

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



## Newsletter

Friday 20th December 2024



### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

It has been a lovely week here at Maple Tree with our ongoing festivities. We welcomed so many of you to our class assemblies and I am sure it was lovely to see your child(ren) participate. We also welcomed Santa in to school yesterday afternoon, which was a surprise for the children, and I am really grateful to FoMT (and Santa) for making this happen - our visitors were well received in all classes and certainly added to the excitement that was already in place this week!

The sounds of Christmas have been so prevalent throughout the week and we ended our term with our Celebration assembly this morning which was a rousing affair. The winning house was announced and we celebrated that over the course of this term the children have been awarded over 19,000 house points across the school. This is a phenomenal amount and truly reflects the efforts in and out of class - we congratulate our House Captains for being the ones to count these every week! The class with the best attendance for the term was recognised - Juniper class - and we congratulated our Santa Challenge winners too - more over the page. This is all on top of our usual Headteacher awards and Stars of the Week awards. We were also treated to a fab performance by our school choir - who sounded amazing - and then children were treated to a staff performance of Merry Christmas Everyone - with bells - which had the whole school up dancing and singing!! It had a very festive feel and has set us all up for the holidays.

I do want to take a moment to share my thanks to all staff for their dedication and hard work this term - the Autumn term is long and there is a huge amount that goes on and I cannot think of a group of people more deserving of a Christmas holiday - they are a great team!

I have spoken about how hard the adults have worked in school but your children have also shown incredible levels of concentration and hard work this term, their behaviour for learning is good and they deserve to be recognised too.

The new school term starts on Tuesday 7th January (Thursday 9th January for Mulberries children); we look forward to seeing you all then.

And finally, as the song says, 'We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!'



### Communication during school clubs



The school phone lines opening times will be extended from 4pm to 4:30pm on the days when school run clubs are running. This is to ensure that parents and carers can contact the school in case of emergencies. Please note, we will be unable to take any general enquiries during this period of time.

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)

# Santa Challenge 2024

Central  
Bedfordshire

Target: Lapland 2,027 miles

## Maple Tree Primary School

Rose to the Challenge of travelling actively to school

Recording: 3,086 miles



The Santa Challenge winner of  
the scooter

Central  
Bedfordshire

Well done to

Roman in year 2.

We hope you have lots of fun with your  
scooter.



## Elder Class Visit to Sandy Secondary Dance Showcase

Last week, Elder class were invited to watch the students of Sandy Secondary perform their dance showcase. Everyone had a wonderful time and described the event as, 'fantastic', 'dazzling' and 'very good'. It was great to see some of our former pupils perform (some solo). It is always good to see what other subjects we can take at school and that everyone can take part in something they may not get the chance to do at home.



## We need your help to be GREEN!



**Thank you to those who have kindly taken a couple of minutes to complete the questionnaire already.**

**To ensure we are helping everyone in the Maple Tree community to travel as sustainable as they can, we would be really grateful if you could click on the link below and answer the five short questions.**

**It will only take a couple of minutes but your response could make a big difference to the safety and health of the children. Thank you.**

<https://forms.gle/BGs6xVslc1CR4Ttz9>

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan – INSET day  
Tue 7<sup>th</sup> Jan – First day back for Reception to Year 6  
Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Jan—New starter visits in Pre-school  
Thur 9<sup>th</sup> Jan —First day back for Pre-school  
Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Jan – Year 4 first aid workshop  
Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb– FoMT disco  
5<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup> Feb – Children’s mental health week  
Tue 11<sup>th</sup> Feb - Parents evening 4-6pm  
Thur 13<sup>th</sup> Feb - Parents evening 4-7pm  
Thur 13<sup>th</sup> Feb - Parent Forum  
Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb – FoMT non-uniform day  
Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb – Last day of half term  
  
Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Feb – First day of half term  
Tue 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – Maths parent workshop—6pm  
Thur 6<sup>th</sup> Mar – World Book Day  
Thur 20<sup>th</sup> March – Parent forum  
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

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

# Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are for... ..showing good manners!



<b>Fir:</b> Elisia	<b>Yew:</b> Flo	<b>Aspen:</b> Layla
<b>Rowan:</b> Charlotte	<b>Poplar:</b> Moni	<b>Juniper:</b> Darcey
<b>Elder:</b> Noah	Well done to you all!	★

This term's House Winners



Congratulations!

# Celebrations and Weekly Wins!

stars of the Week!

For amazing music this week!

Yew: Mikolaj  
Aspen: Matthew  
Rowan: Amber  
Poplar: Henry  
Juniper: Veer  
Elder: Georgia

## Attendance Awards

Week beginning 16th December 2024

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

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



**Clubs running in the Spring term:**

It is not too late to book on to our school-run clubs for Spring term.

See parentmail for booking and more information.

**FREESTYLE  
& SOLO  
LATIN  
DANCE**

WITH MRS FAGE  
YEARS 3-6  
PLEASE WEAR PE KIT

WEDNESDAYS 3:30-4:30pm

FROM 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY to 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

£3  
BOOKING THROUGH PARENTMAIL

PICK UP FROM SCHOOL HALL

**KS2 - Archery Club**

**KS2 (Yr 3,4,5 & 6)**

Feel your self to be a bit of a Robin Hood?  
Have a dream of competing in the Olympics?  
Just think archery is cool?  
Then, come to **Archery Club!**

**To book:** £4 a session - please use parentmail

**When:** Tuesdays from 3.30pm -4.30pm  
Starting week beginning 6th Jan

**What you need:** drink, PE kit and a smile

**Pick up** from outside the hall (double doors)

**Art Club**

KS1: Years 1-2

From 8th January to 12th February  
Pick up from Cherry class

*Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm*

£4 a session - booking through parentmail.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

## PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

## SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a Screen Time Passcode, you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with people from the Contacts app, place restrictions on App Store purchases and apply age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

## FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromebooks, through Google's Family Link app. This gives your child some independence (and their own Google account) but lets parents monitor which apps are being used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

## ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press "+" in the top right and add a new family member using their Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

## FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time options to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. This is handled through Apple's Family Sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

## PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS5, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (as the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to [PlayStation.com](http://PlayStation.com) and search 'family account' for instructions.

## DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD

If you're planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, we'd recommend having a discussion with your young one first about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them.

## SET AN ADMIN ON PCS

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the main admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate account: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

## SET WINDOWS LIMITS

Once your child's account has been created, a parent admin can go back into the Family & Other Users menu and apply limits to it. These include restricting screen time, the type of games and apps that can be installed, web filters and more. Microsoft also includes reporting tools which, for example, can email you with a weekly summary of your child's activity on the device.

## TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and regulate their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console, so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

## INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS

If you don't have a PC, but your child does have an Xbox, it might be easier to use the Xbox Family Settings app for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console screen time (particularly handy if the console is in a bedroom), restrict communication and monitor the types of game being played. There's also a feature where you can allocate spending money for games or in-game purchases.

## STAY VIGILANT

It's important to remember that none of these methods is 100% foolproof. Nobody will ever invent flawless filters or parental controls – not least because what's unacceptable to some parents is perfectly acceptable to others. So although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with good old-fashioned parental vigilance.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newswatch*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



National  
Online  
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday