

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



# Newsletter

Friday 8th November 2024

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

First off I want to thank FOMT for a fab disco on Monday night. The children definitely enjoyed themselves and it was a great way to return after half term. We should not underestimate the amount of work that goes into organising events like this, as well as the actually running of the evening, and I am very grateful to those who gave their time to ensure that the children had a great night! Thank you all!

The second half of the Autumn term always has a different feel, the daylight is shorter, the leaves are turning and Autumn is truly here. It is one of my favourite half terms and there is a huge amount going on in the coming weeks with Christmas at the end to look forward to. Please do look carefully at the dates over the page so you are aware of what is coming up - there are trips and visits, focused weeks and whole school events; if you feel that there is something missing or you need more information regarding any of this, please do ask.

This weekend is the Sandy Remembrance Parade and I am in no doubt that our chosen pupils will represent Maple Tree with respect. We look forward to seeing many of you along the parade route.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

### Pupil Parliament Update:

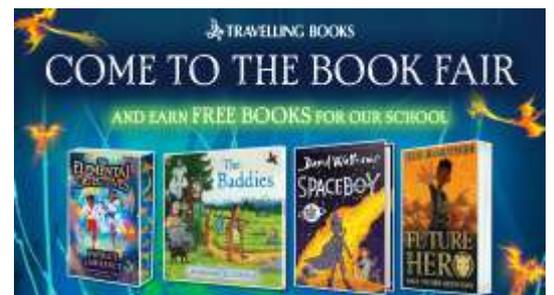
Pupil Parliament met with Miss Hyde before half term to plan for anti-bullying week. They had some amazing ideas which you'll see in action at our open afternoon next Friday.

Pupil Parliament met this week with Ms Cassidy to discuss events coming up. Year 6 - Katie and Torben - have been busy selling poppies this week in aid of the Royal British Legion. The parliament representatives are also going to make a suggestion box so they can collect pupil voice from their peers. We also have a non-uniform day coming up in aid of Children in Need.

## Upcoming Book Fair Wednesday 27th November – Tuesday 3rd December

On Wednesday 27th November, our Book Fair arrives and will be located in the school library.

Your children will be invited down to browse the books that day and then the book fair will be open to parents and carers afterschool everyday from then until Tuesday 3rd December. To find the library, head down the right side of the front of the school afterschool where staff will be waiting to greet you. You will be able to pay via cash or on your phone via a QR code. We will also be selling books during Grandparents' breakfast (28th November).



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)

## Mulberries Learning

This week in Mulberries, the children have been exploring Bonfire Night. They create a class firework poem, salad spinning pictures and breadstick sparklers.



### DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Sunday 10th November** Remembrance Parade
  - Week beg 11th November** Reception phonics drop-ins
  - 11th-15th November** Anti-Bullying Week
  - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November** Year 4 trip to Shuttleworth
  - Thursday 14th November** Author visit for years 5-6
  - Friday 15th November 2.15pm** Anti-Bullying Open Afternoon
  - Friday 15th November** Non-school uniform for Children in Need (donation)
  - Friday 22nd November** Be Bright, Be Seen Day
  - 27th November-3rd December** Book Fair
  - Thursday 28th November** Grandparent's Breakfast
  - Wednesday 11th December** School Pantomime
  - Thursday 12th December at 2.30pm** Parent Forum
  - Tuesday 17th December** Rock Steady Concert
- Term dates for **2024-2025** can be found [here](#).

### Families Bulletin

Would you like to know what support is available in your community for you and your family?

Our weekly Families bulletin shares information on support available around topics such as mental health, youth support, finances and parenting. It also has details of upcoming activities and events in your local area.

**Keep up to date with all events, support and news from your local area. Would you like to receive our weekly Families bulletin?**

Click [here](#) to subscribe

Kind regards  
**The Community Partner Team**  
Children & Families Service

Central Bedfordshire

## Maths at Maple Tree

### Teaching for Mastery

Over the past five years we have been part of a maths hub funded by the NCETM (The National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics) to develop and embed maths mastery. The underpinning principles of teaching for mastery in the classroom are:

- ◆ Pupils are taught through whole-class interactive teaching, enabling all to master the concepts necessary for the next part of the curriculum sequence.
- ◆ In a typical lesson, the teacher leads back and forth interaction, including questioning, short tasks, explanation, demonstration, and discussion, enabling pupils to think, reason and apply their knowledge to solve problems.
- ◆ Use of precise mathematical language enables all pupils to communicate their reasoning and thinking effectively.
- ◆ If a pupil fails to grasp a concept or procedure, this is identified quickly, and gaps in understanding are addressed systematically to prevent them falling behind.
- ◆ Significant time is spent developing deep understanding of the key ideas that are needed to underpin future learning.
- ◆ Key number facts are learnt to automaticity, and other key mathematical facts are learned deeply and practised regularly, to avoid cognitive overload in working memory and enable pupils to focus on new learning.

As part of my role as maths subject leader I attend termly CPD (Continued Professional Development) to then support staff with the mastery approach on a day to day basis. Most recently we have launched Mastering Number. Mastering Number works on the principles of children developing their flu-

## The Future of Maths at Maple Tree

The correct use of mathematical vocabulary is a continuous focus in maths learning. For instance your child may talk to you about 'subitising'. This is the ability to look at a small set of objects and instantly know how many there are without counting them. We also name the parts of a number sentence. For example in division: dividend  $\div$  divisor quotient etc. However, we want to develop this further.

