

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



# Newsletter

Friday 20th October 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

It was great to see such a good turn out for parents' evenings this week. These are a useful opportunity for dialogue to happen between home and school and I hope that you found this helpful. There will be another set of parents' evenings in the Spring Term but please remember that you can communicate with class teachers in between times - at the door, making an appointment through the school office or emailing in using [teacher@mapletreepriamaryschool.com](mailto:teacher@mapletreepriamaryschool.com) - should you have any concerns.

It was also fantastic to have over a hundred parents join us for the KS2 Harvest assembly this morning - such variety in the class presentations and some lovely music too. It really reinforced the message of thanks and gratitude. Thank you to those who attended and those who have donated food items; these much needed items will be passed on to The Need Project.



This half term I have shown a large number of prospective parents around the school and a common theme that comes from these is how good the behaviour of the children is in their lessons. We are proud of our pupils and how respectful they are - we have so many visitors who comment on this and it is a real strength of our school. There are a number of key objectives we are working on across the school at the moment and after half term I will share our whole school priorities with you so you are aware of these too.

I also want to let you know that at our recent Governing Body Meeting, Mr Andy King was re-elected as Chair of Governors and Mr David Walker was elected as Vice-Chair. There will be more information on our governing body after half term as we introduce our governors to you.

Finally I want to end with my personal thanks to all who have made this such a **GOOD** half term; to parents for your support, to staff for their exceptional hard work and dedication, to governors for their support and time and to all our pupils who continue to do themselves proud on a daily basis.

I wish you all a good Half Term and we will see you on Monday 30th October.

Maple Tree Primary School, Hawk Drive, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2WA

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## Our Approach to Trips and Visits



In our experience at Maple Tree Primary School, the benefits that school trips bring to your child's unique learning journey make them an essential part of any all-round education. There are many reasons why we believe this to be true. Firstly, trips build confidence and independence. At the end of Year 6 children have enjoyed their residential where they can enjoy outdoor and adventurous activities.

During trips, children experience learning outside of the classroom. Topics are brought to life in a new and exciting way. Trips support and enhance the curriculum, whilst providing new perspectives and wider context for your child to think about.

At Maple Tree we aim to run at least one trip a term – this can be off-site or a local trip. Expert visitors to school also add to your child's engagement of a topic.

All children engage in trips and visits – from Mulberries to Year 6. Before children take part in a trip, teaching staff have a lot to plan. This includes preliminary visits, risk assessments and all other admin needed to make the trip safe and enjoyable for all.

When planning trips, teaching staff must adhere to some strict rules – these include ratios. The younger the children the greater the adult to child ratio is. We always try to use school staff first, then governors and at times other volunteers who have a DBS. If governors and volunteers have children in school, they will always be placed in a group away from their own children. This ensures the safety of all children within a group.

We understand that, for some, a trip is a scary time. All of our staff are experienced in running trips and will do everything they can to ensure your child has an enjoyable day. After a trip, staff upload lots of photographs to your child's class page on our website. Here you will see what an amazing time they have had! Children may also be asked to write a short review of the trip or have some follow up work to complete in class.

## Israel-Hamas Conflict

Whether directly or indirectly impacted by the tragedies that are being witnessed in the Israeli-Hamas conflict, children are disproportionately affected by violence. The high-profile coverage of the conflict naturally leads to an awareness of the topic, even for young children, but navigating discussions with children around war can be difficult because content and information shared with younger children should be age-appropriate. In school, we will sensitively speak with any child who raises concerns about this, but will not be having whole class discussions.

### How can you support your child?

- **Be aware of what your child is hearing, watching or reading.** From headlines read on the radio, overhearing adult conversations or independently seeing posts on social media—most children will have access to some level of information on the topic.
- **Be open to talk.** If your child wants to talk about conflict, remain calm and non-judgemental. Speak to your child about their worries or concerns. Don't go into too much detail.
- **Use trusted sources.** Newsround is an excellent source for child friendly news; watch videos or read articles with your child. Visit: [childline](#), [unicef](#) and [Newsround](#) for more parent guidance.



