

MAPLE TREE
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Climbing the branches of success

Newsletter

Friday 10th March 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

This week some of our Governors visited lessons to observe what is going on in the classrooms. They witnessed a variety of subjects including PSHE, Music, Art and Geography etc. It is always a pleasure to invite others to come and see what goes on in the classrooms and we look forward to their feedback as this helps us to consider future improvements.

At the moment, we are also looking carefully at our Vision statement which currently states: *As a welcoming, enthusiastic and outward looking school, Maple Tree Primary School provides a happy, safe, secure and stimulating learning environment in which all individuals will become numerate, literate, creative, curious and caring; valuing themselves and others. We work alongside others in the local community to ensure the further development of all and in doing so, endeavour to become a centre of excellence within our learning community.* It is important that the vision is something that is shared, and understood, by all stakeholders - pupils, staff and parents - as it should be the underlying principle at the heart of all we do so, whilst we are updating it, it is important that you have the opportunity to include your thoughts as part of the process. With this in mind, our next Parent Forum session will be open to all parents who wish to attend. This will be held on Thursday 23rd March from 9-10am where we will discuss our vision and hopefully create an up to date version that reflects the ethos of Maple Tree. We fully appreciate that working parents will not necessarily be able to join us at this time so we have created a [short survey](#) that we ask you to fill in ahead of the meeting so that we can include your thoughts into the planning session. This is in addition to the parent survey that we usually send out and I will be sending that out later this term.

In other news, a separate letter has been sent out today regarding next week's Industrial Action. To reinforce the message, as it currently stands, this is the plan for next Wednesday and Thursday:

Class/Year Group	Open/ Partially Closed/Closed		
Year 6 Elder class	Open		
Year 5 Cherry class		Partially Closed	
Year 5 Juniper class		Partially Closed	
Year 4 Poplar class		Partially Closed	
Year 3 Rowan class	Open		
Year 2 Aspen class	Open		
Year 1 Yew class	Open		
Reception Fir class	Open		
Morning pre-school		Partially Closed	
Afternoon pre-school			Closed

For information as to how this may effect your child(ren), please read the separate letter. If you have any questions, please do contact the school office.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

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This week in Year 6

Welcome to the second Elder class newsletter. As ever, we have been very busy this term. Enjoy a snapshot of what we have been learning this term—so far.



Geography

This term in geography we have been learning about the polar climates. We have compared and contrasted the North and South Pole

and looked at the biomes of these regions.

We have made links to science and how the flora and fauna of the areas have adapted to suit this.

History

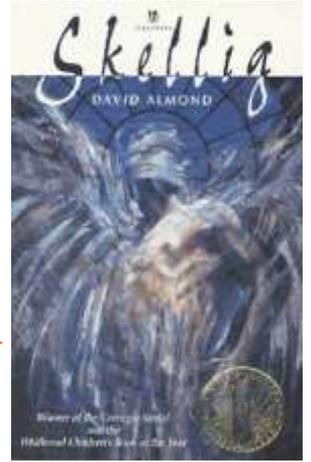
As part of our learning on the Arctic and Antarctica, we learned about the race for the South Pole. We were able to order the navigators and explorers into chronological order. We discussed whether we would like to have explored the poles in the early part of the 20th Century or now—we all decided we would prefer to go now!

Maths— this week we have been learning about statistics. We have read and interpreted line graphs, dual bar charts and pie charts. We have also begun learning how to construct a pie chart. We know that pie charts has a connection to our learning about fractions, decimals and percentages.

English

We have been thoroughly immersed in our class text, *Skellig*.

Each day we read a chapter or two. This week we have begun planning a dream sequence based on Michael's experiences.



Science

We have been learning, firstly, about evolution and inheritance. We learned how different species have evolved and adapted over millions of years. We learned the scientific concept of inheritance and how some of our characteristics are adaptive or inherited. We also learned about how humans have evolved. During our learning, we carried out an investigation based on Darwin's Finches. We had various tools that were our beaks. We then had to 'eat' different food. The beak that picked up the most was the most likely to be the bird that would survive in that environment.

This part of the term, we will be learning about how taxonomists classify living things.



Art

This term in art we are developing our portrait knowledge. We are using a variety of techniques to portray our identity and will observe the art of Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Yinka Shonibare, Thandiwe Muriu, and Mike Barrett. In our sketch books we have created visual notes to begin building a palette for our own work.

