

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



## Newsletter

Friday 22nd September 2023

### This week's House Winners



**Congratulations!**

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Today sees the end of our first full 'ordinary' week back and it has been a very positive one. The children are now fully engaged in their learning and I am hoping that those of you who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions for Years 1-5 this week have a better understanding of what goes on in the classrooms when your children are at school; for those of you who were unable to join us, the presentations are on the [class pages](#) of our website (Year 6 your presentation will be loaded after your meeting next week).

Along with these there is a wealth of information that you may find useful:

[Curriculum Yearly Overview](#) - this shows the areas we are covering in all subjects over the coming year. It includes trips and visits as well as the values that we are teaching the children too. Further information about the learning in individual year groups will be found for each subject on our [curriculum](#) pages.

Timetables (found on the class page) - this year we are running a 2-week timetable so that some subjects are taught on alternate weeks. We have found when covering topics half-termly/termly that the retention of key knowledge is harder for the children as the gaps between are too long, teaching over 2 weeks instead will mean that we can revisit prior learning more regularly which will promote deeper learning for the pupils; art and design technology (DT), music and computing and geography and history will be delivered on alternate weeks with all the other subjects remaining weekly.

Termly Overview - at the bottom of each page there is a link to click which will show you what the pupils are covering in all subjects this term. This will give you a view as to specifics that they are working on in order to have conversation with them at home about what they are learning (this is different for Reception who have a much more detailed curriculum yearly overview).

Knowledge Organisers - in History, Geography and Science the children are given prepared knowledge organisers which show the key knowledge the children need to be learning. The teachers assess the children at the start of the unit of learning and again at the end to ensure that the knowledge can be retrieved accurately and to embed the learning. These can be found from each class page and are changed for each unit so please do check these pages as we go through the year.

Home The Classes Year 3 Rowan Class

In this section  
 > Knowledge Organisers  
 > Gallery

We hope that this information will be useful to you. As always if you have any questions, please get in touch.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

### Please note that Mrs Pond's working hours this year are as follows:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9.00am - 3.00pm and Thursday 9.00am - 12.30pm. If you need anything urgently in between times, please contact us through [teacher@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:teacher@mapletreepriamaryschool.com)

Maple Tree Primary School, Hawk Drive, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2WA

Tel: 01767 699806 Web: [www.mapletreepriamaryschool.com](http://www.mapletreepriamaryschool.com)

Emails: [office@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:office@mapletreepriamaryschool.com) or [teacher@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:teacher@mapletreepriamaryschool.com)

## INTRODUCTION TO TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) is a great way to practise the multiplication and division facts at home. The children have access to this in years 3-6. Check out this [video](#) for an introduction by TTRS themselves.



### Game Modes

#### Single Player

- Garage** - the questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week. As pupils start to answer questions, TT Rock Stars works out which facts they take longer on and will give them more of these questions to answer. The Garage is best for getting quicker at a few facts. Players get 10 coins per question.
- Studio** - the questions in the Studio can be anything from  $1 \times 1$  up to  $12 \times 12$ . TT Rock Stars calculates the mean speed from their last 10 games in the Studio and translates into a Rock Status (see right). They earn 1 coin per question and the Studio is the place for them to set their best time across all the tables.

$\leq 1 \text{ sec/qu} = \text{Rock Hero}$	$\leq 7 \text{ secs/qu} = \text{Unsigned Act}$
$\leq 2 \text{ secs/qu} = \text{Rock Legend}$	$\leq 8 \text{ secs/qu} = \text{Gigger}$
$\leq 3 \text{ secs/qu} = \text{Rock Star}$	$\leq 9 \text{ secs/qu} = \text{Busker}$
$\leq 4 \text{ secs} = \text{Headliner}$	$\leq 10 \text{ secs/qu} = \text{Garage Rocker}$
$\leq 5 \text{ secs/qu} = \text{Support Act}$	$> 10 \text{ secs/qu} = \text{Wannabe}$
$\leq 6 \text{ secs/qu} = \text{Breakthrough Artist}$	

