

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 18th November 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

This week's newsletter is full to the brim with lots of great things going on across the school at the moment. This week has been Anti-Bullying week and we have used the opportunity to work closely with the pupils to create a shared understanding of what bullying is and how to deal with this whilst encouraging them to reach out to others to report incidents of bullying behaviour. They have shown maturity in their awareness of the sensitivity in this subject as well as within the validity of the emotions of others. There is plenty in the coming pages for you to read about specific activities that the children have been involved in.

It was also lovely to welcome so many of you to our Open Afternoon today as a round-up to our Anti-Bullying week. We hope that the children were keen to share with you the activities that they have covered this week and can explain how bullying is dealt with at school; understanding that we are all responsible for our own behaviours which can impact both positively, and (sometimes) negatively, on others.

Further information will be uploaded to our website in due course. On this note, our website is currently undergoing reconfiguration. The information that was on there is still there but may not be in the same places. If you need something and you can't find it, please contact us. I will let you know when the reorganisation is complete and there will be new content coming soon.

And finally, at the start of next week there will be a letter with details about our Grandparents' Breakfast which is being held on Thursday 1st December for children from Mulberries to Year 6. The letter will explain about the arrangements for this but we look forward to seeing grandparents with us again after the last few years - it is an occasion we all enjoy!

I hope you all have a good weekend.

Safeguarding Update

Does your child attend a club outside of school? Are you sure that they are being kept safe from harm?

Every week millions of children attend clubs. As part of its safeguarding response, the Football Association has created a safeguarding course for parents, which I feel could be applied to other types of club too.

The course is designed to help parents make informed choices about the football settings where they enrol their children. The course helps parents recognise best practice and see where there may be concerns, so that they can report them quickly and effectively. This free course can be found

re: <https://learn.EnglandFootball.com/courses/safeguarding/safeguarding-awareness-for-parents-and-carers>

If you ever need any support around safeguarding, please see Miss Hyde or Mrs Pond for support.



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This week in Fir Class (Reception)

The children have been having a really busy week! It is World Nursery Rhyme Week so we have been singing lots of our favourite nursery rhymes. To celebrate this, we have had visits from some of the older children in school, who came to sing with us. We have acted out Five Little Speckled Frogs in our playground, making sure to enjoy those most delicious bugs, and to count backwards. This led to a great discussion, and many drawings, of frogs and tadpoles.

We are learning all about the number three this week. We have explored how a quantity of three might look, and three sided shapes. Fir class are very good at spotting or finding three of something!

We have also started making our entry for a Central Bedfordshire Biodiversity competition, and are filling a shoebox with all different types of nature and wildlife. The children have had some fantastic ideas about how to do this, from collaging and own drawings to using real objects from the garden.

Mrs Darnell



Remembrance Day

Last week Blossom class made some painted paper plate poppies for Remembrance day—see the photo below.



On Sunday 13th November, Samuel and Elin, our Year 6 Pupil Parliament representatives, attended Sandy's Remembrance parade, along with Ms Cassidy. Our pupils represented the school in the 200-strong parade to pay respects and mark Remembrance Sunday by laying a wreath. We are very proud of them.



Notifying the school your child is poorly—a gentle reminder:

Please may we ask that when you notify the School Office your child is not going to be in school that you are specific in letting us know the reason. For example: if you say – “my child is sick”; we will take this that your child has been physically sick and you will need to leave 48 hours from the last bout of sickness before your child returns to school. This rule also applies if your child has diarrhoea. However, if you mean my child is poorly and generally does not feel very well please let us know why for example: a sore throat, cold, a rash, temperature, etc. We endeavour to monitor outbreaks of illness so that we can prevent further spread.



Appointments during school hours - Dentist, Doctor, Hospital Appointments, Blood Tests, Therapy Sessions, etc

Please could you supply a copy or screenshot of the supporting documentation such as a letter, appointment card or screenshot of a text appointment. When the School Attendance Officer comes in they always check for proof/evidence of appointments. If you do not supply this you run the risk of your child's attendance being marked as unauthorised or may receive a follow up letter.

Thank you all for your continued support and understanding. If you have any queries regarding attendance please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.

History at Maple Tree

At Maple Tree we provide a high-quality history education which helps pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. I have spent time talking to the children to discover what they have enjoyed the most this term in their history learning, it was such a privilege to hear how excited and enthused they were.

