

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



Newsletter

Friday 11th July 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING HEAD

This week's newsletter is jam-packed with updates on the events and trips that have been running in school over the last two weeks, including: The Art Exhibition, Sports Day, Year 2 trip to Woburn and Year 4 Fieldwork trip to the River Ivel. Although we only have seven school days left, there is plenty left happening, with Reception and Year 3 trips, our mini wellbeing week, a sports enrichment day and mulberries drop in—please read on to find more information.

I want to say a massive thank you to FoMT and all the helpers involved in organising the Summer Fete. They raised a whopping £847.46, smashing their £5000 target for our new DT room. It was so lovely to see the children enjoying the games, although I don't think I shall be volunteering to be hit by wet sponges again next year! If you would like to know more about FoMT, have your say in how the money is spent, or the events that run, check out the poster for the upcoming AGM in September.

It is the time of year where we reflect on the how much the children have grown academically (but also physically as they have gotten so tall) and think about how far they have come through the year. I hope that you found the end of year reports useful giving you information on how your child's year has been—I certainly enjoyed reading through them all. I was also impressed by the children's resilience on Monday when we had our annual shuffle up morning, where the children moved to spend time with their new teachers in their new classrooms in readiness for September.

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the departure of three members of staff this academic year; Mrs Longworth, Miss Cowell and Miss West.

For an incredible 24 years, Mrs Longworth has been an integral and cherished member of the Maple Tree family. Her unwavering commitment, profound empathy, and tireless dedication to supporting our students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities have left an indelible mark on countless lives. We are grateful for her extraordinary service, her steadfast loyalty, and the immeasurable positive impact she has had on our school community. We wish Mrs Longworth all the very best with her move and in her future endeavours. She will continue to work in our holiday club, so she isn't fully escaping us just yet!

Miss Cowell has been an invaluable member of our team for the past five years, dedicating her hard work and commitment as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant. During her time here, she has made a significant and positive impact on the child that she's supported. We are incredibly grateful for Miss Cowell's contributions and efforts over the years. We wish her all the very best in her future endeavours and thank her for time here.

It is with great excitement, and a touch of sadness, that we announce the departure of Miss West, our dedicated 1:1 SEND Teaching Assistant, who is leaving to welcome a new baby into her family. Although Miss West has been with us a short time, she worked incredibly hard with her 1:1 child and we are very grateful for her efforts.

That is it from me this week, but there will be one final newsletter of the school year coming next week and with that I hope to send out a summary of the parent survey responses, the latest parent forum minutes and our parent planner with all the important dates for next year.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

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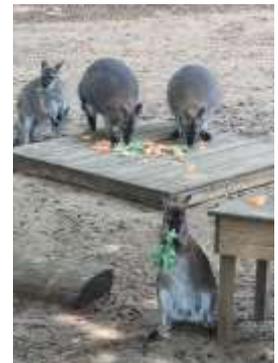
Woburn Safari Park trip with Aspen Class

Last Friday the Year 2s took a trip to Woburn Safari Park as a way of concluding their previous science learning of predators, prey and consumers. The children were very excited to be on the coach and chatted the entire way. As soon as we reached the gate and saw the local deers, the excitement spiraled further. It was a delight to hear.

Whilst we toured on the coach, we were able to see a host of animals including tigers, black bears, lions, wolves, giraffes, zebras and elephants. The children loved spotting the animals and thought the two bears fighting were hilarious.



Once off the coach, we walked around the park and saw many other animals. The meerkats were very amusing and the class were silent whilst watching so that they could observe and not disturb them while they were digging and guarding. After this, we went to have an educational talk called 'Who's Poo?'. As you can imagine, the children loved this. The talk was fascinating and the keeper explained the difference between the carnivores' and herbivores' poo. The class asked valid and interesting questions.



The class continued their day finding more animals and we were lucky enough to see the wallabies being fed; it was wonderful to see them up close. We hoped to see the sea lions swimming around but sadly they decided to sunbathe instead. At all times the class were impeccable in their behavior and manners and even commented on other schools not showing values. As ever I was incredibly proud of them. They were happy and enthusiastic all day and were a pleasure to take out.

Mrs Vickery-Cox

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Mon 14th July—Year 3 Verulamium trip
- Tue 15th July—Rocksteady concert—2:30pm
- Wed 16th July—Mulberries Drop in—10.45-11:45am
- Mon 21st July—Sports Enrichment Day
- Tue 22nd July—Year 6 leaver's assembly—10am
- Tue 22nd July—Reception trip to Farm
- Tue 22nd July—Last day of school year

Dates for next academic year will be sent out before the end of term via parentmail.



Year 4 River Ivel Trip

On Wednesday 2nd July, year 4 took a stroll up to the Sandy Mill area of the River Ivel. We have been studying rivers in geography, learning about the different levels of a river and the different features a river has.

Our first stop was at Bedford Road recreation ground, where we enjoyed a picnic under the trees before heading to the river. We then walked to where Sandy Mill once stood (where the flats are), and discussed the importance of river to humans and why towns develop next to rivers. We had some old photos to look at and compare how the area has changed over the years.

We also did some orienteering, trying to pin-point where they were on the map and locate the different features we could see on our walk, such as meanders in the river course and tributaries. The behaviour was fantastic, as usual, and we had a wonderful afternoon. Mrs Rowley.



Sports Enrichment Day

On Monday 21st July we are running a full day of sports enrichment!

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be taking part in Boccia (a Paralympic sport similar to bowls) and Kurling (the non-ice version).

Years 3-6 will be partaking in Tri Golf - focusing on putting and chipping.

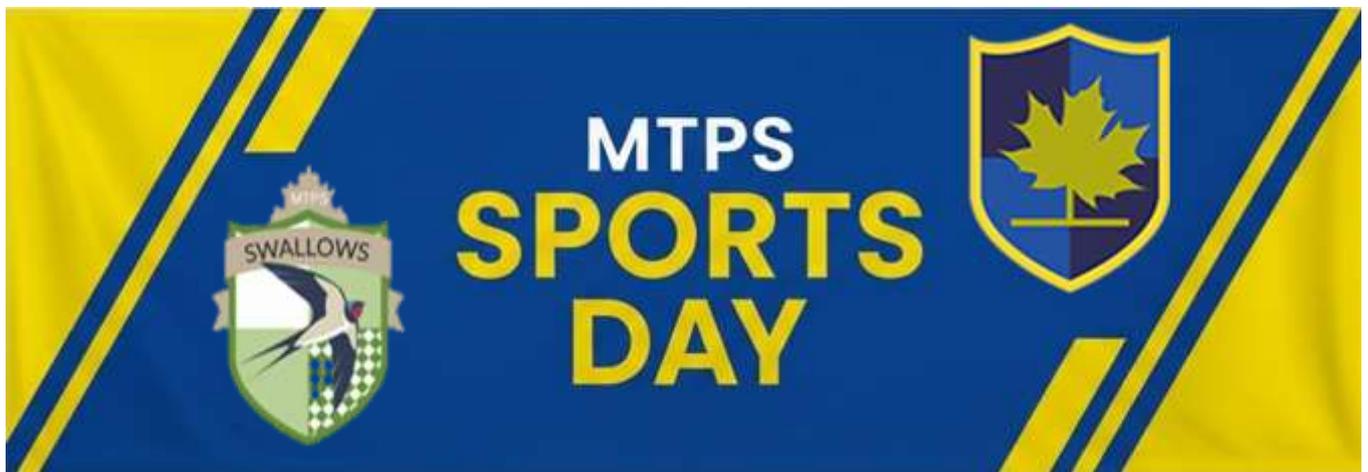


Mulberries Drop-in for Parents

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.





The day began in fabulous form and the weather was kind to the participants (but not so kind to the 2nd place stickers that were whisked up, up and away by a dust devil to everyone's amazement). The children were impeccably behaved and showed true sportsmanship and a wonderful emotional attitude toward the sports — giving each activity everything they had. The parents, thankfully, were also on their best behaviour, and a wonderful day was had by all. Thank you spectators and participants!

The Sports leaders facilitated the running of the event by relaying the scores and with the aid of the House Captains, supported their house-mates throughout the event. The addition of new aspects to the obstacle course and the chest push in the throwing event, added an extra challenge for the children which they accepted with relish.

A **huge well done** to all participants, but in particular to our new House Champions: **Swallows**, who won by two points.



The structural change to the sprint races were received really well by the participants, who felt they were able to compete which lifted their effort and performance. Well done to **Miss Cornfoot** for preparing these groupings and ensuring all the children knew what they needed to do on the day. As a final note, I would personally like to thank **all of the Maple Tree Staff** for setting up the equipment on the day, and all their input into making the day possible. Mr Neill.



Children's Mental Wellbeing Mini-Week

Wednesday 16th — Friday 18th July 2025

As part of our commitment to the wellbeing of the children, during the above dates we will be holding wellbeing activities within each year group.



Wednesday— the children of Fir to Year 6 will work within their house groups and visit each teacher who has a wellbeing activity planned for them. Mulberries will do activities that are age appropriate to them in their class.

Thursday— I have arranged for Mel Ford of Soul Essence to take each class in a taster of meditation. This will be an extension to the time we spend within class as part of our reflection - PAUSE.