#### Multiplayer

- Rock Arena** - The Arena allows players to compete against all other members of their Band (their Bandmates would need to join the same game in order to compete together). A new Arena game starts every 15 seconds and once the clock starts they race to answer more questions than the others. In the Arena, questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week, similar to the Garage. They earn 1 coin per correct answer.
- Rock Festival** - The Rock Festival games are open to players from around the world. Like the Arena, there is no limit to the number of players who can join a game; however, unlike the Arena, questions are selected at random from  $1 \times 1$  to  $12 \times 12$ . Pupils might choose the Rock Festival if they were playing at home (and therefore couldn't easily synchronise playing against a classmate) or wanted to compete against others not in their Band. They earn 1 coin per correct answer.

Not sure if your child is on the right multiplication tables? The TTRS software uses a 'smart question algorithm' to challenge and update the tables for your child. If your child is being given the same tables over and over again, it is because they are slower than the 6 seconds per question threshold, or they continue to answer particular questions incorrectly.

A longer guide explaining all the features will be available soon.



### Whatsapp Groups

Does your child have whatsapp? Are they being added into groups (by their contacts) that contain people they don't know? If so, their number is being shared widely and this opens them up to dangers online. The pupils tell me that they leave the groups but are often re-added, seeing messages from people that they don't know. By default, any WhatsApp user can add you to a group without your permission. But by changing your settings, users will need your permission before adding you to a WhatsApp group. Here is how to change the settings:

**On Android and Apple:** Open whatsapp> Go to Settings> Privacy > Groups> 'My contacts except' and choose either all or those who are causing the problem.

This way they cannot be added to any of the groups directly. Rather they will receive a request every time someone tries to add him/her to a group, which they can then accept or decline.

Make sure the most up-to-date version of whatsapp is downloaded for this setting to appear.

# 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?

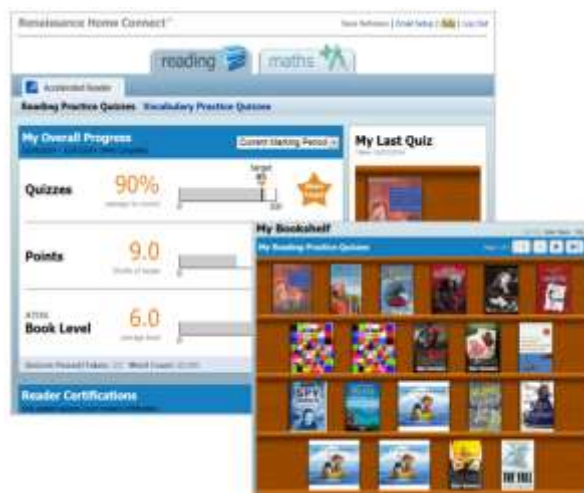
Based on extensive research, we can provide guidelines for the approximate number of Accelerated Reader points children should be able to earn depending on how much time they read and their reading level. Monitoring Accelerated Reader points earned by children and comparing them to the guideline values 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](http://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 (found in their reading/homework diaries) 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.



## 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!

# Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are for...  
...showing a positive attitude/  
being kind to others



**Fir:**

★ Isla  
Arthur A

**Yew:**

★ Kimberley  
Ava

**Aspen:**

Ezra  
Lenny ★

**Rowan:**

★ Isabella  
Ralph

**Poplar:**

★  
Emi  
Mia

**Juniper:**

★  
Katie  
Niamh

**Sycamore:**

★  
Oscar  
Ennis

**Elder:**

★  
Kornelia  
Olivia

**WELL DONE TO  
YOU ALL!**

## Competition Winners

Thank you for all the entries for the 'Ice Lolly Design' competition.

