

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



Newsletter

Friday 1st March 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD

This week has been a week of smiles, with a real **focus on fun**, which is so important alongside all the learning that happens.

One of my roles at Maple Tree is to work with our wonderful PTA, Friends of Maple Tree (FoMT). They have really brought the **fun** into school this week with two massive events! Starting the half term off with their popular Friendship Disco where the children enjoyed dancing and playing to the music, colouring and drawing, buying glitter art, temporary tattoos, finger lights and sweets. As always, the children had an amazing time and school is grateful to the committee, parent volunteers and staff volunteers who made this all happen.



Yesterday, children celebrated Leap Day by bouncing through an assault course thanks to FoMT. They raced around the course to complete as many laps as they possibly could for their class and house teams. Juniper class scored the most laps, and Ravens scored the most for their house. You can see more pics on our website using this [link](#) ; apologies for the blurriness, but we are sure you will agree there are some great action shots. Thanks go to Friends of Maple Tree for organising this event and for providing winners' treats.

We are happy to introduce our new midday supervisor, Mrs Fage, who is joining us over lunchtimes to bring the **fun** with organised sports and games to the children, as part of our sports premium strategy. She has started this week, getting to know the school and the children, and we are excited to share updates into what she has organised in the coming weeks.

I hope that you have a great weekend.

Comic Relief: Red Nose Day

On **Friday 17th March 2024**, we would like to invite children to wear non-uniform for a minimum donation of £1 in aid of Comic Relief.

During the week beginning 13th March, children will learn about where their donations go and who they might be helping with it. Please use the link <https://shorturl.at/lnzN7> to pay your donations.

Children can also wear red face paint, red hair and, of course, their red nose.



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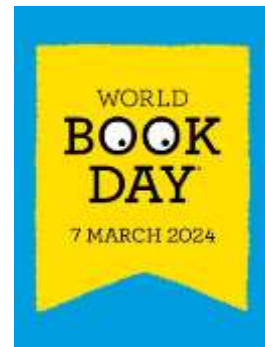
NEXT WEEK!

World Book Day Thursday 7th March 2024

We love to celebrate World Book Day here at Maple Tree and this year will be no different. We would like to invite children to dress up again this year as their favourite book character—remember, there are many characters that won't require you to make or buy anything new!

Thank you to everyone who has entered the photo competition so far. There have been some very inventive entries but I am excited to see more so I am extending the deadline to Monday 4th March - see below.

Photo competition – I would like to challenge the children to take a photo reading their books in lots of different places/positions. The best photo will win a £10 book voucher. Send all entries to teacher@mapletreepriamaryschool.com by **Monday 4th March**.



Healthy Packed Lunches and Snacks

We are proud to be a healthy school, teaching the children about a balanced diet and an active lifestyle. Part of this is promoting a healthy balanced meal at lunch times. We have noticed that a number of our children have started to bring in packed lunches with a number of unhealthy items, including sweets. Although treats are fine in moderation, a number of these items don't help to fuel young bodies for an afternoon of learning.

Where we have ongoing concerns, staff will communicate with parents and carers as needed.



Please note that we continue to be a nut free school as we have children with severe allergies.

Mulberries Drop In



Monday 25th March

3:30-4:30pm

Parents and carers of Mulberries children are invited to visit Mulberries on Monday 25th March between 3:30 and 4:30pm for an informal drop-in. This is an opportunity to speak with staff about how your child is developing and have a more in-depth conversation that you are able to at drop-off and pick-up times. There is no need to book, just turn up between the times.

Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are for...

... making a difference to others!



Fir:

Eleanor



Yew:

Layla

Aspen:

Aaron



Rowan:

Harper



Poplar:

Toby J

Juniper:

Alfie J



Sycamore:

Isla



Elder:

Maja



Well done to you all!

This week's House Winners



Congratulations!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 7th March World Book Day— pupils dressing up.

