

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
Climbing the branches of success

Newsletter

Friday 9th December 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

The frost on the ground has definitely brought the festive feel this week along with the start of our Christmas events. Years 2, 4, 5 and 6 shared a variety of skills in their assemblies this week from singing to acting to reading in front of an audience to dancing to playing the ocarina - a real medley. Our very youngest children, in Mulberries, performed their Christmas songs beautifully to parents this week and had a very good knowledge of the Christmas story. It really is a magical time of year and we look forward to Year 1, 3 and Reception next week.

I also want to thank those of you who braved the cold yesterday afternoon to come and sing carols with us on the playground. We are very grateful to Mr Perry and his band of merry players from Sandy Secondary School for their musical accompaniment; it was great to see children and parents involved in an event together...our first carols together but hopefully not our last! Photos of this event will be loaded onto our website once available.

As we head towards the end of the term I also want to share with you that, sadly, Mrs Germany is retiring. She has been at Maple Tree for many years (I will spare her blushes here!) but during that time she has made a significant difference to the lives of so many children - and parents - and we are extremely grateful to her for all she has done for us over the years. She will be very much missed but I am sure you join with me in wishing her all the very best. Thank you Mrs Germany from us all!

The rest of this newsletter is full of other things that are going on in school - I hope that you are finding the information we are sharing with you informative. It really does give you a flavour of what is happening at Maple Tree.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Reading

Book Fair: Thank you to all parents, carers and grandparents who visited our book fair over the last week. You spent a whopping **£1093.86** on books which earns the school **£596.32** in rewards to spend on books for school.

Reading Workshop: Thank you to the parents who attended the reading workshop. If you would like to see a copy of the presentation, please click [here](#) and scroll to the documents at the bottom of the page.

School Calendar Update



The Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023. As a result, **Monday 8 May will be an extra bank holiday.**

Year 6 SATs week continues to be held during that week but will now run as follows:

Tuesday 9th—SPaG

Wednesday 10th— Reading

Thursday 11th— Maths paper 1 &2

Friday 12th— Maths paper 3

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This week in Year 6

This week we have been exceptionally busy! We have had a trip to Bletchley Park, our Christmas class assembly, and carol singing.

Bletchley Park Trip

On Monday we travelled to Bletchley Park for our trip to round up our learning about World War II. We learned lots more about code-breaking and what the men and women at Bletchley did to help us win the war. We took part in a workshop where we had to decipher Morse code and decide how to carry out Operation Overlord—the D-Day landings.



Maths— this week we have been revising converting units of measurement. Over the term we have built on our previous learning in number, place value and fractions.

We have a lot of new material to learn, but Year 6 is a lot of revision of the key stage 2 maths curriculum. This does not mean our learning is less challenging!

History

This term we have been learning about World War II. We have followed the enquiry question—'What impact did WWII have on society in Britain?' We began by learning about some of the reasons for the war, then some of the major battles, and finally evacuation. We have learned some local history when Mr Flitton visited to tell us about his dad's experience of the war whilst growing up in Luton.

Art

We have been developing our drawing skills to draw landscapes using one point perspective.

Firstly, we looked at various paintings and photographs to identify perspective. We then went outside to draw the school field with one point perspective. We looked for the horizon line first, and then chose our own one point perspective to focus on. Our finished work will be on our website page soon for you to see.

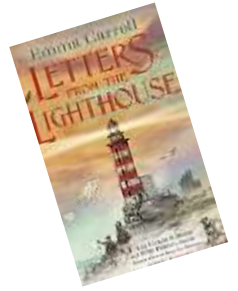


To finish this term off, we will be having a VE Day party. We will learn about rationing and make Victoria Sandwich cakes and SPAM sandwiches. During this time, we will also learn some WWII dances and play some traditional 1940s party games. Watch out for pics on our website!

Finally—thank you for all of the support you have given the children over the term with their reading and homework. This really helps me and gives them extra practise with their learning. Have a lovely Christmas and we look forward to a great 2023. Sadly— for some of you—your last few months at our amazing school!

English

We are writing a recount based on a mothers' experience of sending her children out of London during the Blitz. The novel we are basing this on is, 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll. We have used lots of writing techniques to build atmosphere and imagery—including metaphors and vocabulary linked to storms and the sea.



Elder Class Christmas Assembly

Our singing was angelic, the jokes hilarious and the poetry outstanding!

Little Drummer Boy was a tricky song to sing, but we did brilliantly. Our rendition of Jingle Bells on the Ocarinas was better with the support of our adult choristers!

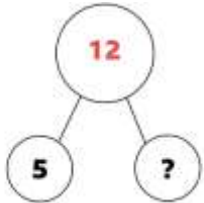
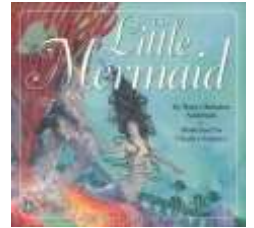
We are a very talented bunch in Elder and our Christmas assembly was fantastic. Megan, Elin and Rosalie all wrote their poetry which had beautiful sentiments and showed us the true meaning of Christmas.