History in **Reception** falls under Understanding the World in the Development Matters document. Specific statements that link to history are to comment on images of familiar situations in the past. The children in class looked at photos of themselves from the past and talked about what was happening in the photos. They had a lot of fun doing this.



In **Year 1** the children were very happy to tell me all about Grace Darling, who lived in a lighthouse with her father who was a lighthouse keeper.

There was a very bad storm and she saved nine souls from drowning.

Amber



Year 2 have been learning all about the Great Fire of London this term. They have made Tudor homes that have been burned and have discovered facts about the past and how the fire is the reason that we have a fire service today.

I liked learning about when the fire started. They only had a couple of ways to put the fire out, one was a fire hook, a leather bucket and there was water squirts. **Sam**

I enjoyed looking at the types of stones and doing tests by adding water with pipets. **Oliwia**

In **Year 3** they have been researching what life was like in the Neolithic period. They have been looking at the chronology from Stone age to Iron age. They have enjoyed looking at fossils too

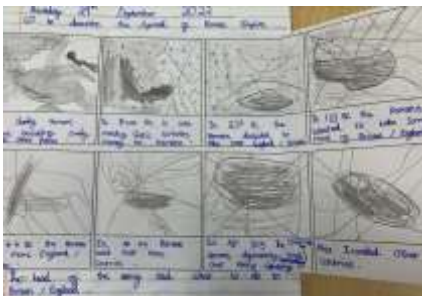
We also made Roman biscuits using a recipe, it was good fun learning. **Georgia**

In **Year 4** the class have been learning about the Romans and have been fascinated by the story of Romulus and Remus. They told me all about the reason why Remus was killed.

Year 5 have been discovering lots of information about the Ancient Greeks. They have looked at the significant Greeks and how they have impacted on our modern society.

I've loved this learning because the ancient Greeks are intriguing. Plus it helps me as I want to be an archaeologist.

Brayleigh



The children in **Year 6** were full of knowledge about the various wars and battles that they have been learning about. The Battle of Britain, the Dunkirk evacuation, WW2 and the Blitz. They were able to explain that they have been examining the affect that these events have had on modern Britain.

We have learned about how Hitler signed the contract. The best bit for me was learning why he signed it in the first place. **Samuel**

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK



#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

What an anti-bullying week it has been! The next two pages will showcase some of the work that the children have been doing this week to raise awareness and learn about anti-bullying. From pupil surveys, our school charter, and learning through stories to discussing cyberbullying, scenarios and creating posters.

Our Whole School Pledge

This week, each class created their own pledge to put a stop to bullying at Maple Tree. The Pupil Parliament reps then brought their class pledge to a meeting where all the pledges were discussed and a whole school pledge created. Please see below for the minutes of our meeting.

Date: Wednesday 16th November 1:30pm

Present: Miss Hyde, Mrs Keenan, Alek and Leah (Rowan), Brooke and Charlie (Juniper), Niamh and Alfie (Poplar), Olivia and Ezra (Yew), Evie and Karol (Aspen), Maggie and Rosalyn (Cherry) and Sam and Elin (Elder).

Minutes:

Each class read through their class pledge. We discussed which ideas we thought we could use and added them to a mind-map, thanks to Brooke for doing most of the writing. After all the ideas were collected, we looked at how we could put these into sentences and where ideas overlapped. Years 3-6 created six bullet points, that we felt covered what the children had pledged with their classes. We used Juniper classes starter sentence to lead into each point. Miss Hyde was very impressed with how the children have taken responsibility for their behaviours and how seriously they have taken the task.



After the meeting, the whole school pledge was shared with the children and each child in the school has signed the pledge with a handprint, which has been displayed, along with the pledge on our anti-bullying display. This pledge will be referred to in any instances of bullying moving forwards and will be reviewed next year in anti-bullying week.



We, the pupils of Maple Tree, have come together as one to put a stop to bullying by pledging to:

- Show kindness and respect to everyone equally.
- Support and listen to each other; check in and check again.
- Be honest about our own feelings and reach out if we need to.
- Take responsibility for our own behaviour to be the best versions of ourselves.
- Act quickly if we witness bullying so we are never a bystander.
- Be positive role models to the wider community.

16th November 2022

Year 4—Poplar

Poplar class have written a blog post, offering advice and support to the person who is experiencing bullying. We have explored the roles within bullying and know that if you see something, say something.

