

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**

Learning. Equality. Achievement. Friendship.

## Newsletter

Friday 16th May 2025

### MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD

Another week is complete and just like that we have only one week left of this (very short) half term. Next term is a very busy one, with trips for every class, parent events and preparations for the next academic year. Please ensure that you keep an eye on parentmail for communications as we send these out on Fridays.

I would like to express my thanks to the FoMT committee and all parents and carers who have raised money for our DT project. Staff are giving up their time to redecorate the room next month and we are excited to begin the first phase of creating an exciting space to learn in. Remember, if you would like a say in how FoMT spends their funds, then come along to a meeting; they are open to all parents and carers, not just the committee.

As is usual this time of year, the weather is very changeable at the moment so please continue to send your child in prepared for both warm and cool weathers as we will ensure they get time outside whatever the weather.

I am looking forward to meeting with parent forum reps next week and have asked them to get any items for the agenda to me by Monday—so please contact them if you have something that you'd like to raise.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

I want to say a huge well done to the year 6 children, who have undertaken their end of key stage 2 assessments (SATs) this week. They have impressed us with their focus and determination, not just this week, but in the weeks leading up to assessments too.

I would also like to extend our thanks to parents and carers who have supported the children with their revision and wellbeing through this period—we are incredibly grateful to have had the support.

Finally, I also want to thank the year 6 team who have worked hard all year to ensure the children are prepared and confident. They have also been in early every day this week organising breakfast for the children.



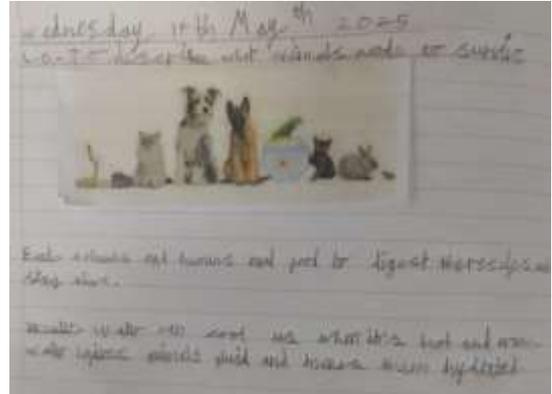
Maple Tree Primary School, Hawk Drive, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2WA

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

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

## What's been happening in Aspen Class this week?

In science, we have been learning about the three basic needs for animals and humans. The children now know that a comfy bed and toys, though nice, are not what keeps us alive.



In geography, we have been discovering the seas that surround the UK. The class have had to use atlases to locate the seas and label their maps. They have also had to recap the countries in the UK.

This week we have continued to write a biography about the aviator, Amelia Earheart. The children have used subordinating conjunctions and proper nouns to retell her story. They have worked really hard to recall all the facts and to make it all make sense as well as being in chronological order.

In art we have been finding out about expressionist painting and the class have had a go at painting a version of themselves in this style. The work is certainly colourful.



### Fir Class:

Over the past few weeks, Fir class have been engaging in a ball skills unit. This has involved them developing their catching, bouncing, throwing, stopping a ball that is moving and rolling balls to a specific target. An insect theme has been adopted to engage the children and help them affiliate the core teaching coaching points of the skills with the skills themselves.

### Aspen Class:

Similar to Fir Class and progressing their skills and understanding, Aspen have been working on their ball skills. So far, they have been focusing on using their feet, looking to stop a rolling ball with more control, dribble with the ball close to their feet and kicking a ball with more power, accuracy and efficiency. Ms Cornfoot is very pleased with their progress so far.

### Poplar Class:

Poplar have followed Rowan with the split two hour lessons this term and have mixed cricket and dance to provide variety in their P.E. lessons. Within the cricket lessons, Poplar are building on their knowledge of the game from previous years with more focus on the skill development of throwing, catching, bowling and batting. They are beginning to analyse how these skills tie in with tactics and apply these within game situations.

### Elder Class:

Elder Class have been trying their hands at hockey this term. They have learnt how to hold the hockey stick properly and the rules which govern the use of it. They have learnt the skills of push passing and controlling the ball as well as developing their ball control through dribbling. Year 6 have discussed the best way to use their body positioning and the stick to keep control of the ball and protect it from defenders.

### Yew Class:

Year 1 have been focusing on invasion games—in particular football and basketball. They began by focusing on the roles of defenders and attackers within these games and how best to achieve their objectives. This incorporates basic tactics such as moving towards the goal with the ball, supporting an attacking team-mate, recognising who to pass to and why, as well as moving into a space to show an awareness of defenders.

### Rowan Class:

Rowan's Summer 1 unit is Cricket. Rowan have: learnt about the rules of the game of cricket; developed their bowling, batting and fielding including throwing the ball and blocking/retrieving. The children have worked in small groups to run drills and games in order to hone these skills and furthering their understanding of the game of cricket. In addition, the children have been encouraged to think analytically when playing and discussing tactics for batting and fielding.

### Juniper Class:

Basketball is the current unit being learnt in Juniper. They have developed their abilities to dribble and move the ball and have focused on how to apply these skills to "loose a defender" when in attack. They have also looked at the importance of play "off of the ball" and how moving into space and communication is key to a strong attack. Currently, they have turned their attention to defending, defensive plans and when to attempt intercepts.

P.E.  
at  
Maple Tree



# Navigating YouTube with your child: A Parent's Guide

YouTube can be a fantastic source of entertainment and learning for children, offering everything from educational videos to creative content. However, with such a vast library, it's essential for parents to be proactive in ensuring our children aged 2-11 have a safe and positive experience. Here are some practical tips to help you navigate YouTube with your child:

## **1. Embrace YouTube Kids (for younger children):**

For our youngest learners (typically up to age 8), the **YouTube Kids app** is a great first step. It's designed with younger audiences in mind, featuring a curated selection of channels and videos that are generally age-appropriate.

