

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 27th June 2025

### MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING HEAD

We have another jam-packed newsletter to reflect a couple of busy weeks in school. Highlights include PGL, School Camp Out, World Music Day and our successful Values re-accreditation.

This week we welcomed our school governors in to visit lessons and talk to subject leaders. This is a great opportunity for them to get to know our pupils and see the school policies and procedures in action and will continue into next week.

Year 5 have had a very busy week with their intensive swimming course—swimming for a whole hour each morning every day this week! The children have enjoyed telling me all about the new skills that they have been learning and the staff report that the children have shown amazing behaviour and effort.

I also enjoyed seeing some familiar faces, along with some new parents, at our Reception ‘Meet the Teacher’ meeting with Mrs Darnell this week—we are really excited for our new reception class.

Speaking of September 2025, today you will have received a letter outlining who your child’s class teacher is for next year. Transition meetings have already taken place between teachers and they are busy getting ready for the shuffle up morning on 7th July.

There will be no newsletter next week so look out for the next one on Friday 11th July.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.



## Proms in the Playground



Bring a chair, sun hat and come and enjoy an afternoon of music at Maple Tree’s Proms in the Playground.

**All the children will be entertaining you with seasonal songs in the playground from 2.30pm.**

**Friday 11th July 2025**



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## Values at Maple Tree

Firstly, welcome to the Values newsletter. I would like to begin by sharing the **amazing** news that following a really positive re-accreditation on Thursday 19th June, we were officially awarded the Values Based Education (VbE) accreditation for the second time. To say we are proud is an understatement. Myself, staff, children, parents and governors met with Tracey Smith from VbE throughout the day. She spoke with lots of children, had lunch with them and enjoyed seeing values in action.



### **Some of the, many, positive comments she made were:**

“Values is the writing through the stick of rock at this school. All staff, pupils and governors live and breathe the values, and they guide thoughts, behaviours, actions and learning.”

“The practice is exemplary and deserves to be shared widely.”

“If I had school-aged children, I would be moving into the area.”

“An oasis in this world of trouble and chaos.”

“Inclusivity is seamless here.”

### **And finally:**

“Staff proudly told me ‘We are fortunate in having lovely pupils’, but they need to understand that it is the staff who create the ethos and their fantastic role-modelling that sets the tone for the pupils. Consequently, psychological safety and mutual trust are absolutely secure at Maple Tree School.”

## Giving Back Scheme

Since launching our Giving Back Scheme, I have received many examples of just how fabulous and caring our children are. Here are just a few.

This year, Iris & Arthur have been committed to keeping the fields and paths around the Riddy nature reserve litter free. This has been entirely their own idea - they requested, and received littler pickers, and have been totally in charge of when and where we do this. They have had some really interesting thoughts around the impact of litter on the environment and how sad it is when people do not look after the local environment.



Jessica recently took part in the St George's Day parade for Beavers and was her pack's chosen flag bearer showing courage and responsibility.

Zachary helped run the St Swithun's Church Stall at the carnival on Saturday raising much needed funds for his church.



More information on how to contribute to the Giving Back Scheme can be found [here](#).

## Elder Class

Last week Elder class enjoyed a few days away at PGL Caythorpe Court near Grantham. The children showed our values beautifully and were complimented by the PGL staff as being one of the best groups they have worked with. I have handed over the writing of this newsletter to the children so you get a true taste of what it was like for them.



We would like to give a big thank you to Mrs Walker and Miss Anker for their support during our stay. Without staff volunteering to give up their time, trips such as these would not go ahead. I would also like to thank Mrs Varley and Mrs Fowler for their support in the admin of the trip.

Everyone was worried about what was going to happen at PGL until we met Tom (our team leader). He was great fun and looked after us well. He sang a song that we repeated. He took us to our meals and played games with us between activities.



Everyone loved raft building! We worked as a team to build the raft and then test it out! Niamh fell in first, quickly followed by Alfie W. The water was freezing but we all jumped in and enjoyed a quick swim!

One of the activities we participated in was trapeze. It was really challenging because of how it wobbled! It was also fun at the same time. Some of us climbed straight to the top, but some of needed a bit more encouragement.



Our accommodation was extremely homely and warm inside. We stayed in the tents so it felt like we were camping. We all had a proper bed with comfy mattresses and inviting covers ready to use. We spent time in our tents talking and playing with our friends. The first night was very windy so it was quite noisy. Everyone thought



birds were on top of the tent keeping us awake, but it was just the straps holding it down!

