

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



**MAPLE TREE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Climbing the branches of success

Newsletter

Friday 24th September 2021

"NO ACT OF KINDNESS,
NO MATTER HOW SMALL,
IS EVER WASTED."

-AESOP-



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD

My biggest and most important role here at Maple Tree is making sure that every child is happy and safe, both at school and at home; this responsibility is called safeguarding. This responsibility extends to keeping the children safe online, which is quite the challenge in the modern day when the apps and websites seem to change overnight!

Over the Summer we have been working hard to update our Online Safety Policy, which covers how we educate the pupils about staying safe online, how the internet is used at school on different devices and what we expect from the children in terms of what is acceptable online behaviour and what is not. The policy is currently in draft form and has been sent out with this newsletter. The pupils and staff have both been able to offer feedback on this policy and now we would like to offer parents the same opportunity for input, which you can do by emailing in to office@mapletreepriamaryschool.com.

A website that I would like to raise awareness of is called Omegle, which is a chatroom for over 18s that some of our children have mentioned. More information can be found on the final page of this newsletter. If you need any support in regards to online safety for your child, feel free to contact your child's teacher or myself.

Meet the teacher mornings

Thank you so much to the parents who attended our three 'Meet the teacher' mornings; we hope that you found them informative and useful. For those of you who we unable to attend, the staff have shared their presentations, which have all the key information on the website. You can find them by following the links below:

[Year 1 and 2](#)

[Year 3 and 4](#)

[Year 5 and 6](#)

Have a lovely weekend!

This week's House Winners



Congratulations!

Meet our House Captains



Jacob
Lilah



Alex
Charlie



Aidan
Stan



Jessica W
Lily



Ellenor
Eve



Aimee
Skye

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Head: Mrs Cath Bainbridge Deputy Head: Miss Amy Hyde

Everyone a Leader...Everyone a Learner



With the start of the new school year we turn our attention to the priorities we have which were shared with you at the start of the term. This year we aim to strengthen our community and use opportunities for collaborative working under the mantle of 'everyone a leader, everyone a learner'.

This week we demonstrate how our learning community is made up:

Governors as learners. The role of a governor is to support with the strategic planning of the school whilst at the same time holding school to account. In order to be able to do that effectively, governors need to have a solid understanding of the curriculum and its expectations. With many governors working within roles outside of education, they take on learning opportunities to ensure their own knowledge and understanding develops in order to be able to ask pertinent questions.

Teachers as learners. The curriculum is very much a focus for us this year and we will be using our staff training to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding that the children need to build on here at Maple Tree. As the adage goes 'everyday's a school day' and no matter what our role is within school, we all face daily learning opportunities. It is this that enables us to keep our knowledge and skills up to date which, in turn, allows us to support and teach the children whilst modelling resilience and teaching them strategies to help with attainment and progress.

Parents as learners. How many of you look at what the children are learning or look at how the children do things and think 'this is not how I was taught at school!' Our aim is to support you in a variety of ways this year to help you to help your children. There will be more information on this as we move through the school year.

Children as learners. This we know without doubt and we will be ensuring that we share curriculum information with you so that you can see how and what the children are learning this year along with the progress they are making.

Next week...everyone a leader!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wednesday 29th September 7.30pm FoMT AGM

Tuesday 5th October Individual photographs

Wednesday 20th October Parents' Evening

Thursday 21st October Parents' Evening

Week beg 25th October Half Term Week

Monday 1st November Term starts

Friday 19th November Children in Need

Friday 17th December Term Ends



The Attendance Award is coming back!!


Next week we will be publishing class attendance data on a Friday. Our school target is 97%. Help your child to achieve that by being in school by 9am every day!

FoMT Annual General Meeting:

Please see the attached flyers for more information about joining our schools PTA!



Headteacher Awards

<p>This week the award is for... working well with others.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">★</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">★</p> <p>Fir Class: Harry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">★</p>	<p>Yew Class: Lily</p> <p style="text-align: center;">★</p>	
<p>Hawthorn Class: Imogen</p> <p style="text-align: center;">★</p>	<p>Rowan Class: Ennis</p>	<p>Poplar Class: Maja</p>
<p>Cherry Class: Robert</p> <p style="text-align: center;">★</p>	<p>Elder Class: ★ Jess W</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WELL DONE!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">★</p>

Communication:

We are always working hard to keep our lines of communication open. There are a few ways in which to contact your child's teacher: teachers are available for a quick chat at the classroom door at the start and end of the day or you can email or phone the school office, who will pass on messages to the teachers. Meetings can be arranged if more time is needed by both methods. Please do not email the teachers directly. We ask that if you have any concerns, you first see your child's teacher, then their key stage leader and then the Deputy Head, before contacting the Head teacher.



