The importance of reading to your child <https://www.healthline.com/health/childrens-health/reading-to-children>

Understanding your child's emotions <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/talking-to-your-child-about-emotions>

Staffing Structure

We said goodbye to Emma and Habib as they moved on to peruse other avenues. We wish Geeta farewell as she gets ready to leave us for a school setting. Geeta has been working hard supporting Mapledene for 12 years and will be missed. We welcomed Michaela into Maples team in September and Chantelle has now stepped up as Head Cook. To support transition in January 2022. **Apples and Seedlings** room will continue to be led by Chloe who will be supported by Krystle, Cihan, Kayland, Nasima and Izzy. **Palms** room will be led by Merlene and supported by Yasmin, Krishna, Emily, Olu and Tanaae. **Maples** room will be led by Jennifer and supported by Jasmin, Jack, Michaela and new staff member Shannon who will start with us in January. We also welcome Rondissa who will join Mango room staff team with Faizah and Mireembe. **Kitchen** is now led by Chantelle and supported by Christina, we await the appointment of the new assistant cook who will join us shortly.

Safeguarding

Please help us by following these safeguarding points.

- Letting us know if your child will be absent
- Letting us know if someone else is collecting your child from nursery who is not on the pickup list
- Using your mobile phone in designated areas only
- Handing your child over to staff and feeding back on how their evening has been

If the person picking your child up, is under the age of 16 years old, we WILL NOT allow pick up.

Palms

This term some of Palms room children have been introduced to toilet training which is going very well. The physical development of the children has improved, this has been linked to yoga and breathing sessions to support self-regulation. Next term the children will be exploring Tai Chi. Children have enjoyed activities such as Circle time, Music and Movement, Sing and Sign, and Language groups. This has helped the children develop their language and communication skills as they retell the stories and repeat familiar words and phrases. The children have also had the opportunity to explore number sequences as they went on a 'number hunt' around their environment. They have been exploring weight, capacity and measurements using the measuring cylinders during water play activities. Next term Palms room children will continue practicing mark making to further develop their control when manipulating one handed tools. They will also use book bags to continue the link between home and nursery. You are welcome to select a book with your child, from the front entrance library to read with your child at home.

Parents Forum

Thank you for your contributions during the virtual meeting. We have listened and are working towards going paperless for invoices and some work samples from the children. Please bear with us as we work towards delivering an improved service in all areas. We welcome you all to attend the next Parents Forum on 11th February 2022. Thank you to Simone for chairing and Eva for taking minutes as secretary.