

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



**MAPLE TREE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
Climbing the branches of success

Newsletter

Friday 23rd September 2022

This week's House
Winners



Congratulations!

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Thank you to those parents who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions for Years 3, 4 and 5 this week. We will share the presentations on our website next week for those of you who were unable to make it. Monday is the session for KS1 and for Year 6 so we hope to see you there.

This newsletter contains information this week about reading and spelling which hopefully you will find helpful. The start of the new school year is always incredibly busy and we endeavour to share information with you so that you have a broader understanding as to what goes on in school. If you feel that something is missing then please do contact us.

From Monday, should you wish to contact a class teacher, there will be a new email address for you to use. This is teacher@mapletreepriamaryschool.com; this address can be used if you wish to contact the teacher about a class-based question - for attendance and absence you still need to report this through the office@mapletreepriamaryschool.com email address. The inbox will be monitored by SLT who will forward the email to the correct teacher. The teacher will then respond to you within 24/48 hours either with an email response or a phone call. This hopefully will allow your emails to get through to the correct member of staff in a timely manner whilst reducing the number of emails coming in through the school office. I would suggest though, that should your concern be urgent, that you ring into the office to ask for an appointment with the relevant staff member.

We are also in the process of updating our website with key information which you will be signposted to which hopefully you will find useful.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

Spellings at Maple Tree

Two years ago we signed up to a spelling programme called Spelling Shed for years 1-6. We are now moving away from using this company to structure our teaching and assessment of spellings and I wanted to share our reasons why.

- To ensure clear progression from phonics into spellings.** As part of the governments drive to ensure that phonics is being taught consistently across the nation, schools have had to choose a dedicated programme to follow. The programme that we have chosen is Twinkl Phonics and therefore we are moving to using Twinkl spellings so that the progression from one to the other is smooth.
- It wasn't working for most pupils.** As with any learning resource, school has been monitoring the impact that Spelling Shed had on the pupils' progress and attainment and although it worked well for some, it didn't promote engagement for all and wasn't having a positive impact on results.
- Research shows handwritten practise is more effective.** Although some pupils enjoyed playing the online spelling games, research has shown that the 'look, cover, write, check' method of handwriting spellings is a faster and more efficient way for most to learn new spelling patterns as you learn the 'pattern' of the word as you write it down.



Spellings will be given out by the class teacher in your child's spelling book, where they will be expected to practise at home. Records of spelling tests will be kept in the child's English book, as evidence for teachers when assessing. We encourage the pupils to learn spellings in context, and therefore may be asked to learn a whole sentence. If you have any questions please speak to your child's teacher.

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Head: Mrs Cath Bainbridge Deputy Head: Miss Amy Hyde

A focus on Reading: Accelerated Reader (AR)



What is Accelerated Reader?

[Accelerated Reader](#) is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.) Accelerated Reader gives children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.



Children using Accelerated Reader choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. The books are not on a specific scheme but are the ones you can buy anywhere. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them. Staff help your child choose books at an appropriate readability level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

How does the school determine my child's reading level (ZPD)?

Teachers determine your child's reading level using a star Reading® test and their best professional judgment based on their knowledge of your child. A Star Reading test is a computerized reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is reduced.

What are points?

Every book that has an Accelerated Reader Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value. Points are computed based on the difficulty of the book and the length of the book (number of words). Pupils earn points by scoring well on the quiz.

How are Accelerated Reader point goals set?

Based on extensive research, we can provide guidelines for the approximate number of Accelerated Reader points children should be able to earn depending on how much time they read and their reading level. Monitoring Accelerated Reader points earned by children and comparing them to the guideline values enables your child's teacher to determine how well your child is using the time provided for reading practice.

How will I know if a book has an Accelerated Reader quiz?

To know which quizzes your school has available, contact your child's teacher as schools may not have purchased all quizzes. You can also visit the Accelerated Reader Bookfinder™ at arbookfind.com to conduct a search of all available books with Accelerated Reader quizzes.

How will I know how my child does on a quiz?

To know how your child is doing on their AR quizzes, parents will need to log in to Renaissance Home Connect. Using a login specifically for your child, parents will be able to access their quiz results. In addition, parents can specify up to six email addresses to receive automatic updates on their child's reading progress. Letters with your individual logins will be coming home next week from class teachers (in paper form).



How will my child take a quiz?

Students take Accelerated Reader quizzes on a computer or tablet with an internet connection. They can only take these in school.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookstore on a regular basis, letting your child see you reading, and discussing books that each of you has read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child is comprehending what is read. Reading with your child, no matter what the child's age, is an important part of developing a good reader, building a lifelong love of reading and learning, and creating a loving relationship between you and your child. Make learning a family affair!