Parents' and Carers' Survey July 2021

Thank you to everyone who took part in our end of year parent survey in July. It has been really useful to gain an insight into what is working well and what needs to be adapted and there are certainly some things to celebrate!

The survey was in two sections, there was a series of multiple choice questions and then we asked three further questions:

In your opinion, what are the best things about Maple Tree?

Is there anything particular you would change about the school?

In what ways would you like to see the school develop over the next three to five years?

As there has been a lot of response to these questions, we are currently working our way through these so therefore, today, we are sharing the results of section one—the multiple choice results - and in the next couple of weeks we will share with you the other answers along with our responses.

Please read on to see the results of the survey.

Results from the Parents' and Carers' Survey July 2021

1. My child is happy at Maple Tree.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Total % in Agreement
	78%	18%	1%	-	3%	96%

2. My child feels safe at Maple Tree.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Total % in Agreement
	74%	24%	-	-	2%	98%

3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Total % in Agreement
	42%	44%	6%	-	8%	86%

4A. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Total % in Agreement
	6%	12%	35%	-	48%	18% (potentially 65%)
4B. My child has not been bullied.	62%	32%	-	-	6%	94%

We will be following up the large percentage of parents who disagree that bullying is dealt with effectively to ensure that communication between school and home is strong. Bullying will be on our agenda for discussion at Parent Forum meetings this year.

We will also be sharing information with you during the course of this year to reach the number of families who do not know about the measures we take to promote an Anti-Bullying message, and the tangible and effective activities and strategies in place to ensure that the children understand how important it is to be kind and caring, and what to do if there is any sign of bullying. We will be embarking on a series of activities during 2021-2022 to ensure that parents of our younger/newer children know how well we address Anti-Bullying and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education).

5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Total % in Agreement
	22%	58%	13%	-	7%	80%

6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with promptly.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Total % in Agreement
	39%	51%	4%	-	6%	90%

7. My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Not Applicable to my family	Total % in Agreement
	19%	26%	7%	4%	44%	60%	45%

We will be increasing the amount of information we are providing our parents of SEND children so they are aware of the support their children are receiving. If we can reach the 44% of families who do not know if the support given will help their children to succeed, then potentially 89% of our SEND families would be happy with the provision we provide. Watch out for SEND information, updates, newsletters and support shared with you this year.

8. My child receives Pupil Premium funding and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Not Applicable to my family	Total % in Agreement
	50%	13%	-	-	38%	88%	63%

Pupil Premium information will be shared with parents during the coming year and examples of how this is spent will be shared with individual families who are in receipt of the funding.

9. The school has high expectations for my child.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Total % in Agreement
	22%	46%	3%	1%	28%	68%

Curriculum information will be shared during the course of the year to keep you updated in the knowledge, skills and understanding that your child is expected to learn each year.

10. My child does well at Maple Tree.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Total % in Agreement
	53%	43%	-	-	4%	96%

11. The school lets me know how my child is doing.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Total % in Agreement
	32%	56%	7%	-	6%	88%

12. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Total % in Agreement
	29%	46%	11%	-	14%	75%

13. Maple Tree has a good reputation within our local community.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Total % in Agreement
	39%	47%	1%	-	13%	86%

14. I would recommend Maple Tree to another parent.	Yes: 99%	No: 1%
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Thankyou for responding to our survey!

If you have any queries or concerns, or any questions, please do not hesitate to call into school, speak to your child's teacher, or to the Head or Deputy Head, or to our Office staff. We are all here to help!

If you're happy, and your child is happy, then we're happy!



Omegle is a website that pairs random strangers for live text or video chats. It first launched in 2009 and its slogan is "Talk to strangers!" There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. Anyone can use the site. Users simply go to Omegle.com and then choose 'Text' or 'Video' chat and the page states how many users are currently online. Depending on the time of day this can be hundreds of thousands. Omegle markets itself as a great way to meet new friends however has been known to feature pornography and inappropriate content within chats, so it's important parents are aware of the risks associated with the site.



