

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 14th March 2025

### MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD

What a whirlwind of a week it's been at Maple Tree. As I walked through the corridors and popped into classrooms, I was met with such enthusiasm, curiosity, and a real buzz of learning. It's truly a joy to see our children engaged and thriving. This week, we've had a particular focus on the wonders of the world around us through Science week, and Mrs Darnell is delighted to share some of the highlights below. Mrs Rowley has also shared an update from Geography—it is lovely to see how these subjects progress through the year groups.

We are also really proud to share some artwork that was created on World Book Day to add to our school library walls, a celebration children who are showing values outside of school and a lovely update from our preschool Mulberries.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

### Junior Road Safety Officers

Huge thanks to the Junior Road Safety Officers for going to years 1, 2 and Reception to teach them how to be safe on their scooters. They read 'Why animals can't ride scooters and you can', a lovely story highlighting the dangers when out and about and how to keep safe.



### DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 10th Mar—Science week  
 Thur 20<sup>th</sup> Mar— Parent forum  
 Thur 27th Mar—Spelling Bee Final  
 Fri 28th Mar—FoMT Mother's and Other's shop (tea towels)  
 Tue 1<sup>st</sup> April – Rocksteady concert  
 Thur 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Easter assembly (R+KS1)  
 Fri 4<sup>th</sup> April – Last day of term  
 Tue 22nd April—INSET day  
 Wed 23rd April—First day of term

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

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## Values Beyond the Classroom—Giving Back Scheme

Before half term, Georgia took part in a charity swimathon. With 4 other girls from her Guide unit, they had to swim as many lengths as they could in 50 minutes. They managed 108 lengths between them, raising money for the rotary club and their chosen charity. The total sponsorship is yet to be counted. However, individually, Georgia raised over £50 for charity.

Georgia has demonstrated the values of perseverance and courage.

Well done Georgia, we are so proud of you.



With Mrs Jacobs as an example, Annie and Evie used some of the money they received for Christmas to sponsor a puppy each for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Money donated through sponsorship is used to train puppies to become guide dogs to aid children and adults with visual impairments. As part of their sponsorship they will receive regular pupdates and in their welcome pack they received a cuddly puppy.

Evie and Annie have shown the values of thankfulness and kindness. Well done girls, you are an inspiration to others.

The girls have all shown values worthy of our silver award in our Giving Back Scheme.

## Update from Mulberries

In Mulberries last week we pretended to make our own pancakes in the tough tray with playdough.

On Tuesday we tasted pancakes for snack and had various toppings!



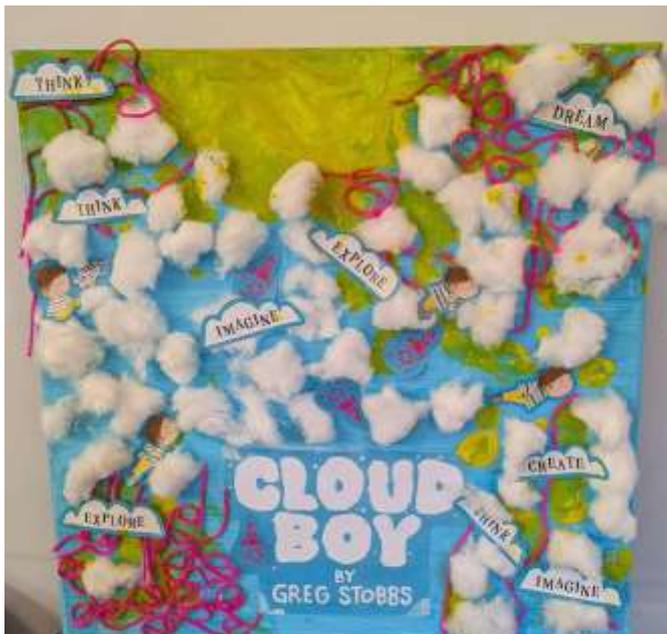
We also made some repeating patterns for a maths activity.