How does AR follow on from reading in the early years?

Find out more about this, and how to support your child with their reading at home, at our Reading **Parent Workshop on Monday 7th November at 6pm.**

Headteacher Awards

This week the award is for...

...being kind to others.



Fir Class: Sophie B ★	Yew Class: Kathleen ★	Aspen Class: Lily-Rae ★
Rowan Class: ★ Brooklyn Sophia	Poplar Class: Alfie ★	Juniper Class: Jessica
Cherry Class: Roselyn ★	Elder Class: Richie ★	WELL DONE! ★



The KS2 assembly this week was led by Brooke and Charlie who spoke knowledgably about horses and how to care for them. They had spent time putting together a presentation which included many interesting facts about looking after horses along with some fabulous pictures of them both riding and opportunities for the children to ask questions.

Mr Renzi is encouraging children in KS2 to step forward and volunteer to lead an assembly as this gives the children the opportunity to develop skills in both speaking and listening whilst also sharing information with the children that they may otherwise not know.

Well done Brooke and Charlie!



If your child brings a bike or scooter to school, please ensure that these are left properly in the bike rack rather than against the fence as they are damaging the fence. Thank you.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Monday 26th September 9 - 9.45am** KS1 Meet the Teacher
- Monday 26th September 6-7pm** Year 6 Meet the Teacher and SATs info evening
- Thursday 6th October 9am** Parent Forum - Mental Health and Wellbeing focus
- Wednesday 19th October** Parents' Evening
- Thursday 20th October** Parents' Evening
- Friday 21st October 9.15 - 9.45am** KS2 Harvest Assembly
- Monday 24th to Friday 28th October** Half Term
- Thursday 3rd November 10am** New Parent Tour
- Thursday 10th November 10am** New Parent Tour
- Monday 14th November** Anti-Bullying Week
- Thursday 17th November 9am** Parent Forum
- Friday 18th November** Anti-Bullying Open Afternoon
- Monday 21st November 10am** New Parent Tour
- Monday 28th November 10am** New Parent Tour



Dates can also be found on our [website](#).

Supervision travelling to and from school



Over the last few weeks we have had a number of requests for pupils to walk to and from school alone, so we would like to share our policy on this with you.

Who is allowed to walk to and from school without supervision?

Years 5-6, with Year 4 joining them in the summer term in preparation for Year 5.

Who is allowed to pick up and drop off?

Preferably adults, but in some cases responsible young adults of secondary school age.

Considerations:

In some circumstances, exceptions can be made by asking at the school office. School will take into consideration the:

- NSPCC guidance of no child under 8 walking alone,
- behaviour and responsibility of the child,
- distance to walk home and who will be at home on their arrival.

Parent Forum Thursday 6th October 9am

We hold Parent Forum meetings every half term where we meet with class representatives to discuss things that are going on in school on a day to day basis. Sometimes the agenda items are led by parents and sometimes by the school.

For our first meeting this year, we would like to hold an open meeting where all are welcome and the discussion will be focused around mental health and wellbeing. This is such a key priority for us all we want share with you ways in which we support the children in school as well as hear your thoughts .

The meeting will be held in the school hall and will last no longer than an hour but would be a great opportunity to have a discussion with a larger group of you surrounding such important issues.

Following this meeting, we will confirm the names of the class reps and let you know where we have vacancies that can be filled.



Can you help?

We are looking to create a registry of parents who are willing to share their occupations with us so that should there be a link between what you do and what we are teaching it would be a great way to bring real life discussion to the curriculum. It might be that you have a particular skill or interest that you would be happy to share if the opportunity arose or maybe would even be interested in running a club for a small group of children. If you feel you have something to offer then please do contact the school office or catch one of us on the gate. We look forward to hearing from you!

Help for Households


With many people feeling the financial strain at the moment, the government has put together a list of discounts and offers that may be of support. The website can be accessed [here](#).

Please also check your eligibility against the Pupil Premium criteria which can be found on our school [website](#) as this will benefit your children hugely.

Attendance Awards

Our target is 97%

The best attendance award is presented to:
Rowan class!

Blossom (Mulberries) 93.8%	Berries (Mulberries) 84.9%
Fir (YR) 94.7%	Yew (Y1) 97.4%
Aspen (Y2) 98.7%	Poplar (Y3) 99%
Rowan (Y4) 100% 	Juniper (Y5) 96.5%
Cherry (Y5) 96.4%	Elder (Y6) 99.1%

Maple Tree Needs You!

Following the closure of our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) last term, we have been approached by a number of parents who would be keen to see something similar reinstated.

This is something that we, as a school, would be keen to explore.

If you are interested in setting up a new committee, then please contact the school office who will pass your details on to the relevant member of staff.

Thank you!