Friday 8th March FoMT Mother's day gift shop

Thursday 14th March – Year 5 stargazing evening

Friday 17th March Non-school uniform day for Red Nose Day

Thursday 21st March 2.30pm Parent Forum

Monday 25th March 3.30-4.30pm Mulberries parent drop in

Thursday 28th March 9.10am Reception and KS1 Easter assembly - parents welcome

Thursday 28th March 9-10.30am Pre-school Easter activity session. If attending the Easter assembly, please do feel free to join us afterwards.

Thursday 28th March FoMT Easter activity afterschool

Friday 29th March Easter holiday begins

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

Attendance Awards

Week beginning 26th February 2024

The best attendance award is presented to:
Rowan and Poplar class!

Mulberries

92%

Fir (YR)

91%

Yew (Y1)

95%

Aspen (Y2)

95%

Rowan (Y3)

97%



Poplar (Y4)

97%



Juniper (Y5)

93%

Elder (Y6)

93%

Sycamore (Y6)

93%

Our target is
97%

ONLINE SAFETY FOR UNDER 5s

10 Top Tips for Parents and Carers

According to Ofcom's most recent research, a significant proportion of children are already online by the time they start school, with 17% of 5-year-olds owning their own mobile phone and 50% using messaging platforms. As becoming familiar with technology is generally encouraged in younger children – and has been essential for education during the pandemic – it is crucial that trusted adults recognise both the benefits and the risks of infants and toddlers using digital devices. We've compiled our top tips to help the under-5s start their online safety journey.

1 USE DEVICES TOGETHER

This lets you monitor and control what your child is using the device for. It also provides the interaction that supports children's understanding of what they're seeing – allowing them to ask you questions, and so on.

PARENT CODE:

6 BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES

If your child uses a device that's linked to a payment method (such as a bank card), use the parental controls to block buys from app stores, as well as in-app purchases. That will prevent your child from accidentally spending money while on your device.

2 ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most digital devices have built-in parental controls that can limit the type of content children have access to. If your little one uses any device (even borrowing yours), it's a good idea to explore what controls the device has and enable them whenever they have access to it.

7 CHOOSE SAFE APPS AND SITES

There are some fantastic apps and platforms that are specifically designed to be safer for children. Always check the PEGI age rating before downloading an app, and test it yourself before allowing your child to use it.

3 MANAGE SCREEN TIME

This can be tricky, especially if your child is interested in a certain video, app or game. Try to agree on some ground rules and get your child into a routine which includes certain times of the day when they go without devices.

8 INVOLVE THE FAMILY

If your toddler has older siblings, it's likely that their rules for device use will be different – and that they'll access content that isn't appropriate for younger ones (a particular worry if they share devices). Encourage the whole family to be good role models and help little ones stay safe online.

4 TALK ABOUT BEING SAFE ONLINE

Just like we teach children about being safe in the real world, we need to educate them about how to stay safe online. Use age-appropriate language to help them understand, and plenty of hand gestures can reinforce what you're saying them.

9 IF IN DOUBT, ASK

The easiest way to find out what your child is doing online is usually just to talk about it with them. Developing an open dialogue at an early age helps them grow up feeling able to talk to you about their digital life – providing opportunities to intervene if you're concerned.

5 SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

Children often learn by watching and copying those around them, and using digital devices is no exception. When you're around your child, try to follow the same rules that you've set for them. Let them see you balancing your time online with interacting with people in real life, too.

10 SUPPORT CREATIVE & ACTIVE PLAY

Physical and creative activities are important for a child's wellbeing, and there are plenty of ways to incorporate technology into that. For example, you could encourage games that require physical movement, dance and sing along to songs your child loves, and follow step-by-step crafting videos.

Meet Our Expert

Roseanna Mourata is a professional development and EYFSL coordinator at an outstanding nursery school in London. She has been working as a nursery and early years practitioner both in the UK and internationally, for the past 15 years.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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MOTHER'S & OTHERS GIFT SHOP

£3 a gift

Children will get to choose which gift they want to give & bring it home already wrapped!

Scan below to purchase

*8th
March*