The next step: over the next year, and beyond, I will be researching and introducing oracy in the maths classroom. The underpinning principles of this are:

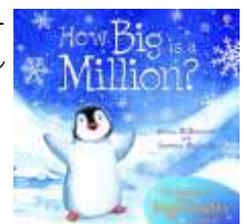
*'Oracy is the ability to express your thoughts and ideas fluently through speech. In the maths classroom, it means pupils articulating their mathematical thinking and reasoning. Through discussion, pupils develop deeper understanding of the maths they are learning. Oracy is important in the maths classroom, as it gives pupils the chance to explore and verbalise their ideas, and to develop their thinking. It also gives teachers the chance to assess what pupils know and understand.'*

## How can you support your child at home?



There are many different ways you can support your child at home with maths.

You can play board games—good old fashioned 'Snakes and Ladders' or 'Monopoly'. Whilst out walking, children can describe what they can see. For instance, what shapes can they see, subitise sheep in a field. Collect conkers and subitise these. They can lay the table. You can ask them to tell you how many knives and forks they need. Play card games—mathnasium has some great ideas. Look out for reading books that have a maths focus too.



# Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are for...

...showing positivity in everything they do!



<b>Fir:</b> Jessica	<b>Yew:</b> Arthur W	<b>Aspen:</b> Albert
<b>Rowan:</b> Oliver	<b>Poplar:</b> Ralph	<b>Juniper:</b> Evie
<b>Elder:</b> Torben	Well done to you all!	★

This week's House Winners



**Congratulations!**

Weekly totals:

Buzzards 250	Robins 266
Doves 227	Ravens 322
Kingfishers 237	Swallows 93

# Celebrations and Weekly Wins!

stars of the Week!

For amazing geography this week!

Yew: Max  
Aspen: Christopher  
Rowan: Fletcher  
Poplar: James  
Juniper: Ciaran  
Elder: Evan

## Attendance Awards

Week beginning 4th November 2024

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

<b>Mulberries</b> 90%	<b>Fir (YR)</b> 92%
<b>Yew (Y1)</b> 95%	<b>Aspen (Y2)</b> 96%
<b>Rowan (Y3)</b> 97%	<b>Poplar (Y4)</b> 97%
<b>Juniper (Y5)</b> 99% ★	<b>Elder (Y6)</b> 96%

# How to Use Smart Speakers Safely



Smart speakers can be great addition to any household.



Not only can they be of practical use, but they can be a source of fun for the whole family.



However, knowing how to use them safely is important.



## What are the risks of Smart Speakers:



There has been growing privacy concerns surrounding smart speakers because they record and store everything you say to them – read tips below on how to delete these recordings.

- Some people may use smart speakers to ask personal questions, which other users may be able to see.
- Smart speakers can listen in on conversations so make sure you know how to mute the microphone.

- Smart speakers can be set to automatically purchase products. We would recommend disabling this setting.
  - Smart speakers can alert you to incoming deliveries – be mindful of this when ordering surprise or personal items online.
  - Some devices can offer to 'learn your voice' – this is not always necessary so limiting it may give you better privacy.
- Despite human names for some smart speakers designed to build trust, children and young people should understand that they are interacting with a non-human interface which can sometimes get things wrong.

### Amazon Echo Speakers



### Google Nest Speakers



- You can turn off in-app VOICE purchasing or set up a code to prevent children from ordering products from Amazon.
- You can easily restrict ACCESS via parental controls to inappropriate content.
- Turn off or restrict 'drop-in'. This feature allows users to drop into a video call with someone else's Echo.
- Activate the 'Do Not Disturb' option. This would be most suitable for when your family is sleeping.
- On the Echo Show, you can turn the camera and microphone off by using the button on the device.

Users can set up Family Link. This is done by setting up another account for your child. Your child's voice will be added to your Nest.

Make sure to use Google's Digital Wellbeing tool. This allows users to set up filters for music, video, and assistant queries.

You can turn off Google's Pay Assistant to prevent any unwanted purchases.

### Facebook Portal Speakers



### Apple HomePod Speakers



- You can stop your child from accessing explicit content by following guidelines found on Apple's website.
- Users might also want to lock personal requests. This is what Apple calls the ability to send and read texts, add reminders, and create notes. This will prevent anyone from sending messages from your Apple device.
- You can prevent children from making in-app purchases by following the instructions found on Apple's website.

Because users have to be over the age of 13 (if they are using Facebook), there are no control settings for children under this age.

You can disable the microphone and camera with a switch on all devices. The portal includes a small slide that is used to cover the camera, for extra privacy.

Users can place PIN codes on accounts to ensure nothing happens without their permission. You can set a screen lock on the Facebook Portal, promoting security and ensuring that children and young people in your care do not use it without your permission.

If you have a smart speaker that we haven't covered, we advise you to do some research online and make sure you have the information you need to keep children and young people safer.



# *Christmas Wreath Making Workshop*

*Please join us for an  
evening of festive fun*

*Festive refreshments will be available,  
please bring own secateurs/scissors*

**25** | 6.30 pm -  
**NOV** | 8.30 pm

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

*To book email [fomtprimary@gmail.com](mailto:fomtprimary@gmail.com)  
or follow the QR code*





# Christmas Craft Market

Come along to our fun filled festive evening, with amazing gift ideas and help show your support to small local businesses.

From bows to books, candles to colouring, we have a fab range of stall holders waiting to make your Christmas magical.

There will also be a raffle & refreshments available

**Monday 2nd December 2024 6-8:30pm**

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



**FREE  
ENTRY**

