

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



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD

What a wonderful morning we had yesterday hosting breakfast for all our wonderful grandparents. I would like to express a big thank you to the school staff who came in early to set up and run this popular event. The grandparents enjoyed the Christmas crafts as much as the children (more in some cases). The school feels very Christmassy today, the first day of advent, as the school staff decorate classrooms and corridors and FoMT decorated our tree in the hall. There are a number of Christmas announcements in this week's newsletter and we hope to see some of you this weekend at the Sandy lights switch on and Christmas Tree Festival.

I hope you all have a good weekend.



Young Sports Leaders Award

Two Thursdays ago, 10 pupils chosen from Years 4 and 5 took part in a **Young Sports Leaders Award**, which was delivered by Paul Blunt (East Beds SGO – Schools Game Organiser). Focusing on responsibility and developing leadership skills such as organisation, communication and co-operation, the chosen few began with a theory based session before looking at delivering physical activities.



The Leaders were then required to run an intra-class competition for three different year groups (Reception, Year1 and Year2) using the skills they had been honing throughout the day.

The competitions were a success. The Leaders supported the children well showing patience and empathy as well as keeping to timelines to ensure the event was fun and engaging.

Well done to the ten Leaders that took part:

Year 5 – Noah C, Jasper B, Isla B, Georgia G and Laecie H

Year 4—Reuben F, Leah B, Darcey L, Mason L and Wil T

Mr Neill

Pupil Post Box for Christmas cards

The Christmas post box will be open from Monday 4th December for all of your children's Christmas cards.

Please ensure that they write class names and first and last names are the envelopes.

Last post day is Monday 18th December.



Christmas Events

Sandy Christmas Lights Switch On

Come and watch our **school choir** perform at the Sandy Christmas Lights Switch On event on Sunday 3rd December 2023.

There will be a stage for live entertainment with a band and local schools performing, a Santa's Grotto, fairground rides, market stalls, hot food sellers, fairy street performer, various other attractions and the Christmas tree and street illuminations which will be switched on at 4.30pm. **Maple Tree Choir are due to perform at 1:40pm on the stage.**

Christmas Tree Festival

Go and see our schools entry to the Christmas Tree Festival at Sandy Parish Church this weekend. On display will be the decorations created this week at Grandparent's breakfast. See the poster to the right for more information.



Online Safety Follow-up Resources

Thank you to the parents who attended our online safety event a few weeks ago run by a Cyber Protect & Prevent officer within the Cybercrime Hub in Bedfordshire Police. She has sent through some key resources for all parents and carers:

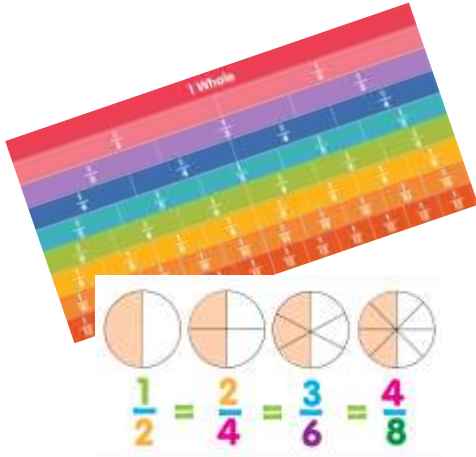
1. **Parental controls:** It is advisable to set parent controls on your internet at home. On this website, you can select your provider and will give you a step by step guide on it and has all the guides which we would recommend. <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>. You can also set up parental controls on your PCs: <https://www.groovypost.com/howto/setup-family-safety-windows-10/> or macs: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/mac-help/mchl8490d51e/mac>
2. **Screen time:** having clear boundaries for screen time can help children manage living in this digital world. For iPhones see: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/iphone/iphb0c7313c9/ios> and for android use: <https://parentshield.co.uk/the-ultimate-guide-to-setting-up-google-family-link-for-your-childs-phone/>
3. **Two/multi factor authentication:** this adds another step alongside a password, so that if your password has been compromised, they still cannot access anything. This is the website has a directory of guides to help you set up two/multi factor authentication: [2FA Directory](#)
4. **Password strength:** check the strength of your password using this website: <https://www.passwordmonster.com/>

We hope that these help to keep you and your families safe online.

Juniper Class Year 5

English

We are reading the book 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. This sci-fi story is about an eleven year old boy who is much taller than his friends and is mistaken for an adult. We have been looking at how the main character is taking advantage of this through describing with complex and short sentences. With the skills of different sentence structures, at the end of this unit the children will be writing a short sci-fi story.

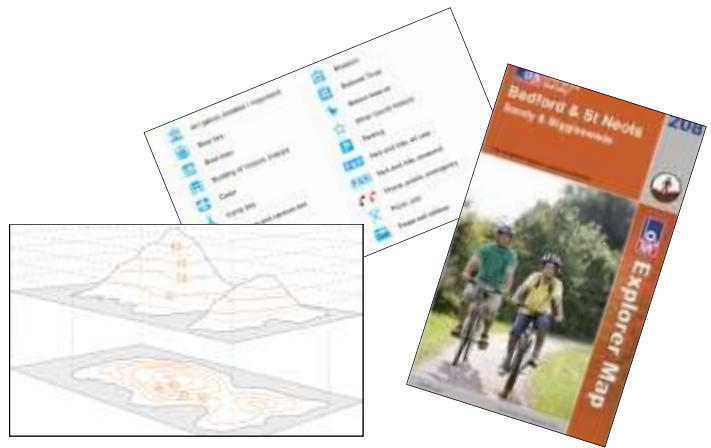


Maths

We are learning about fractions, with a particular focus on equivalent fractions, improper fractions and mixed numbers. These skill have then been used to help add fractions of different denominators and mixed numbers. Fractions can be difficult to gasp so we have been doing a lot of practice so help secure the knowledge.

Geography

This term we have been looking at where The Alps are in Europe and comparing our local area to that of the mountainous region of The Alps. We have been learning to about contour lines and how to read maps to help compare the areas.



Science

We started the topic with a great lesson discussing and debating if the Earth is spherical or flat. The children took time to consider and question the evidence for both theories and some still have good arguments for the flat Earth theory! We have also learnt how we have night and day and also discussed why we have different seasons and countries near the equator do not.

Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are for... ..showing respect



Fir:
★ **Annabel**

Yew:
★ **Matthew**

Aspen:
Kady ★

Rowan:
Annie

Poplar:
Wil

Juniper:
Georgia ★

Sycamore: ★
Megan

Elder:
Tyler ★

**WELL DONE TO
YOU ALL!**

This week's
House Winners



Congratulations!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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 3.40pm 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:
Poplar class!

Mulberries 94%	Fir (YR) 91%
Yew (Y1) 96%	Aspen (Y2) 95%
Rowan (Y3) 97%	Poplar (Y4) 98% ★
Juniper (Y5) 94%	Elder (Y6) 94%
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.





Wreath Making

4TH DECEMBER 2023
6:30PM - 8:30PM

£35
a ticket

MAPLE TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL
HAWK DRIVE, SANDY, SG19 2WA

IF YOU CAN PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN
SCISSORS/SECATEURS

FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT

TO BOOK EMAIL -
FOMTPRIMARY@GMAIL.COM