WELL DONE to the winners:

1st Prize: Krystal - Elder  
2nd Prize: Bella - Aspen  
3rd Prize: Isabella - Rowan

In addition, following pupils will all receive 3 house points each:  
Malachi, Lexi, George, Clayton and Harry in Fir Class  
Arthus and Layla in Yew Class  
Leah, Iris, Freya and Reuben in Poplar Class

WELL DONE to you all!!  
Mrs Pond :)

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Wednesday 27th September** Macmillan Cake Sale

**Friday 6th October 9am** Parent Forum

**Tuesday 17th /Thursday 19th October** Parents' Evening

**Friday 20th October 9:10am** KS2 Harvest Assembly (KS1 will do the Easter assembly in the Spring Term)

**Monday 23rd October** Half Term week

**13th-17th November** Anti-Bullying Week

**Friday 17th November** Anti-Bullying Open Afternoon

**29th November - 6th December** Book Fair

**Thursday 30th November** Grandparent's Breakfast

**Friday 8th December** Parent Forum

**Wednesday 13th December** Christmas Dinner

**Tuesday 19th December** Term Ends

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

## Attendance Awards

Next week will mark the beginning of sharing the class attendance figures. At MTPS we recognise the value of regular attendance at school.

One of our basic principles is to celebrate success. Good attendance is fundamental to a successful and fulfilling school experience. It is our duty to promote 100% attendance for all children. For our children to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered it is vital that our pupils are at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

Good attendance is important because:

- statistics show a direct link between under-achievement and absence below 95%
- regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically
- regular attenders find school routines, school work and friendships easier to cope with
- regular attenders find learning more satisfying
- regular attenders are most successful in transferring between primary school, secondary school, higher education and employment or training





# FRIENDS OF MAPLE TREE AGM

## What's involved?

Come along & meet the team, plus others who are interested in joining the committee. Ask questions to find out how you can help. No commitment necessary.

- ☒ Become part of a team & make friends
- ☒ Help organise events like fetes & discos
- ☒ Raise money to help support the school

Would you like to nominate someone? Or yourself?

Please email [fomtprimary@gmail.com](mailto:fomtprimary@gmail.com)



2nd October 2023

6pm onwards



Meet at the school or join virtually





**MAPLE TREE  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL &  
MULBERRIES  
PRE-SCHOOL**

# LOOKING FOR A NEW SCHOOL PLACE?

## WHY CHOOSE US?

We have experienced and friendly staff who consider the needs of the whole child.

Great learning environment with big outdoor spaces.

Flexible care - a fabulous before and after school club.

High standards and expectations for all.

Engaging themes and opportunities for curriculum discovery.

## CONTACT US AT:



01767 699806

[www.mapletreepriaryschool.com](http://www.mapletreepriaryschool.com)

[office@mapletreepriaryschool.com](mailto:office@mapletreepriaryschool.com)

**VISIT US TO SEE  
US IN ACTION!**



February 2018





**BOOKING ESSENTIAL. PLEASE  
EMAIL, OR CALL, THE SCHOOL  
OFFICE WITH YOUR  
PREFERRED TIME:**

**THURS 21ST SEPTEMBER 10AM  
MON 25TH SEPTEMBER 1.30PM  
TUES 10TH OCTOBER 10AM  
WEDS 18TH OCTOBER 2PM  
FRI 3RD NOVEMBER 9.30AM  
MON 13TH NOVEMBER 10AM  
FRI 1ST DECEMBER 11AM  
TUES 5TH DECEMBER 9.30AM  
THURS 14TH DECEMBER 2PM**

**OFFICE@MAPLETREEPRIMARYSCHOOL.COM  
01767 699806**

"I believe that you  
have an ethos of  
Values-based  
education that needs  
to be shared with other  
schools".  
*Values Assessor June  
2019*

'I REALLY LIKE THE FACT  
THAT THE SCHOOL IS FRIENDLY  
AND HAS A WELCOMING  
ENVIRONMENT WITH A GOOD  
FOCUS ON LEARNING.'  
*PARENT JULY 2021*

**96% parents would  
recommend Maple  
Tree to another  
parent.**

*Parent Survey Autumn 23*



**MAPLE TREE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Learning. Equality. Achievement. Friendship.