

Kindness and Co-operation	Thankfulness	Friendship and Sharing	Respect	Unity	Responsibility
Hope and Peace	Patience and	Trust and Honesty	Happiness	Courage	



**MAPLE TREE**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Climbing the branches of success

# Newsletter

Friday 20th January 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

I am sure you have all seen in the media this week that the largest teaching union is calling for strike action in an ongoing dispute over pay and funding pressures/cuts on schools. Right now, I am unable to say exactly how this will affect school - teachers do not have to tell me who is striking so planning for this is difficult - that is the nature of strike action - but what I will share are the four dates where strike action is timetabled: Wednesday 1st February, Wednesday 1st March, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. We will endeavor to keep school fully open but if we can't we will prioritise like we did during lockdown. I appreciate this may not help you at this time; we will be carrying out a full risk assessment next week to ensure that we can open for as many children as possible on those days and ask for your continued support whilst we do this. I will communicate with you more fully next week.

In the meantime, I hope you all have a good weekend.

## LEARNING TO LEARN

Teaching and learning are key elements in any school and having shared our documents with you over the last couple of weeks as to what the children are learning, I am sharing this week the observations I made during my 'Learning to Learn' walk around this week; I am so impressed with what they are learning and how they are applying new knowledge and skills. I have included some of my highlights below:

**Mulberries** - despite the icy weather the children were encouraged to let off steam within the building to ensure that their engagement levels for their learning were good. I watched them enthusiastically counting with the support of adults and show good behaviours for learning - respect for each other, as well as for the adults, along with patience and kindness.

**Reception** - children showed great excitement as Mrs Darnell shared the new home reading bag that the children are about to be given. They were thrilled at the books that they will be able to share at home and were looking forward to spending quality time with family whilst reading for pleasure.

**Year 1** - children were using number lines to identify numbers that lie between 2 numbers - the children could speak confidently about how they worked out the numbers but also said they felt like they were being challenged in maths which they really liked as it made them think hard.

**Year 2** - children were very confident in their approach to subtraction of a two-digit number from a two-digit number and displayed a really positive growth mindset in their approach - was great to see!

**Year 3** - children were actively involved in a PE lesson where they had focused on gymnastics. They could tell me about how they used the apparatus and could tell me how they landed safely when jumping off equipment. The children I spoke to thoroughly enjoyed the lesson!

**Year 4** - the class were buzzing with consolidating their learning on multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. They were able to tell me of previous learning that was helping them with the learning for this week and that they needed to know their times tables to help them.

**Year 5** - lots of complicated learning going on identifying the difference between indirect and direct speech. Children were able to talk knowledgeably about what they have been learning in English this week using specific terminology.

**Year 6** - children impressed me with their use of textual evidence to support their thoughts and ideas about characters and the narrative within the text they were looking at. Lots of great discussion around inference and use of some subject specific vocabulary to challenge their thinking further.

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## Communicating with teachers

If you wish to speak to a teacher and are unable to do so before or after school, please do remember that we have the [teacher@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:teacher@mapletreepriamaryschool.com) email for you to contact them on. This can be used for any comment/question that you would normally ask at the door - please do not worry how small your concern may be. Your message will get to the class teacher for their response.

## Parent Forum

Yesterday our Parent Forum met; minutes from that meeting should be with this newsletter. We currently have representatives from Mulberries to Year 3 but are still looking for reps from Years 4-6. If you feel you would like to join us, then please contact Miss Hyde for more information. It is not a big time commitment - we meet half termly for an hour or so to discuss relevant questions that parents may have or to use the opportunity to discuss whole school issues.

Our next Parent Forum will be open to all as we will be discussing our school vision. It would be great to have as many voices around the table as possible so please look out for more information regarding this but in the meantime save the date; Thursday 23rd March at 9am.

## Wow Moments

We love celebrating our pupils' achievements that happen outside of school on our community celebrations board. For new parents, these are similar to the 'wows' that you fill in in the early years classes. If you would like to share something about your child, please pass it on to their class teacher who will add it to our display board.



## Attendance Policy

We have drafted a new attendance policy, in line with updates to government legislation, and would like to share this with you while it is in draft form. The policy will be sent out with this newsletter and although we will be unable to change protocols, we welcome feedback on wording and how clear it is for parents and carers to understand. Attendance is a focus for all schools and we want to work with parents and carers to ensure that our pupils are able to access the high quality education that we offer. Sections of the most relevance to you are sections 3, 4 and 5.

Any feedback should be emailed to [teacher@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:teacher@mapletreepriamaryschool.com) by 31st January.



# Maths at Maple Tree

The teaching and learning of maths at Maple Tree is ambitious and designed to give all children the knowledge they need to succeed in life. Our teachers make sure that the mathematical skills taught every day are relevant and develop pupils' mathematical fluency. When I talk to children about maths, they are enthusiastic and say they really enjoy their learning.

Maths in **Reception** is where we strive to develop a strong understanding of number—these are the building blocks that support children to excel in mathematical understanding. As part of children's learning we develop their 'Numbersense' - children are encouraged to say what they notice—they learn to subitise—say what they see rather than count objects.



In Year 1 the children have been putting some Numbersense into practise whilst learning about numbers from 11 to 20.

## Maths Mastery

A method of teaching maths which aims to ensure all children have a secure and deep understanding of maths, by building up maths concepts in small and logical steps. In following this approach, the majority of children can access the maths curriculum.

