

Newsletter

Friday 19th September 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING HEAD

It was great to see so many of you at the Meet the Teacher meetings that were held this week, I hope that you found the information useful as we start the new school year. All the key information shared is now on our website which includes a copy of the presentations that were shared too. You will also find timetables and curriculum information on the [Class pages](#) of our website so please do look there regularly as these will be updated from time to time.

The start of the new school year sees the return of many familiar things and some new ones too and this is the case with our Friday celebrations. Headteacher Awards are still to be given out each week. Staff are asked to nominate a pupil who has demonstrated the particular criteria for the week - this year these are largely Values based - and children will be awarded their certificates in assembly on a Friday and their names added to the newsletter too. We also have House winners each week and certificates for the class with the best attendance.



We also had a really successful Annual General Meeting for the school's PTA, Friends of Maple Tree. It was lovely to see some new faces join us and we are excited about the calendar of events for the year ahead. Remember, all parents and carers are welcome to come to any meeting to share their ideas for how to fundraise, run events and spend the money. The next meeting is in Elder class on Monday 10th November at 6pm.

Finally we are also looking to recruit for our Parent Forum. More details can be found below.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Parent Forum



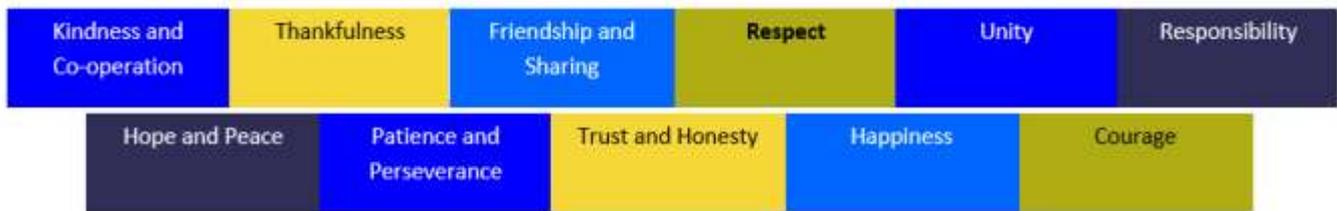
Our Parent Forum meet 6 times a year (once per half term) to take part in discussions surrounding whole school issues such as vision or anti-bullying as well as being an opportunity to raise relevant and pertinent questions about things such as pick up and drop off, communication, uniform, general questions etc. The meetings are run by the Head and Deputy Head and are attended by a parent representative from each year group. These parents nominate themselves and are agreed by the rest of the parents in that cohort. The reps collect questions and topics for discussion from the parents and feed back after the meeting - though formal minutes are also circulated to all parents following the meeting. If you would like to stand as a class rep this year (and we would really like to include parents from the upper end of the school as well please) then talk to the rest of the parents of your child's class and contact Miss Hyde through the teacher@mapletreepriamaryschool.com email address.

Autumn Term

Spring Term

Summer Term

Thursday 2nd October 2.30pm	Thursday 12th February 2.30pm	Thursday 21st May 2.30pm
Thursday 11th December 2.30pm	Thursday 19th March 2.30pm	Thursday 25th June 2.30pm



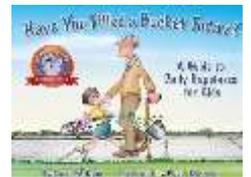
Values—September focus—Kindness and Cooperation

Welcome back to a values packed year. Following our amazingly successful re-accreditation as a Values Based school, we have a great year of values ahead of us. The **values of kindness and cooperation** are super important for us all, especially here at Maple Tree.

When we're kind, we show care and respect to everyone. This means using gentle words, sharing our toys, and helping a friend who might be feeling sad. It's like planting a little seed of happiness that grows and makes our whole school a brighter place. Kindness is a superpower we all have!

Cooperation is about working together as a team. Whether we're building a Lego castle, playing a game in the playground, or working on a project in class, we get so much more done when we help each other. It means listening to our friends' ideas and finding ways to combine them with our own. When we cooperate, we learn that everyone has something special to contribute, and that makes our work stronger and more fun.

We often use the story, 'Have you filled a bucket today?' to show children how happiness can be implemented in all of our lives.



These values help us not just in school, but in life, too. Let's remember to be kind and work together every day!

Giving Back Scheme

We are once again asking parents and staff to acknowledge children that 'go beyond' when it comes to demonstrating values. We have pared back the criteria for the beginning of this year to three areas. If you feel your child has shown these values beyond school, then I would love to hear from you. Send a brief reason and pic if possible to Ms. Cassidy at teacher@mapletreepriaryschool.com. The criteria for this can be seen attached to this newsletter and on our website in the values section.

