

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 February 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

It doesn't quite seem possible that we have reached the end of the first half of the Spring Term. The past few weeks have flown by and there has been such a lot going on!

It was fantastic to see so many of you attend parents' evening this week - this is such an important one as staff use the opportunity to share your child's progress and attainment with you. I hope that you found the information they gave you useful. If you were unable to make an appointment, please do arrange to meet with your child's teacher after half term; these meetings are so important in ensuring communication between home and school benefits the children.

The pupils at Maple Tree have been so focused in their learning and are always quick to share new knowledge and skills and talk confidently using key vocabulary - the expectation for some of this is astounding and to hear children being able to explain words such as 'subitise' and 'graphemes' and 'split-digraphs' from a young age shows how far they have come. Learning is not all about the academic subjects though; this week we have celebrated Children's Mental Health Week which you can read more about over the page. It is vital that we are giving the children strategies from a young age to build resilience and to enable reflection as an opportunity to strengthen their attributes.

I want to end by thanking staff for their enormous efforts this half term - you will have seen a snapshot of how busy this half term has been in the newsletters but this downplays what actually goes on and I cannot think of a team more deserving of their half term break!

I hope you all have a good half term too and we will see you on Monday 24th February.

SCOOTING ON SITE

A reminder please that no child, no matter what age, should be scooting on site. This is for the health and safety of all people on site. The paths are not wide enough and near misses have happened several times this week.



Children should also not be scooting, cycling or walking across the car park - this is dangerous and we ask parents to keep to the paths as role models please.

Thank you for your support.

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Parent Survey

Thank you to all the parents and carers who completed our survey about clubs, visits and trips at Parents' Evening this week. I have had a quick look at the 97 responses and they look really useful. For Mulberries parents, those of you who did not attend on these evenings, or if you managed to slip by me—you can complete the survey by following [this link](#). I will leave this open until we return from half term.

In addition, I displayed the results following our previous parents' evening survey. If you are interested, take a look at the powerpoint I showed using [this link](#) on the website.

Date for the diary: Spelling Bee

I am excited to share that next half term we are going to be running a school spelling bee. Children will all take part in round 1 within classes, and then the winners (of those who want to participate) will move on to the semi-final and finals. The top 5 spellers in KS1, LKS2 and UKS2 will battle head to head in the final, where parents and carers are invited to join. This will take place on Thursday 27th March at 2pm in the school hall.



Friends of Maple Tree Update



Children's Mental Health Week

Last week, we were all learning more about what mental health is and how we can help ourselves maintain a happy and healthy wellbeing.

PAUSE

During the day, we all have PAUSE time. This is time for children and adults to reflect and be peaceful. We think of our values and what we can do to help us have a happy and healthy mind and body.

Poplar Class

The children in Poplar class took PAUSE one step further and paid attention to their body. They did an activity where they thought about the parts of their bodies that help them know if they are feeling worried. They also discussed how they can be more resilient.

Rowan Class

Rowan class discussed in detail what entails a 'good' mistake. They explored growth mindset and how we can use this to be resilient if we make mistakes. Rowan have enjoyed PAUSE and are using this time to reflect on their mindset.

Aspen Class

Aspen class have focused on what we need to keep our mind and body healthy. They enjoy listening to calming music whilst they PAUSE and pay attention to their thoughts and feelings.

Yew Class

Children have discussed how to feel happy and healthy in their mind and body. They explore how to solve problems and who they can talk to. They also enjoyed some mindful colouring where they focused on emotions.

Mulberries

In Mulberries, the children have also began PAUSE. They have drawn pictures of family and what makes them happy. They did lots of Circle Time, passing Lola around and talking about what makes them happy. The children also spent time with adults listening to stories and being peaceful.

Fir Class

In Fir Class, the children enjoyed PAUSE. They have learnt this is time to think about what makes them happy and how they can help others to be happy.

On Wednesday afternoon, Rolo visited the children. Pets are a great way to help keep our mental health to be happy and healthy.

Elder Class

In Elder class we began learning about the 'Self'. We discussed how we are made up of 'parts' and how each part has a job to do to keep us healthy and happy.

We also created a superhero manager focusing on a part of us we feel is strong and helpful.



February's Value is: Responsibility



This month children are focusing on responsibility and what this means to them and the wider community. I asked the children what responsibility looks like for them.

Responsibility in school: A responsibility can be something you are expected to do. For instance, keeping our classrooms safe and tidy—putting things away after ourselves, keeping the cloakroom tidy and ensuring we bring our reading book in every day.

Responsibility in the community: Whilst out and about it is our responsibility to look after our environment. This might mean taking litter home with us or putting it in a bin. When we take our dog for a walk, we should be responsible for keeping it safe and those around by keeping them on their lead when necessary, or picking up after them. We should also ride our bikes and scooters in a responsible way. Whilst learning about responsibility, we also discuss how our actions have consequences - be they rewards or sanctions.