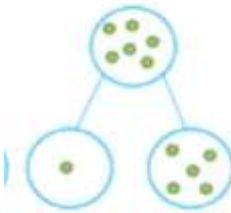
The idea of using a concrete, pictorial, abstract approach supports all children. We use a variety of manipulatives to do this. Your child may have told you about Base 10 or Part-Whole models? These are examples of a CPA approach.

**Year 2** have been learning how to add and subtract using column method. They enjoy using manipulatives to support their learning. They also use the part-whole model to add and subtract.



## **What is Numbersense? What is subitising?**

I will be running a parent/carer workshop later in the year to give you an insight into what this is and what it means for your child at Maple Tree.



In **Year 4** children are learning how to multiply any number by 10, 100, and 1000. They are also learning how to divide any number by multiples of 10. Year 4 children are revising their times table facts to ensure they are more fluent with number facts.

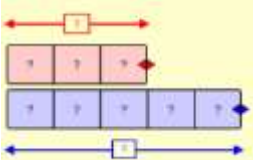
In **Year 3** children have been learning about multiplication. They are learning how to multiply a 2-digit number by a 1-digit. They are learning how to do this, firstly without exchanges, and then with. They use Base 10 to support them. Learning times table facts also children with multiplication.

## **How can I support my child with the learning of times table facts?**

You can sing songs, rhymes, TTRS, and play games. We will hold a parent/carer info evening about the Multiplication Tables Check later in the spring term where we can offer some more practical advice.

**Year 5** Children are building on previous learning in division. They divide up to 4-digits by 3-digits using a variety of methods to do this, including short. They use their understanding to solve real-life problems.

Share £56 in the ratio 3:5.



The children in **Year 6** have been learning about ratio. They are making links to real life problems—increasing or decreasing recipes for example. They have used a variety of methods, including Bar Models, to solve problems. Year 6 are busy revising for their final key stage assessments at Maple Tree.

I really like maths. It's fun.

I like learning maths when I can use the gems.

## Year 2 Aspen Class

### New theme

We have begun the new year with colour in our cheeks and on the page. Our termly theme is, 'Artists'. When the children returned in January they created a large Jackson Pollock inspired piece of art which was incredibly messy. I do believe that I still have paint on the classroom walls! They also recreated work based on Mondrian and both these pieces are being used to back the children's work on display as the paintings were so big.



### English this week

This term we are looking at the books by the author James Mayhew. They are the 'Katie' books, and so far we have read, 'Katie and the Mona Lisa' and 'Katie and the Waterlily Pond'. Not only are the books a great example of writing and vocabulary, but also include many famous paintings that the children are enjoying finding out about. We have used these as a foci for our own writing and have created a plan using a story mountain. The children have certainly been creative and have come up with ideas that I could never have dreamt of. I now can't wait to read the stories that they will write next week.



### Maths

We have been learning how to use the column method for both addition and subtraction. The children have been practising this and have worked really hard. They have been working on problems and been recording very carefully.

### Science

We have been concluding our hyacinth bulb growth observations and have been recognising the successes and sadly where our experiment hasn't worked quite as well. The class have created a new investigation and we will use a comparative test to improve our results.



### Art

Aspen have finished their self-portraits and worked really hard to use the guide lines to ensure that the proportions are accurate. They have used small strokes to show hair and looked at themselves in the mirrors for quite some time.



### Computing

Not only has art been a focus in the specific lessons, but it has also been part of our learning in computing with the children recreating Pointillism art using a paint program. Today the children made their own images dotting very carefully, using skills with brush, size and colour choices.

# Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are for... **...being a great learner and showing perseverance**



<b>Fir Class:</b> Grace Daniel	<b>Yew Class:</b> James Ezra	<b>Aspen Class:</b> Bodie Sebastian
<b>Rowan Class:</b> Alek Joshua	<b>Poplar Class:</b> Jax Laecie	<b>Juniper Class:</b> Tyler Kyla
<b>Cherry Class:</b> Isla Oscar	<b>Elder Class:</b> Brendan Amanda	<b>Well done!</b>

This week's House Winners



**Congratulations!**

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 24th - 27th January** Year 6 Mock SATs week
  - Wednesday 8th February** 4-6pm Parents' Evening
  - Thursday 9th February** 4-7pm Parents' Evening
  - Monday 13th - Friday 17th February** Half Term
  - Wednesday 22nd February** Thinking Day - Brownies and Guides may wear their organisation uniforms
  - Thursday 2nd March** World Book Day
  - Thursday 23rd March** Open Parent Forum - focus on school vision
  - Friday 31st March** EYFS and KS1 Easter Assembly for parents
  - Monday 3rd - Monday 17th April** Easter Holidays
  - Monday 17th April** INSET day
  - Tuesday 18th April** - Term starts
- Dates can also be found on our [website](#).

## Attendance Awards

**Our target is 97%**

Week beginning 16th November

The best attendance award is presented to: Rowan class!

<b>Blossom (Mulberries)</b> 92%	<b>Berries (Mulberries)</b> 93%
<b>Fir (YR)</b> 99%	<b>Yew (Y1)</b> 93%
<b>Aspen (Y2)</b> 91%	<b>Rowan (Y3)</b> 100% ★
<b>Poplar (Y4)</b> 93%	<b>Juniper (Y5)</b> 97%
<b>Cherry (Y5)</b> 97%	<b>Elder (Y6)</b> 99%