Last week in Yew Class!

Our topic this term has been 'In the Deep Blue' which has given the children the opportunity to explore all things oceans! This has included, learning about the different oceans and continents, different sea creatures, and Grace Darling. The children have had so much fun using different songs, videos and art to help them remember key details.

In English, we have been looking at traditional tales, with a focus on 'The Little Mermaid'. After reading the story and sequencing the different events last week, this week we have been creating our own story maps—this has helped the children to remember the story as well as encourage them to focus on the order of key points, ensuring a coherent memory of the whole story.



In Maths, the children have gotten to grips with addition and subtraction up to, and including 10. This has involved using number lines, part whole models, bar models and cubes to ensure understanding. Pulling this altogether has been incredible to watch, as the children can now show a 'fact family' of a calculation using a whopping eight number sentences! Fantastic work Yew Class!

In Design and Technology, our project is beginning to come together! After designing our lighthouses, and beginning the process of papier mache last week, ready to paint them as soon as possible!

Yew Class are putting lots of time into our Christmas Assembly too, preparing different songs and a small story with pictures for each child. How exciting!

Local history workshop funded by National Highways

Last week, Year 2 and 4 were fortunate to have two archaeologists visit and share their findings from a local excavation along the A428, just past the Black Cat roundabout. We were shown clothing pins, brooches and a range of coins. We compared the differences in childhood between the Roman times and modern day life. We were even able to weave our own baskets! The children had an amazing day! Thank you so much to Neil and Cat for their time and expertise.



PE at Maple Tree

At Maple Tree Primary School, we try to make our P.E. not only fun and enjoyable, but also inclusive, providing them with the opportunity to develop their physical, social and cognitive skills in a safe and engaging environment.

This term's sports focus has been Football and Tag-Rugby and the children have been braving the elements to hone their gross motor skills, their understanding of the rules and tactics as well as working as a team.



UKS2

This term, Elder, Cherry and Juniper have been learning to use dribbling to change direction whilst under pressure and maintaining control. In addition, they have been learning to use a variety of kicking techniques and select an appropriate one for the situation.

LKS2

For the Autumn term, Poplar and Rowan have been using their sports to reflect on when and why a challenge is solved successfully and ways they can improve. Furthermore, they have been learning to link dribbling with other actions (passing, shooting and looking up) as well as receiving and giving passes using different parts of their feet for control.



KS1

Aspen and Yew have been focusing on tracking a ball and stopping it using their feet. They have been developing their ability to catch a ball without it bouncing and showing control of their bodies whilst running, stopping and changing direction.

EYFS/Reception

The champions in Fir and Mulberries have been focused on throwing and catching. They have worked hard to improve their accuracy when throwing at a target and showing control when rolling objects. They are mastering beanbags and showing more awareness of themselves and objects around them when moving at speed.

Furthermore, our balanced PE curriculum understands the impact of exercise on mental and physical health, at Maple Tree, our children know the importance of living a healthy (active) lifestyle. These past two weeks we have promoted an active lifestyle by running a competition for those who walk or ride to school. It has been wonderful to see so many of our pupils 'jumping on board' and choosing to be active.

Well done, Maple Tree, try to keep this up!

New Equipment!!!

Lastly, we have finally had the delivery of the equipment from Sports for Schools that we worked so hard for last year when Sean Rose (the amazing and most successful British sit-skier and Paralympian) visited us.

I know we are all excited to begin using all this fabulous new equipment.



Year 6 Trip to Bletchley Park

Elder class enjoyed a trip to Bletchley Park this week to round off their learning about World War II. They found out more about D-Day and how the code-breakers helped make Operation Overlord so successful. The whole class were fantastic representatives of our school and their behaviour and participation was commented on by the museum staff.

See more photos [here](#).



This week's House Winners



Congratulations!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 12th Dec 9:15am- Year 3 Christmas Assembly

Tue 13th Dec 9:15am- Year 1 Christmas Assembly

Thur 15th Dec 9:15am- Reception Christmas Assembly

Thurs 15th Dec Christmas Dinner - children can wear Christmas jumpers.

Tues 3rd Jan - INSET day

Weds 4th Jan - new term starts for Reception to Year 6

Thurs 5th Jan - Mulberries start back

Thurs 5th Jan - whole school pantomime trip

Weds 8th/Thurs 9th Feb - parents' evenings

Mon 13th - Fri 17th Feb Half Term week


Dates can also be found on our [website](#).

Attendance Awards

Our target is 97%

Week beginning 5th December

The best attendance award is presented to: **Aspen** class!

Blossom (Mulberries) 90%	Berries (Mulberries) 92%
Fir (YR) 93%	Yew (Y1) 96%
Aspen (Y2) 98% 	Rowan (Y3) 96%
Poplar (Y4) 80%	Juniper (Y5) 72%
Cherry (Y5) 91%	Elder (Y6) 94%