

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



Newsletter

Friday 13th December 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



“So here it is...Merry Christmas, everybody’s having fun”...The words of the song certainly seem to have found their mark and Christmas has well and truly arrived at Maple Tree!

I was fortunate enough to attend the Mayor’s Carol Service at St Swithun’s Church last Sunday afternoon where I heard our choir sing songs and carols with such ease and confidence. They sounded beautiful - a fabulous experience for all who were listening. They also treated some of the residents at Quince Court to a performance yesterday afternoon and then spent valuable time chatting with some of the people there - it was a real mix of young and old and our choir not only sang well but were impeccable in their manners and displaying our school values whilst out and about too - a credit to Mrs Vickery-Cox and Maple Tree as a whole. Well done choir!

It is also the time of year when the fun starts to creep into curriculum time - a real reward for all the hard work our pupils have demonstrated this term - and the pantomime definitely kept them entertained! It was so lovely to hear the whole school laughing and joining in proving you are never too old for a pantomime. (I will refrain from the ‘oh yes you are, oh no you’re not’ comment here!)

Thursday was our Christmas dinner day which was very well received with many positive comments and empty plates. It was great to be asked by pupils to pass on their thanks to the kitchen staff - I know these appreciative comments were valued.

This was followed by a walk with Reception children to post their letters to Santa - the excitement was incredible as they realised the next person to open these would be Father Christmas; it made me feel very disappointed for not having written my own letter!

Amongst all of this we have had Friends of Maple Tree in this week who turned one of our classrooms in to Elfridges and I thank them all for the time they have given up to ensure that the pupils have access to this - it is such a lovely idea and the children really enjoy collecting their presents.

Today we have kicked off our class Christmas assemblies with Years 5 and 6 setting the bar high with their singing and choral reading, which was very impressive - as was their collection of festive jumpers - and then I joined our youngest children in Mulberries to listen to them singing their Christmas songs too - they looked fabulous in their star headbands whilst sitting in Santa’s sleigh! I am grateful to all staff who have spent time in putting these together; there are many rehearsals that happen to support the assemblies and I am sure that they have a head full of festive lists! It has been a truly heart warming morning and definitely one of the perks of working in a school.

All in all, a great week and then to end it with our Carols on the Playground has literally topped it off. In spite of the gloomy weather, we brought the light and cheer. It felt very festive and I am grateful to Mrs Rowley for her additional hard work and efforts in making this event happen.

So as the rest of the Christmas song goes... *‘Look to the future now, it’s only just begun’*... as we continue to immerse ourselves in numerous activities and look forward to welcoming more of you to our Christmas assemblies next week.

In the meantime, I hope you all have a lovely weekend.



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Autumn Term in Year 6

Welcome to Elder class newsletter. As ever, we have been very busy this term. Enjoy a snapshot of what we have been learning this term—so far.



Geography

Our learning in geography has focused on population. We have explored reasons why people migrate and reasons for fluctuations in birth and death rates and impacts these have on the population in the UK. As part of our learning, we carried out a field trip to the town centre.

History

As part of our learning in history, we have explored the impact of World War II on the people of the UK. Firstly, we investigated the causes of the war. We also explored how children felt during evacuation. We used photographs and true accounts of people from the time to make inferences and deductions about them. We took part in a trip to Bletchley Park to enhance our learning and Mr. Flitton visited to tell us about his father who was a child during the war.

Maths— we have been revising previous learning in place value, number and fractions. The foundations of these areas of maths are important for us to build our knowledge and extend our understanding. We have been learning how to add, subtract, divide and multiply fractions and use this to problem solve.

Finally, thank you for all of the support you have given the children over the term with their reading and homework. We have a very busy time ahead of us in the lead up to the end of year. We have our residential to PGL in June, SATs in May and may more exciting opportunities for the children to enjoy. From all of the staff in Elder class we wish you a very Happy Christmas.

English

We have been thoroughly immersed in our class text, War Horse.

We based our writing on Tophorn and his viewpoint. We have written setting and descriptions and a diary. We are having a push on punctuation and ensuring we write grammatically correct sentences.



Science

We have been learning, firstly, about electricity this term. Then we investigated light. Whilst learning about electricity, we investigated whether the length of a wire in a circuit affects the brightness of a bulb. When learning about light we investigated how we can see around a corner as we all know light travels in straight lines. We made a periscope that we had to fit mirrors into.

It was difficult to align the mirrors in order to see around the corner.



Art

This term in art we have been exploring the ancient art of puppetry. We explored the work of Lotte Reiniger, Matisse and Phillip Otto Runge. We developed our cutting out skills to create fret work, before creating our shadow puppets. To finalise our learning, we collaborated in small groups to write an anti-bullying short story that we performed with our puppets.



Science at Maple Tree

This half term, Year 4 have been learning about the digestive system in Science. So far they have learnt the different types of teeth we have and their function, as well as naming the organs in the digestive system, where they are in our bodies and their function. They are looking forward to completing their digestive system experiment very soon, which we think the children will really enjoy.



Year 1 have been learning about the seasonal changes of autumn to winter. They have recorded the weather daily for a week and drawn a weather bottle showing the different types of weather they might see.



Year 2 have been looking at local habitats and micro habitats to see whether all minibeasts reside in the same place or select different homes. They have been out and about around the school to investigate.

In Elder class, they have been learning about electricity and light this term. During the first half of the term, we investigated circuits and whether the length of a wire affects the brightness of a bulb. Whilst learning about light, they have investigated how we can see around corners. As we know light travels in straight lines, they made a periscope to help us. It was tricky aligning the mirrors so the periscope would work.



Scooting on school grounds

A reminder please that children should dismount from scooters, as well as bikes, as soon as they come through the school gates.

No-one should be scooting or cycling across the car park - the paths should be used which is why we ask all pupils to push them please.

Thank you for your support in this.



Reindeer Game Reminder

If pupils wish to enter the competition to find Rudolph, they have until Wednesday 18th to take part. It costs 20p per square. Winners will be announced in our Celebration assembly next week!



This week's House Winners



Congratulations!

Weekly totals:

Buzzards 226 **Robins 224** **Doves 174**
Ravens 287 **Kingfishers 288** **Swallows 216**

Attendance Awards

Week beginning 9th December 2024

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

Mulberries 91.0%	Fir (YR) 94%
Yew (Y1) 95%	Aspen (Y2) 96%
Rowan (Y3) 96%	Poplar (Y4) 97%
Juniper (Y5) 99% 	Elder (Y6) 94%

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 16th December LKS2 (Years 3 & 4) Christmas assembly – 9:15-9:45am

Monday 16th December Mulberries Christmas songs and stay – 2:30-3:30pm

Tuesday 17th December Rock Steady Concert

Tuesday 17th December KS1 Christmas assembly (Years 1 & 2)– 9:15-9:45am

Wednesday 18th December Reception Christmas assembly – 9:15-9:45am

Friday 20th December End of term

Monday 6th January 2025 INSET day

Tuesday 7th January Term starts for Reception to Year 6

Thursday 9th January Pre-school starts back

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