

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



Newsletter

Friday 24th November 2023

This week's House Winners



Congratulations!

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Is it too early to mention Christmas?? As we head towards the big event, there is a slight buzz in the air as we start to prepare and the pupils are working hard to ensure that they are ready for the activities that we have coming up including the Key Stage assemblies which take place at the end of the term - there is some lovely festive music to be heard around the school.

We are looking forward to welcoming grandparents to breakfast next Thursday and following that the decorations they help to make will be up around school - photos will be shared next week. There are a couple of festive notices to bring your attention to this week - if you are looking for a Christmas tree then please see the announcement below which will financially benefit us, and please encourage your children to take part in the Santa Challenge which can be read about on the last page.

I am looking forward to sharing some real festive treats with you in the coming weeks.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

Southill Sawmills Christmas Tree Sale & Donation

From week commencing 27th November, Southill Sawmills will have Christmas Trees available for sale. This year, they are keen to give something back to the local communities and as such are hoping to help local primary schools.

Christmas Trees will be £48.00 with £5.00 of each sale donated to the primary school referenced at purchase.

They will offer free delivery of trees which covers our catchment area.

They can be found at Southill Sawmills – Lawsons, Southill Park, Old Warden SG18 9LW 01462 819173

Remember to mention Maple Tree Primary School!



Health and Safety

This week it has been brought to our attention that the parking at pick up and drop off is becoming increasingly more dangerous and stressful, not just for the residents in our local roads, but also for our pupils, especially those who walk home alone. Please make sure that you park with consideration and not for speed. It is these points where accidents are more likely and we want to ensure we are all doing what we can to keep our school community safe.

Thank you to you all for your adherence to the additional reminders we have given you over the last couple of weeks, the car park is currently feeling much safer for us all.

Poppy appeal

This year we raised £238.80 for the Poppy Appeal!



Thank you to all who supported this cause.

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

Tel: 01767 699806 Web: www.mapletreepriamaryschool.com

Emails: office@mapletreepriamaryschool.com or teacher@mapletreepriamaryschool.com

This week in Elder Class

Science

In science we are learning about light. We are learning that light travels in straight lines. This week we explored how we can use reflection to see over and around objects. We even made our own periscopes. Some of us took on the challenge to design our own periscope—this was tricky!



English

We are writing a narrative based on the book 'The Journey' by Francesca Sanna. It is about a family who flee their country as refugees and the turmoil and upset this brings. We are building our vocabulary and writing techniques by focussing on different plot points in the book.



Maths— this week we have been learning about fractions. We have revised equivalent fractions and used our knowledge of times tables. We have also learned how to add and subtract fractions in a variety of ways.

History

This term we have been learning about World War II. We have followed the enquiry question—'What impact did WWII have on society in Britain?' We began by learning about some of the reasons for the war, then some of the major battles, and finally evacuation. We have learned some local history when Mr Flitton visited to tell us about his dad's experience of the war whilst growing up in Luton. Did you know there was a



learned some local history when Mr Flitton visited to tell us about his dad's experience of the war whilst growing up in Luton. Did you know there was a

Design Technology

This term we have been learning how to use design a



pattern to make a waistcoat.

We are building on our sewing techniques

and finally we will use applique and other means of decoration.



Art

We have been learning about shadow puppets. We have learned the history of them and then designed our own. We are combining Anti-Bullying Week with our work and will use our puppets to enact an Anti-Bullying scenario.

Anti-Bullying Week

We have been learning the difference between banter and bullying. We can define banter and know when it can turn from harmless fun to bullying. We even made a 'Bantometer'!



Finally—thank you for all of the support you have given the children over the term with their reading and homework. This really helps me and gives them extra practise with their learning.

We will finish our art work and design technology on our class page of our school website as soon as it is finished.

EYFS



Year 1 Pencil sketching and still life drawings



Art and Design at Maple Tree

Our art and design structure and sequence of lessons give our pupils the opportunity to be inspired, use their imagination and be creative individuals. As a school we want to develop and equip our pupils with lifelong expertise and knowledge across the art and design curriculum.

Year 3 Prehistoric cave art and exploring food art



Year 4 Storytelling through drawing



Year 5 Greek theatre masks



Year 2 Stick transformation using 3 dimensions



Year 6 Malaysian shadow puppets



Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are for... **...being a great friend/ being thoughtful of others.**



Fir: ★ Georgia Lola	Yew: ★ Laura Max	Aspen: Amber Harry ★
Rowan: Finley Moni	Poplar: Reuben Mason	Juniper: ★ Jax James
Sycamore: ★ Isla/Maggie Andrew	Elder: Amelia ★ Brandon	WELL DONE TO YOU ALL!