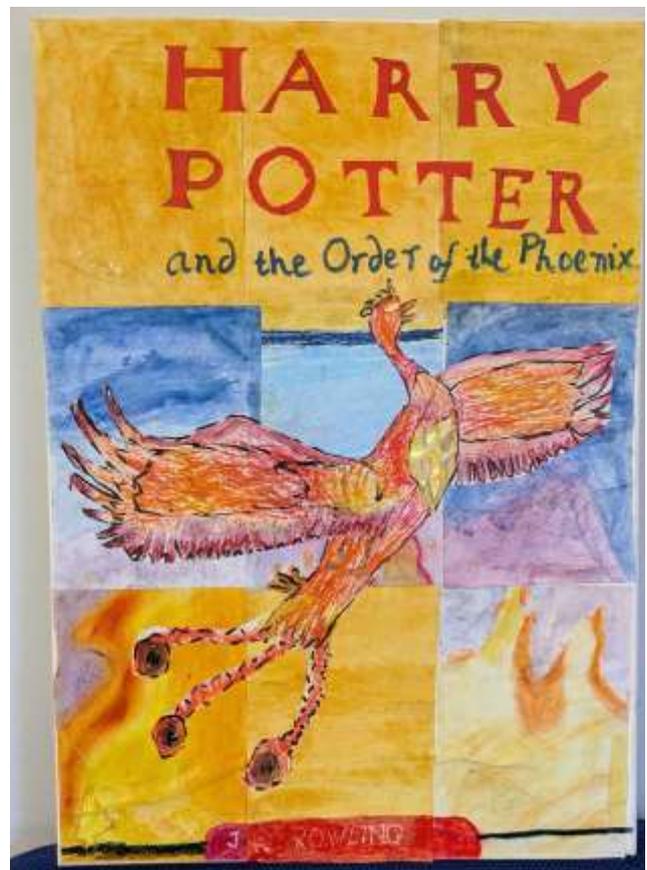
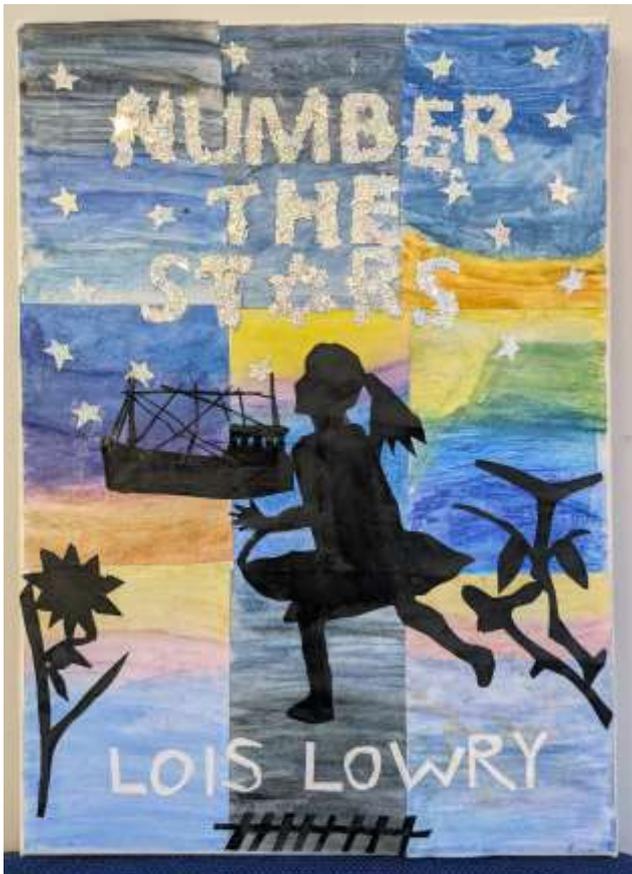
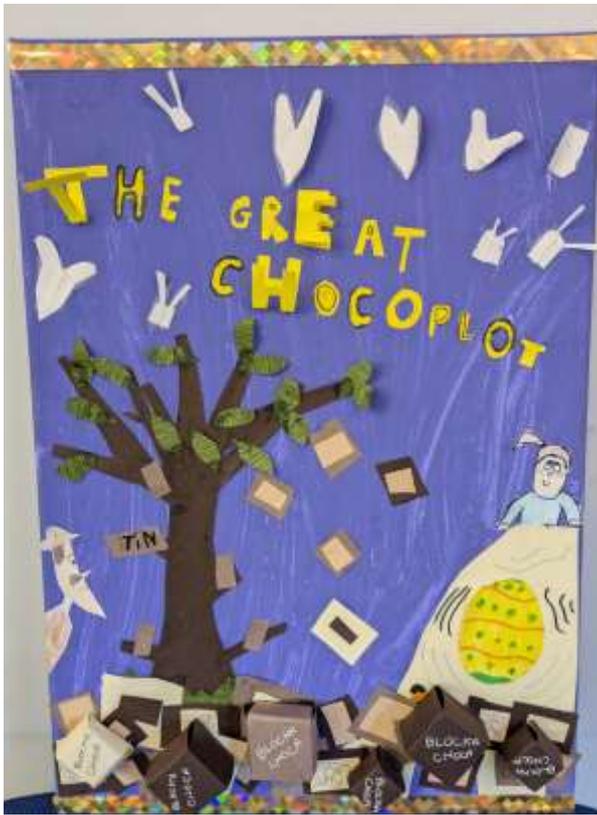