Responsibility at home: We recently had a visitor from the Blue Cross to talk to Key Stage 2 about pets and our wellbeing. We learnt that having a pet is a big responsibility and we need to look after their needs - feed them, walk them and very importantly, play with them. It is also our responsibility to help keep our rooms tidy and help around the house.



We can all take responsibility for our own actions and, in doing so, will feel happier and healthier.

This week in...Mulberries

The children in Mulberries have had a lovely week with pamper Wednesday where they used foot spas and painted their nails.



They made hearts for people they love which has made a brilliant display and today have watched a short video story and had some popcorn - sounds fabulous!

Thank you to the pre-school team for arranging such an enjoyable week!

PE at Maple Tree Primary School

Gymnastics

Fir:

We have been looking at exploring basic shapes with their bodies (wide/narrow, straight/curved). We have been learning to keep still when balancing and exploring stillness using different parts of our bodies. Lastly we have been looking at jumping and landing safely - bending our knees.

Yew:

We have been exploring explore basic shapes such as laying straight, in tuck, straddle and pike. In addition, we have been learning new rolls - explore barrel, straight and forward roll progressions. We have begun jumping off low apparatus and have know that landing on the balls of my feet helps me to control my landing.



Aspen:

In Aspen we have been remembering, repeating and linking combinations of gymnastic balances. We have been developing our rolls learned in Yr2 and exploring which shapes, balances and rolls link well together.

Rowan:



Rowan have been discovering matching and contrasting different gymnastic shapes. We have been learning about point and patch balances and looking at how squeezing (contracting) our muscles helps us to hold balances. In our jumps we have developed stepping into shape jumps with control and focused on the safety aspects of more difficult rolls.

Elder:

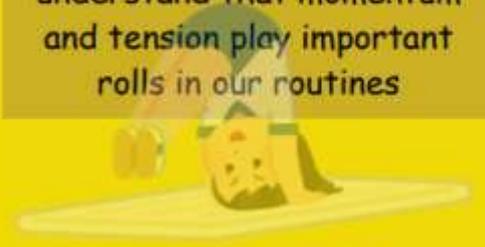
Our gymnastic unit focuses on making our movements more fluent and controlled. We build upon the skills learned in previous years and develop our consistency in performing high quality shapes, balances, jumps and rolls. We understand that momentum and tension play important rolls in our routines

Poplar:

A big focus of our gymnastics unit has been developing our strength in bridge and shoulder stands (inverted movements). We have been looking at developing our rolls and performing them with more control. Furthermore, we have looked at how changing directions can make our sequences more aesthetically pleasing.

Juniper:

Alongside developing our rolls and balances learnt in previous years, we have been exploring symmetrical and asymmetrical balances and the backwards roll. We have increased our partner work and are developing transitions between sequences.



A week in Aspen Class

In **English**, we have been concentrating on our reading and the comprehension that goes along with this. We have been reading texts, both fiction and non-fiction and have been answering questions and learning to use inference which is a great skill to have. The challenge in answering questions has been using the knowledge found on the page rather than answering from the information we have ourselves.

Our **history** unit for this term is aviation and we have been learning about significant people and how they have changed the world today. This week we have been focusing on Bessie Coleman and why she became famous. The children were looking at sources and learning about how we gather information.



"Bessie Coleman was the first black woman to get her pilots license."

Archie

"She got her license in France."

Sophie A

In **maths**, we have begun our journey into multiplication and have started by looking at grouping. The class have been counting the amount of groups and the number inside the group and have been recording these as repeated addition. The class have used manipulatives to practice and have also been using problem solving to be secure in their knowledge. They have been able to use their knowledge of counting in 2s, 5s and 10s to help them.



In **science**, we have continued to learn about plant growth. We have designated a hyacinth bulb to each table group and will be observing the growth of each bulb and the changes over the coming weeks. We have planted a bulb outside to see if there is a difference in the growth. The class will be measuring and comparing.

Parent/Carers Maths Workshop

I wonder how they teach maths at Maple Tree?

How is maths different to how I was taught?

Quotient

Dividend

Divisor

Subitising



I can't help with homework because I was never any good at maths!

Ask your dad, he does the maths!

Do you ever find yourself wondering or saying this? Does your child use words like, subitise or quotient, and you are absolutely baffled by this?

If yes, you are not alone! We have the answer!

We are holding a parent/carer maths workshop, open to all, on **Thursday 27th February 2025** at 6pm-7pm in Elder Class.

Ms. Cassidy will go through a few of the areas we teach in school, from early years to year 6. We will show you some of the resources we use in order to support the children in their learning.

For further details, please speak to Ms. Cassidy or email teacher@mapletreeprimaryschool.com

We look forward to seeing you then.

Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are for... ..being a fab all rounder!



Fir: Mia	Yew: Mikolaj	Aspen: Archie
Rowan: Tommy	Poplar: Nicole	Juniper: Maja
Elder: Frank	Well done to you all!	★

This week's House Winners



Congratulations!