## Children's Christmas Card Artwork

You should have received your child's Christmas Card Artwork. The art they have created can be made into Christmas cards and other gifts for family and friends, whilst raising funds for school.

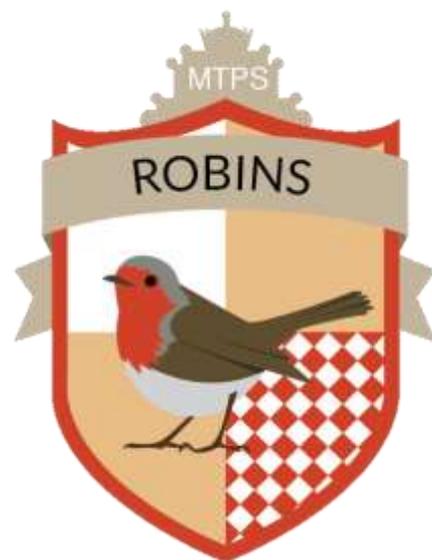
Please either logon to [www.apfsorders.co.uk](http://www.apfsorders.co.uk) or scan the QR code on the leaflet attached to the artwork. Please do not use the QR code on the back of the art as this is for the company use only.

The deadline for ordering is Tuesday 24th October 2023.

The estimated dispatch date is 07.11.23. If you have any questions please speak to your class teacher.



## This week's House Winners



# Congratulations!

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Monday 30th October** FoMT Disco

**13th-17th November** Anti-Bullying Week

**Thursday 16th November** Online Safety Parent Workshop 6:30-7:30pm

**Friday 17th November** Anti-Bullying Open Afternoon

**29th November - 6th December** Book Fair

**Thursday 30th November** Grandparent's Breakfast

**Friday 8th December** Parent Forum

**Tuesday 12th December** 2.30 -3.30 Mulberries drop-ins

**Wednesday 13th December** Christmas Dinner

**Friday 15th December 11 - 12** Mulberries drop-ins

**Tuesday 19th December** Term Ends

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

## Attendance Awards

Week beginning 16th October 2023

The best attendance award is presented to:

**Poplar class!**

<b>Mulberries</b> 95%	<b>Fir (YR)</b> 92%
<b>Yew (Y1)</b> 97%	<b>Aspen (Y2)</b> 95%
<b>Rowan (Y3)</b> 97%	<b>Poplar (Y4)</b> 98% ★
<b>Juniper (Y5)</b> 93%	<b>Elder (Y6)</b> 95%
<b>Sycamore (Y6)</b> 93%	<b>Our target is 97%</b>

# Online Safety Parent Evening

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
**6:30-7:30pm**

**Join us for an evening learning about how to  
keep children safe online**

*run by a Cyber Protect & Prevent officer within the  
Cybercrime Hub in Bedfordshire Police.*

You will learn:

- how your online behaviour can impact your child,
- about the dangers of parents sharing sensitive information about their child online,
- how to keep your child safe when using popular apps and websites such as: youtube, roblox and tiktok
- and much more!

This will be run as an interactive session to get you thinking about the hidden dangers of online use. Other topics surrounding Cybercrime such as online gaming, social media interaction, sharing of indecent images and hacking are also incorporated throughout the session.

Please note, children are not able to attend this event due to the sensitive nature of some of the videos shared.



# Halloween

Friday 27th October

Games: Make me into a mummy

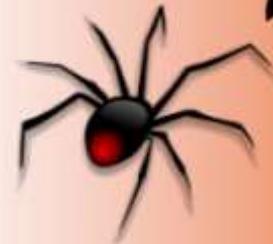
Halloween bingo

Pin the spider on the web

Crafts; Pumpkin carving

Cotton bud skeleton

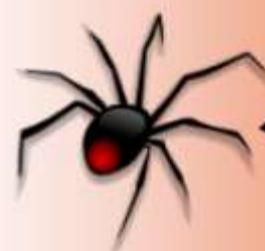
Pumpkin wreath and much more



Limited spaces, contact kids club 07950592745,  
Maple Tree Primary School, Hawk Drive, SANDY,  
SG19 2WA. Session 8-6 £28, 8-1 or 1

-6 £14

Water bottle required and lunch for  
morning or all day session



# Fun Day