Staff from across early years enjoyed dressing up as number blocks for World Book Day.

## World Book Day

We love celebrating World Book Day and 2025 was another year to remember. The school was jam packed with book characters enjoying a range of reading activities. This year, I set each class a special task to create a piece of art to represent a book cover with the aim to add these to our library walls. We are so incredibly happy with how these have turned out—take a look for yourselves below.





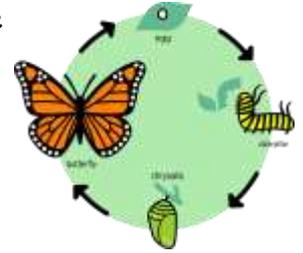
## SCIENCE WEEK at Maple Tree



*This year the theme for science week is 'Adapt and Change.'*

**Mulberries** In Mulberries they have been reading *Oliver's Vegetables*, and have enjoyed vegetable printing, and during snack they tasted some vegetables.

**Fir** Reception have been looking at how things change and adapt over time. We have investigated the life cycle of butterflies—what a change they go through! We used pipe cleaners to make our own caterpillars then hid them in the garden to see how well they could camouflage themselves. We also looked at the change to bread once it has been toasted (yum!) and how carrot tops can re-sprout to grow again.



**Yew** Yew class looked at Chromatography, how some felt-tip pens may look like one colour but are made using a range of different colours. To separate the colours they coloured a small line onto a paper towel, laid it on a petri dish and used a pipette to add small amounts of water. They then waited for the water to be absorbed by the paper towel. They were surprised to see how many colours were made using lots of different pigments.



**Aspen** This week Aspen Class took part in a live lesson based at a farm. The lesson brought the reality of a farm to life and helped to think about ways we can make changes in our environment. The class focused on becoming biodiversity buddies, energy experts and waste warriors. We also began to harvest seeds from a variety of tomatoes to see if we will be able to grow new plants from the seeds of fruit. The class tasted, observed smell and size and have now extracted the seeds.

**Rowan** This week Rowan will begin an investigation into how different plants vary in the things they need to grow. The children will be making written observations about how the seeds grow in a variety of conditions, as well as collecting objective data that they can analyse and pull conclusions from. In addition they also used ice cube 'glaciers' to delve into the effects of global warming.

**Poplar** We discussed what adaptations animals have to make to live in their environments, especially the harsher living environments such as deserts and the polar regions. The children then worked in groups to match the correct animals and adaptations cards together. They spent time researching some animals to create their own animal image and adaptation cards. Year 4 really enjoyed sharing the interesting facts they knew about animals and researching information about animals.

**Juniper** Year 5 pupils began with an inquiry question which was would shape, size and surface area effect movement. They then made prototypes of a Mars rover vehicle using recycled materials and investigated. They had a lot of fun with this investigation!



**Elder** Elder class have been learning about Evolution and Inheritance. During science week, we investigated Darwin's Finches and how they adapted to their environment. The finches, found in different parts of the Galapagos Islands, have beaks adapted over time to suit their diet needs. The children used a variety of tools, including tweezers, to eat various food types. They explored which beak type suited which food type and why the finch needed to adapt to its environment.

# Geography at Maple Tree

## Reception

Geography in reception is taught through hands-on activities in the classroom and outside. The children had great fun recently taking part in the RSPB Big Bird Watch. The children had to identify and record the birds they saw, which included sparrows, blackbirds and blue tits. They enjoy Forest School activities and have been making seed bombs and enhancing the school environment for wildlife.



