

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



Newsletter

Friday 17th January 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

I am in the process of uploading the Spring term parent grids to the website which will give you a brief overview of what your child is learning in school this term. These will hopefully be with you by the end of next week, at the latest, so please do check then. Along with these I will also add this term's Knowledge Organisers which the children have a copy of as it shows what they will be learning in certain subjects and the key knowledge they will need by the end of the unit. These are useful documents and will share the learning that goes on in the Spring Term.

This week, I have also been asked by Central Bedfordshire Council to share with all that they are looking for feedback about how our Council Tax is spent:

The council is under huge financial pressure and is having to make some difficult decisions about increasing Council Tax and changing some services.

Have a look at the options at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/budget and tell us what you think.

Paper copies are available in council libraries. If you need a paper copy sent to you or information in an alternative format, please consultations@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or call 0300 300 8301.

All responses must be received by 4 February 2025.'

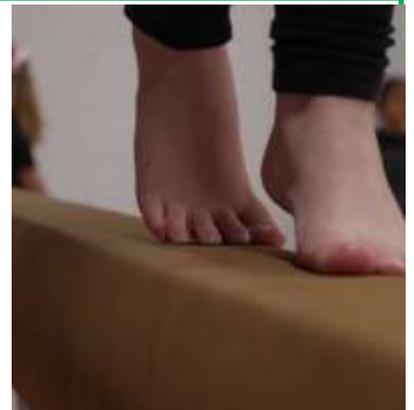
I hope you all have a good weekend.

Why must gymnastics be practised with bare feet?

Some of the children have asked us this term whether they can wear 'grippy socks' to do their gymnastics instead of bare feet.

Unfortunately, the answer is no. **Gymnastics must be in bare feet.**

Being bare footed is common practice around the world because it is important that children are given opportunities to manipulate the muscles and tendons of their feet, and to develop dexterity of their toes and ankles. The challenge with grippy socks, is that although they enable more movement than maybe shoes, the children's feet are still not as free as being bare. The socks will only offer grip on the sole, and the pupil will also need grip on the top of their foot at certain points, for example when on hands and knees on top of apparatus, climbing up sloped benches or balancing on nesting tables. Furthermore, school must manage the risk associated with a lack of consistency of socks across the class. Not all children will have them, and those that are brought in will range in quality, appropriate fitting and so effectiveness. This then creates risk, and further challenge for the teacher. Our top priority is always to keep the children safe from harm, followed closely by supporting their development.



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Fir Class



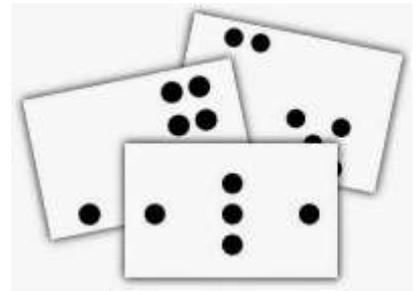
Expressive Arts and Design

This half term we are designing and making book marks. To start, this week we have practicing our skills of threading and weaving. We have been threading different sized beads, cotton reels, pipe cleaners, wool and thread. We have also weaved coloured paper together, being careful to go under and over the strips of paper.

Maths

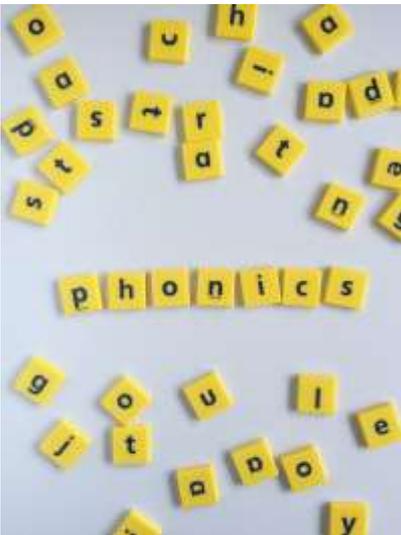
We have been using our 'quick eyes' to subitise numbers 0-5.

We are also beginning to look at 1 more and 1 less.



Physical Development

This half term we are starting gymnastics. We will be learning various ways of moving our bodies and starting to use some pieces of equipment to help us.



Literacy

We have started our next level of phonics learning and we are now practicing writing words with our new sounds. We are becoming much more confident at blending words and writing more independently.

Understanding the World

In our Forest Schools sessions we are using large pine cones, lard and seeds to make bird feeders as birds can struggle to find enough food at this time of year. Look out for these coming home!



Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are for...

...looking after our learning environment!



Fir: Isabelle	Yew: Lana	Aspen: Violet
Rowan: James	Poplar: Isabella	Juniper: Eryk
Elder: Niamh	Well done to you all!	★

This week's House Winners



Congratulations!

Celebrations and Weekly Wins!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Mon 3rd Feb – FoMT disco
- 5th - 11th Feb – Children's mental health week
- Tue 11th Feb - Parents evening 4-6pm
- Thur 13th Feb - Parents evening 4-7pm
- Thur 13th Feb - Parent Forum
- Fri 14th Feb – FoMT non-uniform day
- Fri 14th Feb – Last day of half term

HALF TERM

- 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
- 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

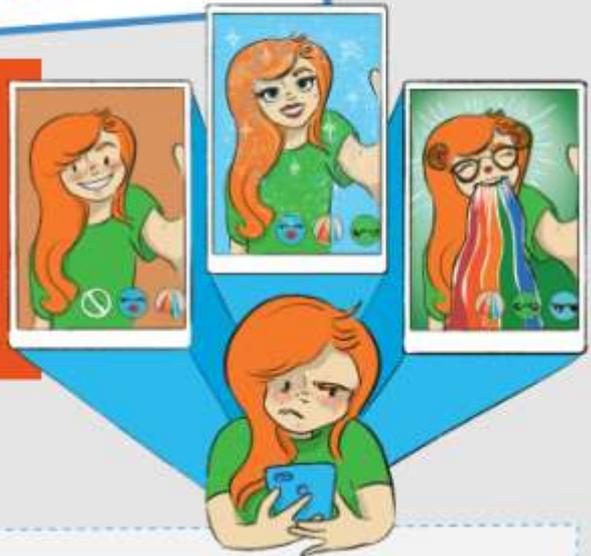
Week beginning 13th January 2025

The best attendance award is presented to:
Juniper class this week!

Mulberries 91%	Fir (YR) 94%
Yew (Y1) 96%	Aspen (Y2) 96%
Rowan (Y3) 96%	Poplar (Y4) 97%
Juniper (Y5) 99% ★	Elder (Y6) 95%

Online Safety and Social Media

Social media is an online platform that allows users to connect with others online. Depending on what platform you use, social media can allow you to communicate and share information with others with the intention to update or engage a specific audience. This can often include sharing videos, images, status updates or posts with a group of followers that can sometimes cover a global scale.



A lot of the time, social media is a positive place where users support each other. Despite this, it can also house toxic and harmful behaviours, which can be directed towards specific individuals or groups with the intention to harass, or cause upset.

Benefits of Social Media



- 1 Available and accommodating to most audiences
- 2 Can promote positivity and healthy expression
- 3 An accessible platform to connect with others
- 4 An instant platform for news and global awareness

Considerations for Social Media

- 1 Harmful and offensive content may be seen across platforms
- 2 Can be used to promote misleading information
- 3 Can promote unhealthy expectations and pressure for young people
- 4 Can impact digital wellbeing if not managed correctly



Harm on Social Media

Many social media platforms have adapted to include reporting features in order to tackle certain types of online harm. Some of these harms to watch out for include:

- 1 Fake online profiles
- 2 Misinformation or fake ads
- 3 Scamming or fraud attempts
- 4 Radical online content



Socialising Online

Social media provides a lot of freedom in how to connect with other users as well as how information and content is made available. This has provided certain platforms with worldwide appeal, giving anyone an opportunity to connect and engage with others. To promote keeping safe on social media, ensure that young people know how to:

- 1 Report harmful content online
- 2 Block and report users who are being offensive or harmful
- 3 Manage privacy settings to limit exposure to known friends and family members
- 4 Speak to a trusted adult if they are concerned about something online



To find out more about Social Media visit the SWGfL hub:
swgfl.org.uk/topics/social-media/

or scan the QR code



Further Support

Professionals Online Safety Helpline: saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service: swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/

Report Harmful Content:
reportharmfulcontent.com





Friends of Maple Tree Primary School presents..

£3 PER
CHILD

Friendship Disco

MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2025

Mulberries/Reception

4 pm - 4:45 pm

(Parents required to stay for mulberries children)

Yr1/Yr2/Yr3

5 pm - 6 pm

Yr4/Yr5/Yr6

6:15 pm - 7:15 pm



TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED
VIA THE QR CODE OR FORM IN
THE OFFICE.

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE
CONTACT FOMT@GMAIL.COM