Weekly totals:

Buzzards 297	Robins 298
Doves 287	Ravens 275
Kingfishers 279	Swallows 295

Celebrations and Weekly Wins!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

HALF TERM

Monday 17th - Friday 21st February

- Mon 24th Feb – First day of half term
- Tue 27th Feb – Maths parent workshop- 6pm
- Thur 6th Mar – World Book Day
- Thur 20th March – Parent forum
- Thur 27th March – Spelling Bee Final
- Tue 1st April – Rocksteady concert
- Thur 3rd April – Easter assembly (R+KS1)
- Fri 4th April – Last day of term

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

Attendance Awards

Week beginning 10th February 2025

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

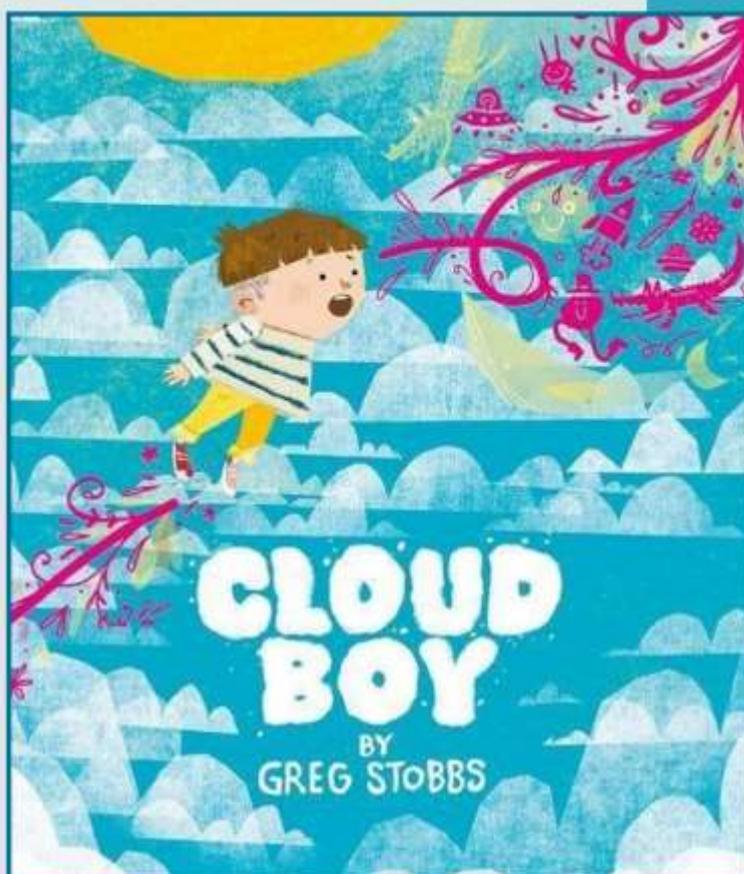
Mulberries 91%	Fir (YR) 95%
Yew (Y1) 96%	Aspen (Y2) 96%
Rowan (Y3) 96%	Poplar (Y4) 96%
Juniper (Y5) 98%	Elder (Y6) 94% ★

AUTHOR VISIT WITH GREG STOBBS

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Friday 28th
February

Please support the running of these events by preordering a book. Use the QR code below:



To avoid delivery costs, add your copy to the basket and choose 'in-store delivery' then proceed to check out. In the optional notes box, please write the name of your child, their class name and school name then pay as usual. This will mean you avoid paying postage. We will send all the books to Maple Tree Primary School and your child will receive their book at the event. If you have any questions, please email us on nextpagebooks@outlook.com.

SEND Conference for Parent Carers

Hear from our new Director of Children and Families and get information and support from a variety of organisations

You can also sign up for two of the following workshops on the day:

- Therapeutic thinking
- Graduated approach
- Speech and language
- Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA)



The conference is taking place on Tuesday 11 March 2025 at the Rufus Centre, Steppingley Road, Flitwick, MK45 1AH. There is a morning session running from 9:30am to 12:30pm and an evening session running from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Book your free place

Help shape Central Bedfordshire's SEND Strategy

Central Bedfordshire Council is updating its Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy and is inviting children, young people, parent carers, and professionals to share their views.

The current SEND Strategy (2022–2025) sets out key priorities to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. As part of the strategy refresh, the Council is working in partnership with Bedfordshire, Luton, and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board (BLMK ICB) and SNAP Parent Carer Forum to ensure the updated plan reflects the needs of the community.



To support this, a questionnaire has been launched for children and young people, parent carers, and professionals working with children. The aim is to understand what matters most to them and whether the current priorities remain relevant or need to change.

To take part in the survey, visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/surveys. The closing date is Monday 17 March.



MOTHER'S & OTHERS TEA TOWEL SALE



*£5 for a personalised tea
towel to bring home
already wrapped!*

Scan below to pre-order yours by 20th Feb



Tea Towel Groupings:

Mulberries & Fir

Yew, Aspen and Rowan

Poplar, Juniper and Elder