

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



Newsletter

Friday 15th December 2023



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

What a fabulous week we have had! The choir started our week of festive celebrations by singing at the Mayor's Carol Service on Sunday afternoon; they sang beautifully and according to many in the congregation, including the mayor herself, completely stole the show!

And then this week we have welcomed so many of you to watch our class assemblies - my ears are ringing with carols and I have seen such variety in their performances. The pupils really shine in all situations and I am grateful to all the staff for their time and effort in putting these together - they really do help to mark the festive season.

There have been so many other things that have gone on this week too: Christmas dinner was very well received with many positive comments and empty plates, this was followed up by a special visitor in the afternoon as Father Christmas visited all classrooms to the delight of many - young and old! All children were given a present and I am assured they are all on the 'nice' list which, of course, I already knew!



I want to put a massive THANK YOU out there to FoMT for everything they have done this term, and in particular, the part they have played in our Christmas activities. There is an enormous amount of work that goes on by the committee behind the scenes to ensure that the children enjoy themselves, giving of their time at an already busy point in the year, and I am extremely grateful to them all for helping to make the experiences of the children so special - the tables decorated for Christmas dinner, the wrapped presents the children received and the time and effort they have put into Elfridges this week being just some of the ways they have been involved - it is all much appreciated - thank you for everything!

Although we still have a couple of days to go, this is our last newsletter for the year and therefore I also want to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their hard work - starting the term with Ofsted and ending with Christmas performances has kept focus high all these weeks and I cannot think of a group of people more deserving of a Christmas holiday - they are a great team! We are sorry to be saying good bye to one of our staff members at the end of the term though as Mrs Mabbott steps away from her role as Deputy Play Leader at Kid's Club at the end of the year. She will be missed and we wish her all the very best for the future. Thank you to her for all she has done for Kid's Club over the years.

So as we head into next week, I want to remind you that we are, weather permitting, having our Carols on the Playground event again straight after school on Monday. We did this for the first time last year and it was lovely so please do join us if you are able. On Tuesday the children may wear non-uniform and/or Christmas jumpers if they wish - I have spoken about how hard the adults have worked in school but your children have also shown incredible levels of concentration and hard work this term, their behaviour for learning is good and they deserve to be recognised too.

The new school term starts on Thursday 4th January (Friday 5th January for Mulberries children); we look forward to seeing you all then.

And finally, as the song says, 'We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!'



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Maths at Maple Tree

Over the last few months, we have had a focus on problem solving during our maths lessons. Every lesson will have an element of problem solving in some form or another. This is when children apply their fluency understanding and reason about the problem. We also continue to ensure that all children are challenged in their maths learning—not just some given a further question at the end! Children should feel challenge in their maths learning every day.

Early Years and Key Stage 1 have begun a new journey in their maths mastery journey. This term, they are developing their knowledge of subitising as we start 'Mastering Number'. The basic premise of mastering number is that children can subitise and understand numbers. They can explain the 'oneness' of one etc.

As part of mastering number, children are enjoying our new resource, the Rekenrek. The Rekenrek is a counting frame, not to be confused with an abacus.



Autumn Term

During the autumn term, all children begin the year learning about place value. Our maths curriculum is a progressive curriculum, so each year builds on the previous year. This means by the time children are in year 6, they will be learning about the place value of decimals.



Hundred Thousands	Ten Thousands	Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Ones	Decimal Point	Tenths	Hundredths	Thousandths	Ten thousandths	Hundred thousandths
HTHs	TThs	Ths	H	T	O	.	t	h	th	thh	thh

Whole Number Part Decimal Point Fractional Part

Maths Mastery

Through our mastery approach of teaching and learning of maths, everyday has an element of concrete, pictorial, abstract (**CPA**). This is where children use manipulatives or pictures to underpin the foundations of maths. When they understand the fundamentals, they can then move onto the abstract—for instance a number sentence.

Multiplication at Maple Tree

All children will learn their times tables, although not formally until year 2, where they count in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. Being able to count and notice patterns begins as early as early years. Moving into year 3, children will learn all times tables and when in year 4, the children take a multiplication tables check.

The quick recall of tables facts is really important in maths. Being able to recall facts helps children in all areas—calculations, fractions, decimals, percentages, area and perimeter and measurement, for example.

We subscribe to TT Rockstars to support children with fluency practise from year 3 and Numbots from early years which supports number bonds.

Maths Vocabulary

As with our progressive curriculum, maths vocabulary is also progressive.

We teach children to use the correct vocabulary from early years and encourage children to use this within full sentences in order to describe and reason about their mathematical thinking.

Being able to use correct vocabulary, for instance **dividend, divisor, quotient**, supports children's understanding of calculation and other areas of maths.

Children at Maple Tree are confident to use new vocabulary and can explain their learning to others using correct terms. During our recent Ofsted, a child was able to tell the inspector that they were **subitising** and then go on to explain what this meant.



On Tuesday, some of the parents were treated to a great performance from the Rocksteady bands:

- Astro Stars
- The Rainbow Fruit Loops
- Shadowclan
- The Hyper Hurricanes



The performances were amazing and the development of the children's skills blew everyone away. Well done everyone!

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.



Santa Challenge 2023

Rising to the challenge of travelling actively to school.



Target: Lapland 2,027 miles

Miles recorded: 3,069 miles

**Congratulations to
Riley in Yew class for
winning the scooter.**



The Emergency Assessment Unit at Bedford Hospital are exceptionally grateful to the Maple Tree children for the beautiful pictures that they made for the ward. The pictures have been put up all over the ward to bring some festive cheer to the staff and patients this Christmas.

NHS



Washing Machine Plea—can you help?

Our school washing machine has broken and we are in search of another one. We are looking for a donation of a new or second hand unit, from an individual or a company.

We use it to wash dressing up play clothes, soft furnishing covers and spare school uniforms so it only needs to be domestic size.

If you think you can help, please contact us on
office@mapletreepriamaryschool.com

Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are ...making others for... happy!



Fir:



Angus

Yew:



Freddie

Aspen:

Fletcher



Rowan:

Archie

Poplar:

Idelle

Juniper:

Alfie



Sycamore:

Thomas



Elder:

Maja



**WELL DONE TO
YOU ALL!**

**This week's
House Winners**



Congratulations!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 18th December 3.40pm Carols on the Playground (weather permitting)

Tuesday 19th December Term Ends

Wednesday 3rd January 2024 INSET day

Thursday 4th January Term starts

Thursday 4th January new starter visits for Mulberries

Friday 5th January Mulberries start back

Friday 5th January Pantomime trip to Stevenage

Tuesday 13th February Parents' Evening

Thursday 15th February Parents' Evening

Friday 16th February Half term ends

Term dates for **2024-2025** can be found [here](#).

Attendance Awards

Week beginning 4th December 2023

The best attendance award is presented to:
class!

Mulberries

92%

Fir (YR)

92%

Yew (Y1)

95%

Aspen (Y2)

95%

Rowan (Y3)

97%



Poplar (Y4)

97%



Juniper (Y5)

94%

Elder (Y6)

93%

Sycamore (Y6)

93%

**Our target is
97%**



Maple Tree

Christmas Carol Concert

Monday 18th December.

3:40pm

Come join us for Christmas carols, straight after school on the main playground.

Everyone is welcome to join us and it will be wonderful to see as many children, parents, carers and grandparents to celebrate this time of year.



MAPLE TREE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning. Equality. Achievement. Friendship.

