



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

# Newsletter

Friday 24th February 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

There has been a lot going on in our first week back after half term and the children are showing high levels of engagement in their learning. I joined the Year 5 classes for a very interesting visit from the Sandy Astronomical Society on Wednesday night and with access from them, along with a number of parents, to very expensive equipment, they were able to look at the surface of the moon as well as being able to identify star clusters and even observe Jupiter and 3 or 4 of its moons - not your average look at the sky from the school playground! I was extremely impressed with the children's enthusiasm as well as the questions they asked the experts. There was quite clearly a lot of enjoyment in their work on Space this term and what an informative way to spend an evening - thank you to the Year 5 teachers for organising this and thanks also to the dads who brought their telescopes for the pupils to use too. I am sure the children will remember this event for years to come.

As per my letter yesterday, please be aware that we will have some class closures during the industrial action next Wednesday, 1st March:

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	Open		
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

- If a class is **open**, the children in that class will be able, and are expected, to **attend as normal**.
- Where a class states that it is **partially open**, attendance will be restricted to a **small** number of pupils who meet selected criteria (for example families with external agency involvement, Pupil Premium children, children with low attendance, children with additional needs including social and emotional difficulties, children of parents who work in the emergency services etc.); **children who were invited last time are automatically invited again - please let the office know if you do not need this provision**; if you work for the emergency services then please contact the office with proof so we can put you on the list for possible attendance on the day - this does not guarantee you a place so you may wish to find alternative provision - we will let you know as soon as we are able. If you do not meet the above criteria, **we would suggest that parents seek alternative childcare arrangements for these days.**
- If a class is **closed**, then there will be no provision for any children at these times. You will also need to **find alternative childcare arrangements at this time.**

I hope you all have a good weekend.

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## Year 5 Stargazing Event

This week year 5 welcomed guests from the Sandy Astrological Society for their stargazing evening. See below for written accounts from the children and some photos.

I really liked looking through the telescopes and hot drinking hot chocolate. I learnt that there are 88 constellations also saw Jupiters moons! It was really fun, I hope we can do stuff like that! It was amazing!! 😊



What I liked about it was that I could see the detail of the moon and it was just nice to be outside. And inside the drinks and food was nice. Also, what I learnt was that there is 88 different constellations and that there is a galaxy straight above our head. And some of the 88 constellations can only be seen in Australia. So I liked it a lot, it was very good.





## Since September, at Maple Tree...

**28**  
PUPILS ENROLLED



**5**  
PERFORMANCES

**397**  
PUPIL LESSONS



**26**  
FEEL GOOD FRIDAY  
LIVE STREAMS

**414**  
SKILLS ACHIEVED



### Some of the benefits of Rocksteady are:

- ✓ **Learn to play in a band**  
Learning an instrument should be fun. Your child can choose from the electric guitar, keyboard, drums or vocals and enjoy playing in a happy, supportive environment with their friends.
- ✓ **Lead by real musicians**  
Your child's music teacher should also be their role model. Which is why all Rocksteady Band Leaders are carefully chosen, extensively trained musicians who know how to inspire a life-long love of playing music.
- ✓ **In school time**  
Lessons are 30 minutes long and take place in school time with all instruments provided, making it hassle-free for parents.
- ✓ **From first notes to favourite songs**  
The Rocksteady Programme is for all children aged 4-11 and is proven to progress musicianship, confidence and teamwork skills with no prior experience necessary.
- ✓ **With regular live performances**  
Playing on stage is a huge confidence booster. With termly concerts at school assemblies, your child will be able to show off their progress to friends, teachers and parents with the rest of their band.
- ✓ **And happily affordable**  
Rocksteady is one of the most hassle-free ways to learn an instrument on a rolling subscription that you can cancel at any time. It's risk free too – cancel in the first month and you'll get a full refund.

If you like to find out about more about Rocksteady visit [www.rocksteadymusicschool.com](http://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com).

## Mulberries Pre-School

Mulberries have welcomed Mrs Famula to the team this week and I am sure she will enjoy getting to know parents and children over the coming weeks.

It has been a busy week in pre-school, they have started their new topic 'Once Upon a Time' and have planted magic beans. They also managed to squeeze in time to have a pancake race!



### Mulberries Dates:

#### Drop-Ins

Monday 20th March at 3.30pm

Friday 24th March 12pm

#### Easter activity morning

Friday 31st March 9.30 - 11am



## This week's House Winners



# Congratulations!

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
2 MARCH 2023

### WORLD BOOK DAY THURSDAY 2ND MARCH

We would love for your child to come to school dressed up as their favourite book character and to bring the book with them. Please do not feel that you have to go out and buy something for this; many characters can be put together from clothes the children already own.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Wednesday 1st March** Industrial Action School Partially Open - please see page 1 of this newsletter

**Thursday 2nd March** World Book Day

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

**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 20th February

The best attendance award is presented to: **Fir class!**

<b>Blossom (Mulberries)</b>	<b>Berries (Mulberries)</b>
96.1 %	90.7%
<b>Fir (YR)</b> ★	<b>Yew (Y1)</b>
99.6%	97.5 %
<b>Aspen (Y2)</b>	<b>Rowan (Y3)</b>
96.6%	97.9 %
<b>Poplar (Y4)</b>	<b>Juniper (Y5)</b>
97.8%	98.9 %
<b>Cherry (Y5)</b>	<b>Elder (Y6)</b>
95.7%	94.5%