

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

This month's value is Responsibility. We don't talk about our values work very often as our pupils demonstrate these on a regular basis rather than something we need to teach explicitly but the work covers so many aspects; for example, we teach the children to be responsible for themselves, for belongings and for each other, but we also teach them how to act responsibly in order to keep themselves and others from harm. This has been a key message across classes this week as they have been looking at activities and messages connecting to Safer Internet Day, which was on Tuesday.

The children demonstrate what they know to be responsible behaviour whilst using technology and what to do if they see inappropriate behaviour. There is great access to the wider world through screens where the people at the other end have a level of anonymity and it is key that the children are aware that they use the internet safely and understand how to report something that makes them feel unsafe or upset.

KS1 talked about how to keep safe and make good choices. The children were clear they should talk to a trusted adult if something doesn't look or sound right. They talked about truth and kindness online.

Year 4 spoke clearly about what makes them good digital citizens. They identified ways in which personal information could be used negatively online and understood the need to create strong passwords. They used a variety of ways to get the message across that if someone feels unsafe or unsure online they need to speak out.

Year 6 have been learning about persuasive design. The children did not realise how apps and games use various persuasive techniques in order to get people to purchase an app or continue playing. They talked about clickbait and how apps reward you. They discussed ways in which we could manage persuasive design in order to limit the negative impacts on us. They also looked at some tips for staying safe whilst using their smartphones and appropriate amounts of screen-time.



The children have also considered their mental health and wellbeing as part of Children's Mental Health week. They have taken part in some really key discussions using the theme My Voice Matters and there was an extremely calm feel in

PTO...

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD CONTINUED

school this morning as all classes took part in a yoga class run by HappyLittleYogi. The children looked very relaxed when I saw them leaving the hall! Mulberries have also had a super relaxing day today and you can see more on that below.



It was also lovely to see lots of different colour in school today - I do like our uniform but there is something cheery when children are allowed to wear their own clothes and today was no exception. I am grateful to Friends of Maple Tree for organising our non-uniform day today with such a positive theme of 'Love Yourself' - it would be wonderful for our pupils to grow up with high levels of confidence and self-esteem and taking time to reinforce these affirmations is important.

As you can see it has been another busy week and we look forward to seeing you all at Parents' Evening next week when teachers will be sharing information about how your child is doing and the progress they are making. If you have any problems making an appointment, please contact the school office.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

Polite Reminder

It has been noticed that an increasing number of cars are, again, driving into Hawk Drive in the morning and are parking on the marked area which is prohibited at drop off and pick up times - there are line marking and signs in place. Please make sure that extended relatives/childminders who do not receive our newsletter are also made aware and do ensure you leave time to park safely elsewhere or arrange with the office to use the school car park if needed. Repeated sightings mean you could be issued with a penalty charge notice. Please park responsibly to help keep our site safe for all.

Mulberries News!

Mulberries have had a fantastic week this week with lots of fun learning opportunities! Thank you to Walter's mum who is a police officer and came to talk to the children about her role and how to keep themselves safe.

A big thank you also to the Central Oriental supermarket for donating fortune cookies and chop sticks to help the children celebrate Chinese New Year. They made a fab dragon head and danced to Chinese music in the hall.



And my very favourite activity of all this week - Mulberries spa and pamper session! I was invited to Mulberries this morning to see what was going on and I can honestly say I have not seen a

group of children looking more chilled! There was a whole host of pamper activities going on from nail polish to foot spas and massage! The children were keen to show me their brightly painted nails and to see the children with feet immersed in bowls of bubbles or having them massaged by the adults in the room was testament to the positive relationships that have been developed between children and staff. Some of the children told me it was the best morning ever and having seen it for myself I can understand why! Thank you to Mulberries staff for organising such a great event.



The New Way to Report that Your Child is Absent:

We're pleased to announce that Maple Tree Primary School is introducing a new, more efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness, called Studybugs.

If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school. Get the app or register now <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

A promotional banner for the Studybugs app. At the top, a white bird with a blue envelope in its beak flies between two light blue clouds against a blue background. Below this, the text 'Please get the free Studybugs app for reporting your child's absence due to illness.' is written in white. Underneath, the URL 'https://studybugs.com' is displayed in white. Three app store logos are shown: 'Download on the App Store', 'GET IT ON Google Play', and 'Get it from Microsoft'. Below the logos, three lines of text in white read: 'Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health', 'See what illnesses are going around', and 'Secure system, all communications encrypted'. At the bottom left, it says 'Working in partnership with:' followed by logos for NHS, English and Welsh medical school, and EPT. At the bottom right is the 'Studybugs' logo with a green shield icon.

All absences reported via study bugs will continue to be reviewed by the office staff and followed up if needed. Help the office team by being specific about your child's illness in your message. We will continue to receive absences via email and phone message too while we transition over to this new system.

Top reasons to use Studybugs:

Helps safeguard your child by automating school's processing of illness reports, so if any children are unaccounted for, we'll know right away. Also verifies that reports of your child's absence have really come from you.

Saves you time — it takes seconds to give the school all they need, and know they've got the message even if you're reporting at 6am or 11pm the night before.

Guides you with official guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England) on the need to stay off school, based on the symptoms or illnesses you enter.

Contributes to public health by collecting anonymised data on illnesses going around — to help schools, parents and public health organisations take preventative action as early as possible.

Confidential and secure. Your personal data is kept strictly confidential between you and your child's school. We never share your personal data with third parties. Your child's school cannot see your location. All shared illness data is first anonymised so your personal data is always kept confidential. You can also opt out of having your anonymised data shared. Studybugs is hosted from purpose-built secure facilities and all communications with our apps and website are encrypted. See [security](#) and [privacy notice](#) for more details.

Headteacher Awards

This week the awards are ...being a great friend!



Fir: ★ Ivy	Yew: ★ Albert	Aspen: Charlotte ★
Rowan: Henry	Poplar: Sebastian	Juniper: Laeice ★
Sycamore: Remi ★	Elder: Max ★	Well done to you all!

This week's House Winners



Congratulations!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 13th February Parents' Evening 4-6pm
Thursday 15th February Parents' Evening 4-7pm
Friday 16th February Half term ends
Monday 19th February Half Term week
Thursday 7th March World Book Day
Friday 8th March FoMT Mother's day gift shop
Thursday 21st March 2.30pm Parent Forum
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 5th February 2024

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

Mulberries 91%	Fir (YR) 94%
Yew (Y1) 95%	Aspen (Y2) 96%
Rowan (Y3) 97% ★	Poplar (Y4) 97% ★
Juniper (Y5) 94%	Elder (Y6) 93%
Sycamore (Y6) 95%	Our target is 97%

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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**MONDAY
26TH
FEB
2024**



FOMT FRIENDSHIP DISCO

TICKETS £3 EACH INCLUDING A FRIENDSHIP BRACELET

**JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING CELEBRATING
FRIENDSHIPS**

**TATTOOS
TUCK SHOP
COLOURING IN
DANCING & MORE...**



Mulberries & Reception - 4:00pm-4:45pm
(parents required to stay with Mulberries children)

Years 1,2 & 3 - 5pm- 6pm

Years 4,5 & 6 - 6:15pm - 7:15pm