## Year 1

The children in Yew have been focusing on 'What is the weather like in the UK?' They have been using the atlases to locate the UK and the four countries. Yew class has been learning the key features of the different seasons and weather patterns that occur from the seasons.

## Year 2

Aspen have been asking 'Why our world is wonderful?' They have been looking at OS maps to discover how the symbols can give valuable information. The class examined the maps to locate the local area, finding the symbols and identifying what amenities are available. They then used Google Earth to create their own map using symbols in a key.



## Year 3

Rowan have been learning all about one of the coldest part of the globe, the Antarctic. The children are able to explain what climate is and have learnt about latitude and the importance of the key ones, such as the equator. They will be discovering what it is like to visit Antarctica as a researcher, including the incredible sights they see, the work they do and how they adapt to life in a polar climate.

## Year 4

In year 4, the children have been learning about where our food comes from around the world. The children have been focusing on how cocoa beans, from the Ivory Coast, are produced, processed and transported around the world, before they are made into the delicious sweet bars we know them as. There has been focus on what Fair Trade is and how cooperatives help the local people.



## Year 5

Year 5 have been considering if they would like to live in a desert. Juniper started the unit by understanding what makes a desert biome such as very little vegetation. They then moved on to look at the main features of deserts and where they are located in the world.

## Year 6

Elder have been learning why energy sources are important and understand the benefits and drawbacks of different renewable and non-renewable energy sources. The children are moving on to learn about how large countries generate energy and distribute it.





**Maple Tree**  
Primary School

# Computing Computing



This week in computing, **Juniper** have been continuing their unit based around the Mars Rover. They have delved into data collection, and what types the Rover could collect before exploring binary code - how to read it (up to eight bits) and understand the concept behind it.

**Aspen** class have been full on in their computing this week with a full 'computer day'. They have been learning about key vocabulary surrounding coding such as decomposition, bugs, algorithms and debugging. Aspen used decomposition to understand a dinosaur game so they could attempt to debug a version with errors.

**Elder**, have been building on previous learning around coding. Also, the children are being introduced to Python - a more advanced coding system than the block form of Scratch. They are combining written and block code to make multiple sided shapes.

**Poplar**, have been doing further coding. Extending their decomposition skills to be able to identify the key features of a game and learning that a variable is a value that can change as well as how to use them in Scratch

**Yew** class' focus over the past week has been online safety, whilst continuing to explore the different parts of a computer. Yew have been discussing how the internet can affect our mood and emotions as well as what information is important to keep private and what types can be shared safely.

**Rowan** have been 'tinkering' with Scratch this week. First, recalling the vocabulary associated with coding, the children then looked into using sprites and how they can replace them or change them to create animations.

For computing, **Fir** class have doing coding all this term. We have been learning to follow instructions in various ways, including verbal and pictorial. We are now exploring the BeeBots and how to programme them.

# Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are for... ..being a great friend!



<b>Fir:</b> Evie-May	<b>Yew:</b> Max	<b>Aspen:</b> Emily
<b>Rowan:</b> Chloe	<b>Poplar:</b> Olive	<b>Juniper:</b> Ciaran
<b>Elder:</b> Alfie J	<b>Well done to you all!</b>	

This week's House Winners



**Congratulations!**

Weekly totals:

Buzzards 179	Robins 184
Doves 115	Ravens 247
Kingfishers 167	Swallows 220

# Celebrations and Weekly Wins!

**stars of the Week!**

For amazing work in Science this week!

- Yew: Eleanor
- Aspen: Arthur
- Rowan: Alex
- Poplar: Emma
- Juniper: Mauro
- Elder: James

# Attendance Awards

Week beginning 10th March 2025

The best attendance award is presented to:  
**Poplar** class this week for most improved!

<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> 95%

# COFFEE MORNING

WITH MRS ROY (SENDCO)

FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF  
CHILDREN WITH SEND

An opportunity to get to  
know each other and  
have an informal chat.



Tuesday 25th March  
9.00-9:30 am  
School Hall

Please confirm your attendance by emailing  
[SEND@mapletreeprimaryschool.com](mailto:SEND@mapletreeprimaryschool.com)  
by Monday 17th March.

Followed by a workshop run by neurospecial:

Tuesday 25th March  
9:30-11am  
School Hall

**UNDERSTANDING GIRLS**  
**WITH ADHD & AUTISM**  
*Workshop*