Values Champion

Each month, staff choose one child from their class to be our Values Champion. This is a child who goes above and beyond to show the value of the month. Our next champion will be chosen at the end of September. They will be the child we believe has shown outstanding kindness and co-operation. During the following month they proudly display their champions trophy by their side.



A focus on Reading: Accelerated Reader (AR)



What is Accelerated Reader?

[Accelerated Reader](#) is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.) Accelerated Reader gives children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.



Children using Accelerated Reader choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. The books are not on a specific scheme but are the ones you can buy anywhere. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them. Staff help your child choose books at an appropriate readability level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

How does the school determine my child's reading level (ZPD)?

Teachers determine your child's reading level using a star Reading® test and their best professional judgment based on their knowledge of your child. A Star Reading test is a computerized reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is reduced.

What are points?

Every book that has an Accelerated Reader Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value. Points are computed based on the difficulty of the book and the length of the book (number of words). Pupils earn points by scoring well on the quiz.

How are Accelerated Reader point goals set?

Based on extensive research, we can provide guidelines for the approximate number of Accelerated Reader points children should be able to earn depending on how much time they read and their reading level. Monitoring Accelerated Reader points earned by children and comparing them to the guideline values enables your child's teacher to determine how well your child is using the time provided for reading practice.

How will I know if a book has an Accelerated Reader quiz?

To know which quizzes your school has available, contact your child's teacher as schools may not have purchased all quizzes. You can also visit the Accelerated Reader Bookfinder™ at arbookfind.com to conduct a search of all available books with Accelerated Reader quizzes.



How will I know how my child does on a quiz?

To know how your child is doing on their AR quizzes, parents will need to log in to [Renaissance Home Connect](#). Using a login specifically for your child (found in their reading/homework diaries) parents will be able to access their quiz results. In addition, parents can specify up to six email addresses to receive automatic updates on their child's reading progress.

How will my child take a quiz?

Students take Accelerated Reader quizzes on a computer or tablet with an internet connection. They can only take these in school.

What's been happening in Aspen Class (Year 2) this week?

In science we have been learning about everyday materials and what their properties are. We have been focusing on the suitability of the materials to use for certain objects. There were a lot of great ideas shared about why a blanket would not be the best material to use as a window.

In phonics we have been looking at the 'j' sound. We have been focusing on the various graphemes, dge, ge, g, and J. The children have been learning to write a variety of words and have been selecting the correct grapheme for each word.

In geography we have been using atlases to locate the continents. The class have been learning the names of them and discovering the various sizes. The children worked in pairs and it was great seeing them not only adding the names to the world map, but also working supportively together.

This week in English, the class have been focusing on writing their own version of the book "Luna loves Dance". They have created a character and have thought up an activity that they love to do. There have been suggestions of cooking, hunting, skateboarding and building houses from broccoli. They are using a rise and fall format, so that they have had to say what goes wrong and find a solution.

In maths, we have begun our learning with place value and are ensuring that we all know the order of the numbers. We have been using base 10, counters, tens frames, part whole models and bundles. The children have been partitioning tens and ones successfully.

Science

Mulberries

Children have been exploring floating and sinking in the water tray. They have tested all sorts of objects by putting them in the tray to see what happens. Then they have categorised them with adult support—did it float? Did it sink?



Fir

This week Fir have been talking about their families, pets and people who are familiar to them as we get to know our new friends and adults in the class. The children have been painting their portraits by looking closely at their features.



Year 1

Year 1 have been looking at animals; we have named some common animals that we know, compared the differences between animals and have begun categorising them.

Year 2

In science this week Year 2 have been continuing their work on materials. They have been discovering what the properties of materials are and have been thinking about which material is suitable for which job. The class gave great ideas on what should be used to make a coat hanger and the reasons why.

Year 3

Rowan has first looked at the history of geology and how our ideas and thoughts on the subject have changed throughout the years, as well as influential geologists, naturalist and philosophers who theorised these ideas. We then went on to identify the three main types of rock and have been discussing how they are classified, which the children have discovered is by how they are formed. The children then looked at a variety of different rocks and were asked to use their own classifications to separate them into groups based on their appearance.

Year 5 have been ordering and naming the planets of the solar system and finding out facts about the planets. Next week we are investigating the shape of the Earth and that it is spherical. Some of the changes that take place at this time, as part of their *Animals including Humans* science topic.

