

Here I Am!

Who am I and where do I live?

Reception Newsletter

Term 1 2026

Dear Parents,

We wish all of you a warm welcome to Maple Class!

Our topic for this first term is 'Here I Am!'. This topic provides us with a really great start to our journey towards getting to know one another. We will be reading a range of texts such as 'What Makes Me a Me', 'A Superpower Like Mine', 'Incredible You' and 'There is a Superhero in You'. We will be exploring who we are as people and our place in the world. We will think about our families and where we live and will create our own version of the 'The Great Big Book of Families'. To this end, please do send in pictures of your child as a baby, pictures of them with their wider family and pictures of any family pets. If it is easier to email these to us, please do so via the office (kmiller@pioneerfederation.co.uk) It would be great to have these by the end of our first week together. We will also be learning about our immediate environment, slowly getting to know all of the school building and the grounds. Alongside this, we will be working on counting, number recognition, and recognising amounts. We will also be developing our foundation understanding of letters and sounds. We will be using a fantastic phonics programme called Little Wandle. Please visit the parent information page on their website to find out more about this.

(<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>) We will be hosting a reading meeting to provide more information and support to parents in the latter half of this term but do not hesitate to ask us any questions you may have in the meantime.

Reading	Your child will bring books home each week and these will always be changed on a Monday. One of these books will be a Little Wandle book and it will remain the same all week. The idea is that it is shared repeatedly to give your child confidence and fluency. The other books will be more regularly changed. It is essential that the book wallets are returned each day as we will be using these books in reading sessions. Please do share books with your child as often as you can. Initially, the books that you will share will not have any words in them. At this stage, it is really helpful to encourage your child to use the pictures to tell stories. You can record your reading sessions using the Boom Reader app, just as we will be at school. This is a brilliant way of us sharing your child's reading journey with each other.
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Little Wandle Letters & Sounds	Each week, the Little Wandle planning will be shared with you in your child's homework book. You will be able to see which sounds and which tricky words they will be working on that week. Please use this information to support your child when they are sharing books with you. If you need support in knowing how to say the letter sounds, please use the video clip recommended below. We have noticed that those children who are aware of the sounds that we will be covering benefit greatly from this knowledge. It can be really helpful to make
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	phoneme flash cards to encourage familiarity. Later on in the year, we will begin to send home tricky word flashcards for you to share with your child.
Maths	We use a variety of different schemes, including White Rose Maths and Maths Mastery. The maths we will be covering each week will also be outlined in the weekly homework letter. Please support your child by counting with them at every opportunity and by playing games with them that involve counting and matching.

Quick Reminders

- Please can you make sure your child brings in a named **water bottle** and their **book bag** each day.
- Please ensure that your child brings in a waterproof each day. We play outside in most weathers!
- Our regular PE days are Mondays and Fridays. The children should arrive at school in their PE kit on those days.
- Please ensure that your child has a **full change of clothes** in a named plastic bag. We have some clothing spares but they tend to run out quickly! All clothing must be named! If wet or dirty clothing is sent home at any point, please ensure that the spare clothing bags are replenished as soon as possible.
- On Forest School days, we would like children to arrive at school in their Forest School clothes. Please also ensure that they have waterproofs and wellington boots in a bag. Do not send reading books or other materials in their bags on these days as they have a long way to carry them!

Home Learning

We encourage children to continue their learning at home which will enhance their progress at school.

Phonics – If you are supporting your child with their phonics at home, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksblMiliA8> to ensure you are teaching the pronunciation of the sounds in the same way.

Useful websites

For phonics: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources>

For maths: <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

We hope you all have a lovely first term supporting the children in their learning and please do not hesitate to come and speak to us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Boldero, Mrs Perry, Miss Gladman and Mrs Whyte

‘What Makes Me Super?’

Superheroes Vs. Supervillains Learning Map

Literacy 	Reading & Comprehension We are learning... To recall the main events of a story. To consider ‘who’, ‘what’, ‘doing’ and ‘where’. To learn, recall and identify some Phase 2 sounds. To blend sounds into 2/3 letter words.		Writing We are learning... To form the letters in our name. To recognise, match and copy our names. To form some familiar letters.
Maths 	Match, sort & compare We are learning... To identify and match objects. To reliably count to 10 verbally. To sort objects into categories. To tidy things where they belong.		Measure and Pattern We are learning... To compare size. To explore mass and capacity through play. To create patterns. To compare and create our own patterns.
PSED 	Self We are learning... To try and regulate my emotions in a new environment. To share information about myself. To celebrate what makes us unique.		Building Relationships We are learning... To build a safe classroom environment together, by following our class rules. To build new friendships. To learn about my new classmates. To share our class things.
UtW 	Past & Present We are learning... To think about how we have changed. To look at how we have grown!	The Natural World We are learning... To explore the changing seasons around us. To explore our senses outdoors.	People, Culture and Communities We are learning... To share information about the people who are important to us. To talk about our homes, families and friends.
PD 	Fine Motor We are learning... To develop our pincer grip. To form different shapes and lines when mark making. To explore a range of new tools.		Gross Motor We are learning... To sit on the carpet and chairs comfortably and safely. To navigate the school safely. To tackle different obstacles with skill, by jumping, balancing, hopping and running.
C&L 	Listening, Attention and Understanding We are learning... To learn new rhymes and songs. To follow instructions with more than one part. To listen carefully.		Speaking We are learning... To turn-take in class and group discussions. To offer my own ideas in conversations. To begin to discuss our feelings.
EAD 	Art & Design We are learning... To explore new materials and tools. To represent myself and my family through marks, loose parts or other materials. To experiment with colour mixing.		Being Imaginative and Expressive We are learning... To develop story lines in our play. To explore familiar and unfamiliar rhymes and songs. To recount familiar stories in our play.