What parents need to know about OMEGLE



NO AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES

Omegle is completely free to use and allows users to communicate with others without the need to register, supply an email address or create a profile. This means users can remain anonymous and it's hard to trust who your children are talking to. Furthermore, there are no age verification measures and other than agreeing to the terms and conditions, your child can easily start online engagement with strangers and potentially access more adult themed content.



RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

The anonymity of Omegle can increase the risk of cyberbullying on the site. Engaging in chat with strangers means that topics of conversation can lead almost anywhere including discussions about looks, body image or the sharing of other personal information. With the availability of video chat as well, this could lead to children being coerced or forced into carrying out activities online which could then be used against them.



UNMODERATED CHAT

Omegle encourages video chat as much as it can, prompting users during their text chat to activate their web cam. Whilst text chat has a degree of moderation, the content in Omegle's video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators and, at any time of the day, there can be thousands of users online. This means that your child could easily come across illegal, unacceptable or inappropriate images or media. Omegle currently offers no function for reporting online abuse or inappropriate behaviour on its site and instead only offers advice to 'please be careful'. It also advises to 'Use Omegle at your own peril. Disconnect if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable.'



PRIVACY RISK VIA FACEBOOK

Omegle can be linked to a user's Facebook account to match their interests and likes with other users. This means that Omegle can access your child's basic Facebook information, and Facebook friends may potentially view Omegle activity. In addition, users can save the chat log and share the link without the other user's knowledge. It is not uncommon then for users to request being added to Snapchat, Instagram or WhatsApp for further interaction, moving the conversation into a more personal setting.



RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Omegle chat picks another user at random and there is very little way of verifying who your child may be chatting to. This can lead to a number of risks including catfishing (users pretending to be of similar age), identity theft (users eliciting information to commit fraud) and sexual/psychological grooming (users coercing others to act in a way or do something they wouldn't normally do).



ADULT THEMED CONTENT

Unfortunately, Omegle is infamous for its pornographic content and it is not uncommon for users to expose themselves or engage in sexual acts. If a user selects video chat, then the other user's webcam will automatically be switched on before the action to 'end chat' can be selected. There is also no 'preview' in smaller thumbnail windows. As video chat is so easy to access, it means that unintentionally viewing more mature, inappropriate or even illegal images can't always be avoided.



Safety Tips For Parents

DISCUSS RISKS WITH YOUR CHILD

It is important to speak to your child about the dangers of Omegle. Guiding and educating young children is far more useful than ignoring the possibility of Omegle being accessed. Explain to your child that Omegle is not completely anonymous and that other users will and do use Omegle to exploit others. Try to emphasise the risk of speaking to strangers and that engaging online is no different to engaging offline.



PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Omegle does not provide advice about how to protect your personal information so it's important that children are aware of what they should and shouldn't share online and with whom. If they use Omegle, always advise against sharing any personal information such as their real name, age, phone number, address or any other personal identifiable information. This also includes details of their social media accounts or gaming ID's. You should also adjust your child's Facebook settings to control what information is shared with Omegle.



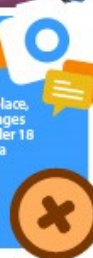
REPORT CONCERNS

If your child comes across any inappropriate content or something which upsets them on Omegle, then it's important that they are able to discuss it with you and that you provide them with the support they need. If you think the content is illegal, then it must be reported to the police.



DISCOURAGE VIDEO CHAT

Try to discourage your child from using video chat on Omegle. Not only is there no filters or moderation in place, but children may be coerced into sharing intimate images or videos of themselves, which is illegal if they are under 18 and may be used against them. Omegle text chat has a degree of moderation controlled by Omegle through software and several actual moderators. The software moderates, identifies and prevents certain words and sequences of words to try and prevent bullying and grooming however is still not a 100% failsafe.



TRY OMEGLE YOURSELF

It's always an excellent idea to get a feel for the website or app your child is using so that you can see and understand the issues and risks for yourself. More importantly, it will also provide you with first-hand experience of the risks and dangers if/when you decide to speak to your child about Omegle and what they need to be aware of.



USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Omegle is a website chat service. Children can only access the text chat on their phone and would need access to a PC or laptop to engage in video chat. If you have genuine concerns over Omegle and don't wish your child to access the site, you can add www.omegle.com to the list of banned websites and URLs. However, it's important to remember that Omegle can still be used via a web browser on an iPad, tablet, smart TV or gaming device and similar controls would need to be implemented on each of these devices separately.



Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



SOURCE: <http://www.omegle.com>