Finally, again, thank you for all of the support you have given the children over the term with their reading and homework. We are now firmly in the run up to our SATs assessments. This is a time for every child to show how amazing they are. However, this is not a time to worry - in school we reassure the children that they should try their best. We are so proud of all they have achieved so far this year.

RE

RE helps to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. At Maple Tree Primary we follow the "Identities, Meanings, Values: The RE Agreed Syllabus 2018-2023 (Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton).

We aim to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, Sikhism and other principal religions, including Humanism, traditions and world views and Atheism. We hope for the teaching of RE to engage, inspire, challenge and encourage pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to answer challenging questions, explore different religious beliefs, values and traditions and develop a more rigorous understanding of the numerous religious traditions, beliefs and practices that are followed in our school community and the wider multicultural society.

Here are the key questions that we have been exploring and learning about this term:

Reception: Why is Easter special for Christians?

Year 1: Who is Jewish? What do they believe and how do they live?

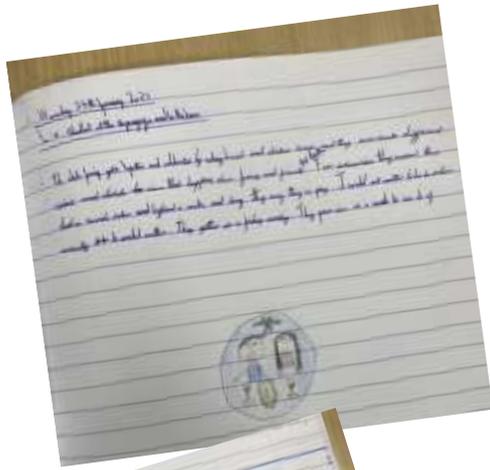
Year 2: How do we show care for others? Why does it matter?

Year 3: What is the trinity and why is it important for Christians?

Year 4: How do festivals and worship show what matters to Muslims?

Year 5: What helps Hindu people as they try to be good?

Year 6: What will make our community a more respectful place?



If you have any questions about the teaching and learning of RE, please come and speak to Mr Renzi.

RED NOSE DAY IS BACK

Friday 17th March 2023 is a non-School uniform day for Comic Relief– please donate a minimum of £1 via the Comic Relief Just Giving page using this link: shorturl.at/deCFT

Thank you - School Parliament

No matter what life throws at us – there's nothing quite like Red Nose Day.

FUTURE YOGA AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

In February, the children enjoyed a yoga taster session as part of Children's mental health week. Following this, we are looking to set up a new afterschool yoga club. Please see the message from Mrs Pond below:

Dear Parents/Carers,

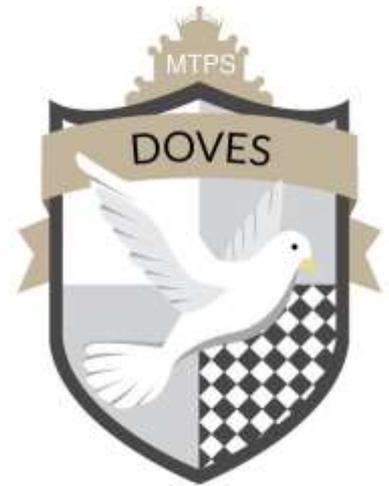
Please click on the [link](#) to complete a short Google survey to gauge interest for a yoga club, hopefully to run in the Summer Term.

Many thanks to those that have already replied.

Kind Regards, Mrs Pond



This week's House Winners



Congratulations!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wednesday 15th/Thursday 16th March Industrial Action School Partially Open

Friday 17th March Non-school uniform for Comic Relief

Monday 20th March Mulberries drop in 3:30pm

Thursday 23rd March Open Parent Forum - focus on school vision

Friday 24th March Mulberries drop in 12pm

Thursday 30th March FoMT Easter Egg Hunt and Escape Room

Thursday 30th March Dance Club Showcase at Sandy Secondary School

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 6th March

The best attendance award is presented to: **Cherry and Elder** class!

Blossom (Mulberries)	Berries (Mulberries)
95%	85%
Fir (YR)	Yew (Y1)
95%	94%
Aspen (Y2)	Rowan (Y3)
91%	93%
Poplar (Y4)	Juniper (Y5)
93%	92%
Cherry (Y5)	Elder (Y6)
98% ★★	98% ★★