

Maple Class Newsletter Autumn 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you all had a lovely break over the summer holiday. Welcome to the autumn term of 2026 and to year 5! I am very excited about the year ahead with Maple class and look forward to the amazing achievements and activities that I know the children will experience this year.

The Team

General LSA: Steph.C

1:1 LSAs: Aimee, Debbie, Hayley, Jess, Niamh, Nicola, Roni and Paige.

The Curriculum

Wider Curriculum:

Our topic for the first term is all about the Second World War, focusing on The Blitz. For more details about the curriculum learning this term, please see the curriculum overview.

Reading:

We will be focusing on the comprehension of texts in guided reading sessions, focusing on 'The Kingdom by the Sea', by Robert Westall. The key skills we will be using are retrieving facts, working out the meaning of unfamiliar words and inference.

Writing:

It is essential that children in year 5 master the basics of punctuation. In class, we will begin by writing persuasive letters, learning which grammatical techniques, punctuation and vocabulary will work best to create the desired impact on the reader, including in narrative writing.

Mathematics:

In maths, we will be focusing on teaching place value followed by mental and written calculation, including fractions and decimals.

Routines

The school day remains the same as last year. The gates open at 8:40am, registration is at 8:50am and the school day ends at 3:20pm. When children arrive in the morning, please allow your child to walk from the playground to the classroom themselves as they are now in year 5. If you need to speak to me or another adult in the class, please

do still come to the classroom to speak to us. At the end of the day, the children will then make their way to the playground to meet you. If you are happy for your child to walk home themselves or to meet you at the gate, please indicate this on Arbor or email maple@bentfield.essex.sch.uk to let us know.

Homework

Homework will be set again this term via the homework grid, which will be stuck in the front of their homework book. Your child should choose an activity to complete from the grid each week and they should complete this in their book or pictures printed and stuck in the book. I will also send an adapted version of the homework grid out to support children who may struggle with completing some of the tasks.

Please make sure that your child is reading regularly at home. I know that in year 5 many of the children are capable of reading to themselves, but it is always good to read to an adult at least once each week as well so they can be asked questions about what they are reading to check their understanding and challenge their thinking about the book.

It is essential that children in year 5 master the basics of punctuation. Please make sure that any written work your child does at home is accurate with capital letters and full stops.

We will not be completing weekly spelling tests this year. In your child's homework book is a grid of suggested activities for children to practise spelling with and also lists of words that we will be covering at which point during the term. Please support your child's spelling by using these activities and lists.

Knowing times tables facts and division derivatives is an essential skill for accurate, confident and fluent mathematics. Please support your child to know their times tables and division facts up to 12x12.

PE and Forest School

PE sessions this term will take place on Wednesday and Friday. It is always a good idea to bring PE kits in on a Monday and take them home for washing on a Friday, especially for children who attend sports clubs after school. PE kits should be a plain (or Bentfield logo) red, round-necked t-shirt and black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms. When it is cold, children may also wear a plain (or Bentfield logo) black hoodie or sweatshirt. Trainers should be worn for both indoor and outdoor PE lessons.

Our outdoor learning session in the forest area will be distributed throughout the year. Once dates are confirmed for this term, I will send the list out and post it to the class web page as well.

Please note that the scheduled Wednesday PE lessons will be replaced by Swimming lessons on the dates listed below.

September	9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th
October	7th, 14th & 21st
November	4th, 11th & 18th

Phones and Pencil Cases

Children who are walking to and from school themselves may bring their phones with them to school. As soon as they get onto the school grounds, these should be switched off and not switched on again until they leave at the end of the day. When they get to the classroom, they must hand them in, and we will look after them during the school day and hand them out again at home time.

Children may bring in their own pencil cases from home this year. It is important that their pencil cases do not distract them from their work – I know there are many fancy pencil cases around with hidden pockets, buttons etc. which can sometimes be a distraction. Also, please could we have no pencil cases with calculators on them. If the children want to use their own pens in their books at school, these must be black ink pens and not biros.

Communication

Please use maple@bentfield.essex.sch.uk for any communication, questions or concerns that you may have and email the school office with information regarding absences, medical appointments etc. If there is something that you would prefer to speak about, then I will walk with the class to the playground at the end of the day, where you can catch me. I am also happy for you to email me and let me know if you'd like a quick chat in the morning and I can come and meet you briefly outside.

I look forward to a successful year with Maple class!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Turner