- **Download the App:** Ensure your child is using the dedicated YouTube Kids app, not the main YouTube platform.
- **Set Up Profiles:** Create individual profiles for each child within the app to tailor the content to their age and interests.
- **Review and Approve Content:** You have the option to handpick the channels and videos your child can watch, offering even greater control.

## **2. Utilize YouTube's Parental Controls (for older primary children):**

As children get older (roughly ages 9-11), they may start using the main YouTube platform. This is where YouTube's built-in parental controls become crucial:

- **Supervised Accounts:** YouTube offers the option to create supervised accounts linked to your own Google account. This allows you to set content filters based on your child's age and monitor their viewing history.
- **Content Filtering:** Explore the different content filter levels available within supervised accounts to restrict the types of videos your child can access.
- **Blocking Channels and Videos:** If you come across content you deem unsuitable, you can easily block specific channels or videos from your child's view.

## **3. Establish Healthy Time Boundaries:**

Just like any screen time, it's important to set clear and consistent time limits for YouTube use.

- **Discuss Limits Together:** Involve your child in setting these limits so they feel a sense of ownership.
- **Use Timers:** Employ timers to help children understand and manage their viewing time.
- **Encourage Other Activities:** Ensure YouTube time doesn't replace outdoor play, reading, hobbies, and family time.

## **4. Foster Open Communication:**

Talk to your child about online safety and responsible viewing.

- **What to Watch:** Discuss the types of videos that are educational and enjoyable.
- **What to Avoid:** Explain that not all content online is appropriate and encourage them to come to you if they see something that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- **Critical Thinking:** Help them understand that not everything they see online is true or accurate.

## **5. Explore and Discover Together:**

Take some time to explore YouTube with your child. This allows you to:

- **Find Age-Appropriate Channels:** Discover channels that align with their interests and offer valuable content.
- **Understand Their Interests:** Gain insight into what your child enjoys watching.
- **Have Shared Experiences:** Watching videos together can be a fun and engaging family activity.

Navigating the digital world with our children requires ongoing effort and open communication. By utilizing the tools and strategies mentioned above, we can help our primary school children enjoy the benefits of YouTube in a safe and balanced way. If you have any questions or concerns about online safety, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at school.

# Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are for... ..being a hard worker!



<b>Fir:</b> Leo-Rose	<b>Yew:</b> Ben	<b>Aspen:</b> Daniel
<b>Rowan:</b> Sam	<b>Poplar:</b> Thomas	<b>Juniper:</b> Maja
<b>Elder:</b> Niamh	Well done to you all!	★

This week's House Winners



Congratulations!

Weekly totals:

Buzzards 283      Robins 200  
Doves 153      Ravens 238  
Kingfishers 160      Swallows 274

# Celebrations and Weekly Wins!

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thur 22nd May—Parent Forum  
Friday 23rd May—Last day of half term.  
Mon 2nd June—INSET day  
**Tues 3rd June—First day of half term**  
Mon 9th-Wed 11th June—Year 6 Residential Trip PGL  
Thur 19th June—Year 4/5 Camping Experience  
Wed 2nd July—Preschool Sports Day  
Thur 3rd July—Sports Day  
Thur 10th July—Parent Forum  
Fri 11th July—Open Afternoon and Proms on the Playground  
Tue 22nd July—Year 6 leaver's assembly  
Tue 22nd July—Last day of school year

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

## Attendance Awards

Week beginning 6th May 2025

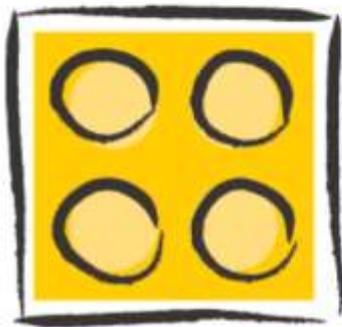
The best attendance award is presented to **Elder class** for 100% attendance this week!

**Class Attendance Percentages for the whole year.**

<b>Mulberries</b> 90%	<b>Fir (YR)</b> 95%
<b>Yew (Y1)</b> 96%	<b>Aspen (Y2)</b> 96%
<b>Rowan (Y3)</b> 97%	<b>Poplar (Y4)</b> 97%
<b>Juniper (Y5)</b> 98% ★	<b>Elder (Y6)</b> 96% ★

In lieu of our Dads n Lads gift shop...

**WE ARE SELLING PERSONALISED  
'FAB BRICK' KEYRINGS...**



Fab  
Bricks

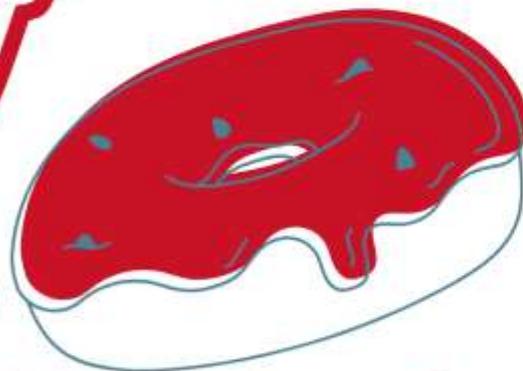
**£3.25**  
each

*order here*



**... AND KRISPY KREME  
DOUGHNUTS!**

**DONUT  
MISS  
OUT!**



*order here*