Friday— MAD day—Make a Difference day. This is a day that the children will do various activities that make a difference to our school and the wider community. Mulberries to Year 6 will take part in MAD day. As some of the activities might be a bit 'mucky' please send your children in clothes you do not mind getting dirty—this may even be paint.

We will also be having some four-legged friends visit throughout the week. No child will be 'made' to touch or go near the dogs (Mrs Darnell and Mrs Rowley's family pets). All risk assessments associated with having dogs in school have been completed.

If the children have PE on Wednesday or Friday, this will not take place. However, the children will be active during the week and will not miss out on being physical!

Should you have any questions about these days, please speak your child's class teacher.

Ms Cassidy

PSHCE & Values Leader

A composite image featuring a certificate on the left and a cartoon illustration on the right. The certificate is white with green and black text. It reads: 'Your Speak out. Stay safe. certificate', 'Awarded to: Maple Tree Primary School', 'A massive thank you and a big well done to all pupils for being such great listeners and taking part in Speak out. Stay safe. with Buddy.', 'Chris Sherwood Chief Executive', and 'Date: 13 June 2025'. The illustration shows a yellow school building with a clock tower, a boy, a girl, and a green character with eyes. A speech bubble says: 'Thank you for helping to keep more children safe!'. The NSPCC logo and slogan 'EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR' are at the bottom.

Your
Speak out. Stay safe.
certificate

Awarded to:

Maple Tree Primary School

A massive thank you and a big well done to all pupils for being such great listeners and taking part in Speak out. Stay safe. with Buddy.

Chris Sherwood Chris Sherwood
Chief Executive

Date: 13 June 2025

Thank you for helping to keep more children safe!

NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR



There was such a creative and fun atmosphere at our Art Exhibition!



Thankyou to everyone who attended!

Story Garden – Summer Reading Challenge 2025

The **Summer Reading Challenge** is an annual challenge run jointly by The Reading Agency and public libraries. This year's Challenge is called **Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors**. This exciting new theme will inspire children to tap into a world of imagination through reading, exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature.

The challenge will run from **Friday 18th July until Saturday 6th September**.

Children are encouraged to read whatever they choose for the challenge, recognising the importance of reading for pleasure in increasing empathy and improving well-being, as well as in children's educational success. The theme this year is all about nature and the Great Outdoors. From planting seeds, encouraging outdoor play, and exploring wildlife - children will be able to find books linked to all of these wonderful themes and more.

- Children must be members of the library service. **Join the library** [here](#) or go to your local library.
- The challenge invites children to read any six library books or more during the summer holidays.
- Children can borrow books or read our e-books, magazines and audiobooks available on our Libby and BorrowBox apps. [More about e-resources](#)
- Families can sign up for the challenge at any library, at any stage in the summer, from **Friday 18th July**.
- Children are awarded a certificate and a medal for reading 6 books; there are also some other prizes to collect along the way!
- Children completing the challenge (6 books) will be entered into a lucky dip at their library for the chance to win a £50 voucher for The Works, to buy arts, crafts and books.



Contact your library...

Sandy Library: 0300 300 8065 Sandy.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Biggleswade Library: 0300 300 8055 Biggleswade.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Potton Library: 0300 300 8063 Potton.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Headteacher Awards

This week (and last week) the awards are for...

Making good choices
Spreading sunshine wherever you go
Demonstrating courage



Fir: Matthew Lily Bree	Yew: Kiitan Charlie Sebastian	Aspen: Christopher Sophie A Tommy
Rowan: Ezra Chloe Jordan	Poplar: James Moni Henry	Juniper: Ellis Toby L Jake
Elder: Lottie Alfie W Jasper	Well done to you all!	

This week's House Winners



Congratulations!

Weekly totals:

Buzzards 283 **Robins 200**
Doves 153 Ravens 238
Kingfishers 160 Swallows 274

Celebrations and Weekly Wins!

Monthly Values Awards:

For showing 'Happiness'

Poplar: Olive

Fir: Albert

Yew: Clayton

Aspen: Felicity

Elder: Scarlett

Rowan: Chloe

Juniper: Ronnie



Attendance Awards

Week beginning 7th July 2025

The best attendance award is presented to **Juniper class** for best attendance this year!

Class Attendance Percentages for the whole year.

Mulberries	Fir (YR)
90%	95%
Yew (Y1)	Aspen (Y2)
96%	95%
Rowan (Y3)	Poplar (Y4)
96%	96%
Juniper (Y5) 	Elder (Y6)
97%	95%



FRIENDS OF MAPLE TREE AGM

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT
THE PTFA? HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE EVENTS
WE RUN, THE MONEY WE SPEND ETC?
COME ALONG TO OUR ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING.



15th September 2025

6:30pm