Year 5 Cherry

This week Cherry and Juniper have merged and used the medium of acting to portray different examples of bullying. We watched and critiqued each performance as well as discussing the situations that arose and how to possibly avoid or deal with the issues that the actors faced.

In addition we discussed some symbolism that could show how Maple Tree stands against and knows how to deal with bullying.

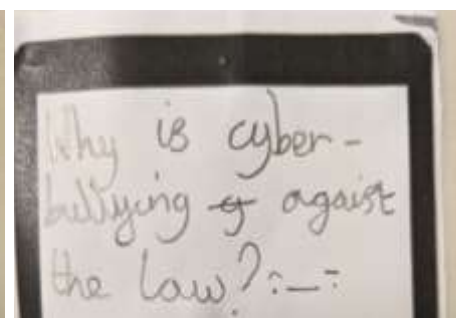
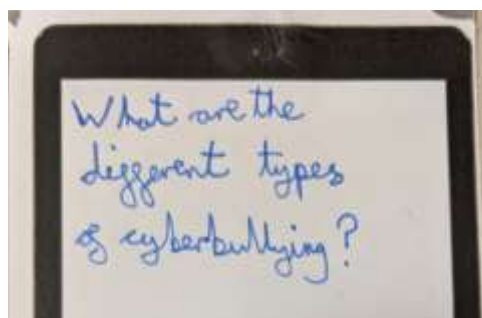
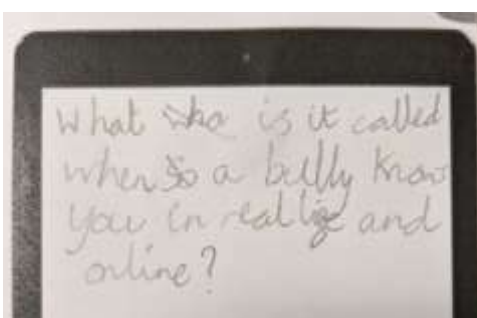


Year 5—Juniper

As well as coming up with a class pledge, the children in Year 5 looked at some scenarios and acted them out for the year group. We then discussed what was happening and which role they were being; the ringleader, bystander, assistant, target, defender and reinforcer.

Year 6 Elder

Inn Elder the children have learned more about cyber bullying and the laws surrounding this—explored things that the children didn't know. They have discussed what it means to be a bystander and the implications of this. We have looked at scenarios to decide whether they are 'banter', 'bullying' or 'rude'. We have also thought a lot about telling a trusted adult at the time of the incident about our experiences and how this can help us and others.



Headteacher Awards

This week the award is for... **...being a good friend.**



Fir Class: Sophie	Yew Class: Amber	Aspen Class: Lily
Rowan Class: Reuben	Poplar Class: Alfie J	Juniper Class: Charlie H
Cherry Class: Ebbon	Elder Class: Victoria Z	Well done!

This week's House Winners



Congratulations!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Monday 21st Nov 10am New Parent Tour
- Wed 23rd/Thur 24th Nov 3.30pm Berries drop-in
- Monday 28th Nov 10am New Parent Tour
- Wednesday 30th Nov 6pm PTA AGM
- Thursday 1st December Grandparents' Breakfast
- Monday 5th Dec 6pm Reading Parent Workshop
- Tue 6th Dec 9:15am– Year 2 Christmas Assembly
- Wed 7th Dec 9:15am– Year 6 Christmas Assembly
- Wed 7th and Thur 8th Dec 11:30am - Mulberries Christmas Assembly
- Thur 8th Dec 9:15am- Year 5 Christmas Assembly
- Fri 9th Dec 9:15am– Year 4 Christmas Assembly
- Mon 12th Dec 9:15am- Year 3 Christmas Assembly
- Tue 13th Dec 9:15am- Year 1 Christmas Assembly
- Thur 15th Dec 9:15am- Reception Christmas Assembly


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

Attendance Awards

Our target is 97%

Week beginning 14th November

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

Blossom (Mulberries) 92.5%	Berries (Mulberries) 85%
Fir (YR) 97.4%	Yew (Y1) 90.4%
Aspen (Y2) 96.1%	Rowan (Y3) 97.9% 
Poplar (Y4) 97.7%	Juniper (Y5) 83.5%
Cherry (Y5) 95.7%	Elder (Y6) 90%