Year 4

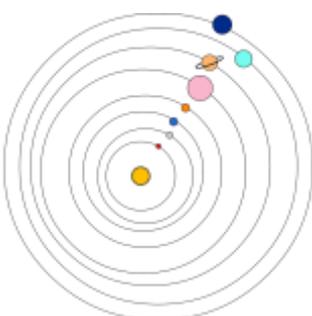
Year 4 are starting their topic on Electricity and seem to be really looking forward to the practical side of building circuits. They will be focusing on the scientific vocabulary and how to answer questions scientifically whilst they are exploring what a complete circuit is, building circuits with buzzers, motors and lightbulbs, investigating conductors and insulators before finishing the topic by making our own switches.



Year 6

Elder class will consolidate and extend previous learning from year 4 by constructing simple series circuits and drawing them using scientific symbols. They will conduct investigations to determine how the voltage in a circuit affects the brightness of a bulb. They will use their 'working scientifically' skills to plan an experiment to investigate variations in how components function and use the results to write a clear and concise conclusion.

They will use the internet to research information about renewable and non-renewable energy sources and communicate this information in the form of a leaflet.



Houses at Maple Tree



Why we use a house system:

The house reward system is a creative and fun way to encourage healthy competition in the school. It provides a platform for all children to make positive contributions throughout the school day. Our school houses are bird names and have their own colours (as above). Children are sorted into houses upon their entry to school and siblings are kept in the same houses.

We believe that acknowledging greatness (big or small) is key to building confidence in our children – so let's have some fun doing it!

How can you find out what house your child is in?

The teachers have stuck a photo of your child's house badge on the back of their first reading or homework diaries. If you are unsure what house your child is in or the badge is missing, please ask your child's class teacher.

What do you need to know as parents?

The key thing is that your child will need to wear a t-shirt in their house colour on sports day in the summer term. We announce the house winners for each week in our celebration assembly on a Friday morning and also report it on this newsletter—so you could celebrate at home when your child's house wins.

How do pupils win house points?

House points will be given out for good behaviour, polite manners, hard work, and all manner of other good deeds and achievements. The teachers are only allowed to give out up to 3 house points for any single thing but sometimes Mrs Bainbridge and Miss Hyde break those rules!

Points are also earned on sports day, these are added to the yearly total to find out which house has won that year!

The 500 Words story competition

opens for entries on 23rd September so it's time to get writing! Submit your stories [here](#) before 9pm on Friday 7th November 2025. All children need to do is write a story they would love to read in 500 Words or less.

We would love children of all abilities to enter; **spelling, punctuation and grammar** are not marked - it's all about creativity!



Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are for...

showing kindness and working well with others!

Fir: Sophia Chester	Yew: Kobi Belle	Aspen: Oryn Ivy
Rowan: Lexxi-Jai Laura	Poplar: Ezra Bella	Juniper: Moni Ralph
Elder: Ariana Toby J	Well done to you all!	

This week's
House Winners



Congratulations!

Weekly totals:

Buzzards 226	Robins 222
Doves 193	Ravens 227
Kingfishers 203	Swallows 158

Celebrations and Weekly Wins!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Thur 25th Sep—Parents picnic for our 25th anniversary 12:30-2pm
 - Fri 26th Sep—Macmillan cake sale afterschool in hall
 - Mon 29th Sep—Bikeability level 1
 - Mon 29th Sep—Flu immunisations
 - Wed 1st Oct—Individual school photo day
 - Thur 2nd Oct—Parent Forum 2:30pm
 - Fri 3rd Oct—Phonics workshop 9:15am
 - Mon 13th Oct—Year 6 Blethley Park Trip
 - Tue 21st Oct – Parents evening 4-6pm
 - Thur 23rd Oct – Reception Vision Screening
 - Thur 23rd Oct – Parents evening 4-7pm
 - Fri 24th Oct – Harvest Assembly (Year 3-6) 9:15am
 - Fri 24th Oct—Last day of half term.
 - 31st Oct—Deadline for applications to Secondary School (Y6)
- Term dates for **2025-2026** can be found [here](#).

Attendance Awards

The best attendance award is presented to
Aspen and Elder class this week.

Class Attendance Percentages for the whole year.

Mulberries*	Fir (YR)
98%	93%
Yew (Y1)	Aspen (Y2)
97%	99%
Rowan (Y3)	Poplar (Y4)
95%	96%
Juniper (Y5)	Elder (Y6)
98%	99%

*Attendance is not statutory in Mulberries.

YOU'RE INVITED TO

MAPLE TREE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC

Thursday 25th September
12:30-2pm



CAKE *Sale*

in aid of Macmillan



*Please give your donations
(bought or homemade to your
class teacher).*

FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

3:30

School Hall