Tree Maintenance Working Party

We are still looking for volunteers who may be able to help us with the task below. Please do fill in the [google form](#) if you think you might be able to help.

We are aware that a number of trees along our boundary are very overgrown and to that end we are looking to form a working party of people who might be interested in donating a couple of hours of their time at a weekend at some point to help with the pruning and trimming to ensure these are maintained and to support our neighbours.

If and when we have a group of volunteers, we will share some dates with you and weather permitting we can make a big difference to our school grounds.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

29th November - 6th December Book Fair

Thursday 30th November Grandparent's Breakfast

Thursday 7th December 2.30pm Parent Forum

Tuesday 12th December Reception Christmas assembly 9.15am

Tuesday 12th December 2.30 - 3.30pm Mulberries drop-ins

Wednesday 13th December KS1 Christmas assembly 9.15am

Thursday 14th December UKS2 Christmas assembly 9.15am

Friday 15th December LKS2 Christmas assembly 9.15am

Wednesday 13th December Christmas Dinner

Friday 15th December 11am - 12pm Mulberries drop-ins

Monday 18th December 3.30pm Carols on the Playground (weather permitting)

Tuesday 19th December Term Ends

Wednesday 3rd January 2024 INSET day

Thursday 4th January Term starts

Friday 5th January Pantomime trip to Stevenage

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

Attendance Awards

Week beginning 20th November 2023

The best attendance award is presented to:
Rowan and Poplar class!

Mulberries 94%	Fir (YR) 91%
Yew (Y1) 96%	Aspen (Y2) 95%
Rowan (Y3) 97% ★	Poplar (Y4) 97% ★
Juniper (Y5) 94%	Elder (Y6) 94%
Sycamore (Y6) 94%	Our target is 97%



Santa Challenge

Cycle, Scoot or Stride to Santa in Lapland

Monday 27th November to Friday 8th December 2023

Can Maple Tree get to Lapland before Christmas?

This virtual race is where children and parents walk, scoot or cycle to school. Each time a child or parent travels actively, they will be credited with one mile. These miles will be used to map the school's journey to Lapland.



**Pupils who travel actively
for the entire 10 days will
have their names entered
into a draw to win a scooter.**





NEWSLETTER

FoMT

NOVEMBER
2023

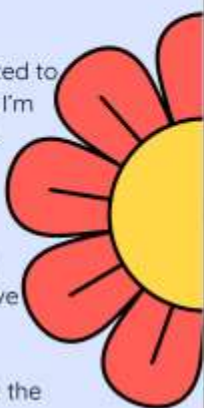
Welcome to Friends of Maple Tree!

Note from the Chair

Hey, my name's Emma & I am beyond excited to introduce myself as the new chair of FoMT. I'm really looking forward to the year ahead & the amazing events we've got coming up.

I want to say a huge thank you to Gemma Athow (our previous chair), for all her hard work in setting up the PTFA, we couldn't have done it without you!

Also a big thank you to all the volunteers at the Halloween disco, your help was invaluable.



Funds are going towards:

Working with Father Christmas! Keep your eyes peeled!

Want to volunteer?

We'd love to have your help at our events so drop us an email at fomtprimary@gmail.com

'The nice thing about teamwork is that you always have others on your side' - M. Carty

Events so far this term:

- Tea & Tissues - free event for new starter parents
- Halloween Disco - raised £681.91



Upcoming Events:

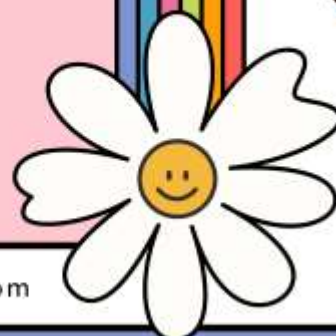
- 24th November: Christmas Jumper Sale
- 27th November: Christmas Craft Market
- 4th December: Wreath Making Workshop
- 12th & 14th December: Elfridges



[friendsofmapletree](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmapletree)



fomtprimary@gmail.com





Christmas Craft Market

Come along to our fun filled festive evening, with amazing gift ideas and help show your support to small local businesses.

From bows to books, candles to colouring, we have a fab range of stall holders waiting to make your Christmas magical.

There will also be a raffle & refreshments available

Monday 27th November 2023 6pm -8:30pm
Maple Tree Primary School, Hawk Drive,
Sandy, SG19 2WA



**FREE
ENTRY**