Orienteering was a fun challenge that we all enjoyed. We used a map to scavenge around the PGL site. We had to collaborate within our team to find the stamps.

All of our meals were delicious. There were so many options to choose from. From our experience the best thing at breakfast was the bacon. We had Katsu curry at lunchtime and fish fingers for dinner/ We loved the brownies at dinner too. There were lots of options for vegetarians and vegans.



# THE **BIG**<sup>zzz</sup> SLEEPOVER

## Year 4 and 5

Last Thursday, Poplar and Juniper had their big sleepover on the field. The fun started straight after school with a huge water fight, which was needed with the hot weather, with lots of sponges and water bombs flying around. They certainly had built up an appetite as some of the children had third helpings of pizza and chicken nuggets!



Some of the children settled down to watch a film whilst some enjoyed a bit of free time, playing Uno and other card games. The real excitement started when the children got ready for bed and headed out to the tents. Even though they had had a busy evening, they were certainly not ready for bed! There were many toilet runs and a lot of chat but they eventually settled down and got a few hours sleep before being up at the crack of dawn, literally.



After some breakfast, everyone was ready for their day of activities with SSG. They were split in to smaller groups and rotated around all the activities which included the climbing wall, team building games such as 'toxic waste' and den building, which was a favourite. All the children had a wonderful time and their behaviour was fantastic.



We would just like to say a ginormous thank you to the staff and volunteers who stayed late, got up early and helped through the day to enable the sleepover to happen. Without their generosity and kindness it would not have gone ahead. Particular thanks to Mr & Mrs Brooks and Mr Taylor for putting the tents up in the blazing heat on the Thursday. We would also like to thank Robert Peel Primary school for lending us the tents. We hope the children had an amazing time and made lots of memories.



On Wednesday 18th June, Maple Tree celebrated World Music Day with a feast of musical delights. Every class spent the day exploring music, listening to different genres, and then composing and making their own melodies. We ended the day with a celebration of our hard work in a whole school assembly, watching and enjoying the entertainment.

Fir class listened to some big band including an orchestra. The spent the morning made some fantastic instruments from junk modelling that included shakers, guitars and drums. They did a wonderful performance of the Grand Old Duke of York, using the groups of instruments in a sequence and all together.

Year 5 was exploring musical theatre, where children learn how singing, acting, and dancing combine to create an overall performance. A small group performed a scene from 'Six', pulling all their skills of dance and acting to use the music to perform.

Singing was the focus for the day in Aspen. The children were learning folk songs and creating sounds to represent three contrasting landscapes of the seaside, countryside and city. They did a great rendition of London's Burning with actions. Some of the children created sounds with their voices and the school had to guess what they were.



Year 1 enjoyed a day at the seaside! The children were focusing on dynamics, making links between music, sounds and environments and use percussion, to represent calm or stormy seas. They were very creative and became crabs using stones and sand blowing along with brushes.



Rowan were looking at traditional Indian music. They listened to different rag and tel music and learnt about some of the traditional instruments such as table. They performed a dramatic piece in assembly using drums.

Poplar were looking at rivers and how pitch, tempo and dynamics can be used to recreate familiar sounds. The children created and performed a piece with a variety of ostinatos to replicate to different parts of a river using their voices and percussion instruments.



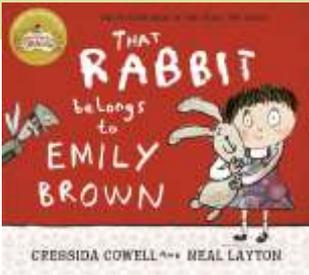
Elder were looking at film music and identifying the characteristic of it. They then created a piece of music to accompany a dramatic scene from Wallace and Gromit. They used keyboards and percussion instruments to create tension and drama.

# Summer term in Yew class



## English

In English we have been using the book 'That rabbit belongs to Emily Brown' by Cressida Cowell to ensure that our writing is structured and makes sense, so far we have sequenced the story using role play, drawn a story map and written a letter.



## Maths

In maths we have been learning about place value from 50 to 100. We have learnt how to partition 2 digit numbers into tens and ones. We have begun learning about money and we have ordered coins and notes looking at their value.

## Science

Throughout the term we have been growing a nasturtium seed - some more successfully than others. We have made weekly observations of our seed in a plant diary. We have also learnt about the life cycle of plants, the difference between deciduous and ever-green trees and how to categorise fruits and vegetables. Our trip to Swiss Gardens also helped to embed our learning.

## Computing

In computing we have been learning about algorithms. To do this the children spent an afternoon being virtual assistants; in pairs they took turns giving instructions to each other. They had to make sure their instructions were clear, if they were not clear their virtual assistant would not be able to complete the task successfully. We have also learnt about decomposition of instructions and how each step in a computer program is very important.



## Geography

We have been learning about what it is like to live in Shanghai. We have learnt about the seven different continents and human and physical features in our local area. We have enjoyed using Google Earth to see just how far away China is from the UK—it is 4,868 miles away and can take about 10 hours on an aeroplane.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Monday  
30<sup>th</sup> June**



**ARTWORK IS  
AVAILABLE  
TO BUY FOR  
£8 – CASH ONLY**

# exhibition

**This is your chance to buy an original framed piece of artwork!**

**Exhibition in hall at 3.30pm**



## Sports Day

**Wednesday 2nd July : For Mulberries only  
from 9:30am-10am.**



**Thursday 3rd July: For reception to year 6 from 9:30am - 11.30am.**

Please ensure that your child comes to school on this day in their PE kit, and if possible, wearing the colour t-shirt of their house. It is important that the children bring in a sunhat, water and have sun-cream applied for this morning. Please note there will be limited shade for spectators.

## Mulberries Drop-in for Parents

**Wednesday 16th July from 10.45-11:45am**

You are invited to a Mulberries Pre-school drop in session on Wednesday 16th July from 10.45-11.45am . This will be an opportunity to see your child's learning journey and speak with your child's key person.



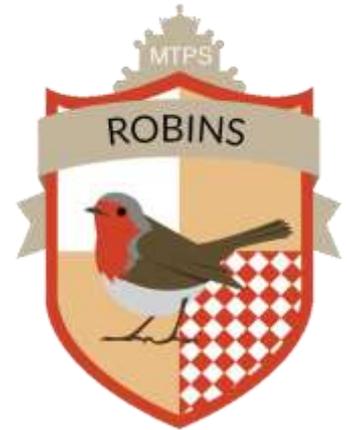
# Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are for... ..being a happy person



<b>Fir:</b> Gurshabad	<b>Yew:</b> Jacob	<b>Aspen:</b> Logan
<b>Rowan:</b> Alana	<b>Poplar:</b> Kyle	<b>Juniper:</b> Henry
<b>Elder:</b> Alfie J	Well done to you all!	★

This week's House Winners



**Congratulations!**

Weekly totals:

Buzzards 270	Robins 377
Doves 237	Ravens 284
Kingfishers 203	Swallows 301

# Celebrations and Weekly Wins!

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Mon 30th June—Art Exhibition
- Wed 2nd July—Preschool Sports Day
- Wed 2nd July—Year 4 River Fieldwork
- Thur 3rd July—Sports Day
- Fri 4th July—Year 2 Woburn trip
- Fri 4th July—FoMT School Fete
- Mon 7th July—Shuffle up day
- Thur 10th July—Parent Forum and School reports
- Fri 11th July—Open Afternoon and Proms on the Playground
- Mon 14th July—Year 3 Verulamium trip
- Tue 15th July—Rocksteady concert
- Wed 16th July—Mulberries Drop in
- Tue 22nd July—Year 6 leaver's assembly
- Tue 22nd July—Reception trip to Farm
- Tue 22nd July—Last day of school year

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

## Attendance Awards

Week beginning 23rd June 2025

The best attendance award is presented to  
**Juniper class!**

Class Attendance Percentages for the whole year.

<b>Mulberries</b> 90%	<b>Fir (YR)</b> 95%
<b>Yew (Y1)</b> 96%	<b>Aspen (Y2)</b> 95%
<b>Rowan (Y3)</b> 96%	<b>Poplar (Y4)</b> 96%
<b>Juniper (Y5)</b> 98% ★	<b>Elder (Y6)</b> 96%



# SUMMER FETE

FRIDAY

4th July

• RAFFLE • GAMES • FOOD AND DRINK •  
• CAKES • SHOPPING STALLS •

ON THE PLAYGROUND 3:30-5:30