

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



## Newsletter

Friday 16th February 2024

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

It was fantastic to see so many of you attend parents' evening this week - this is such an important one as staff use the opportunity to share your child's progress and attainment with you and I hope that you found the information they gave you useful. There was a bittersweet moment for a few Year 6 parents as the dawning realisation hit them that this was their last one as next term we have reports and an Open Afternoon but that is still a way away and there is still much to do!

The pupils at Maple Tree are so focused in their learning and are always quick to share new knowledge and skills and talk confidently using key vocabulary - the expectation for some of this is astounding and to hear children being able to explain words such as 'subitise' and 'graphemes' and 'split-digraphs' from a young age shows how far they have come.

We like to share what is going on in school and the relationships we have with parents are important to us - it strengthens our school community - so alongside this newsletter, you will also receive a copy of the minutes from our most recent Parent Forum which was held in school last week. These meetings are key as they enable you as parents to share questions and concerns with us but it is also an opportunity for us to give you information about how and why things happen in school. I understand that the last 2 meeting minutes have not reached you and I apologise for this oversight. We have added them to the [Parent Forum](#) page on the newsletter and will continue to upload them there as well as emailing them out with the newsletter. If you feel that you have missed a set of minutes or they have been delayed in coming out, please contact your class rep.

I want to end by thanking staff for their enormous efforts this half term - you will have seen a snapshot of how busy this half term has been in the newsletters but this downplays what actually goes on and I cannot think of a team more deserving of their half term break!

I hope you all have a good half term too and we will see you on Monday 26th February.

### Travel Plan

As part of our responsibility to the health, wellbeing and safety of all within our school community, we have created a travel plan, shared with the local authority, which gives us the opportunity to think about sustainable travel and improvements in this area. For example, some of the things we already do include: walk-to-school weeks, Bikeability courses, school travel surveys, bike maintenance sessions, Santa challenge etc. There are a number of key areas we still want to promote such as increasing the children's education of road safety, reducing the number of cars on surrounding roads at the start and end of the day and appointing pupil travel ambassadors.

We wanted to let you know we have been accredited a green award by Modeshift Stars which is the Centre of Excellence for the delivery of Effective Travel Plans in Education, Business and Community settings. The scheme recognises schools that have shown excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable and active travel. We are proud of our award and our commitment towards promoting sustainable travel and look forward to sharing our exciting plans with you after half term.



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## Can you help?



### Top Trumps needed!

Over the coming months we would like to increase the activities and games available at lunchtime. This is being discussed with the children and one of the ideas they have had is having some Top Trumps sets. As Spring half-term is approaching, some of you may be having a sort out of toys and games. If you have any sets of Top Trumps that you no longer want, please can you kindly donate them to school for all the children to enjoy.

Many thanks

## This week in Year 6

Welcome to Elder class newsletter. We have been very busy again this half term with lots of amazing learning. Here is a snapshot of some of our learning.

### Geography

This term in geography we are learning about population and why it changes. We have explored 'push and pull' factors for migration. We also



identified the difference between a refugee and a migrant. We will also look at statistics from around the world and what impact climate change has on the world's population.

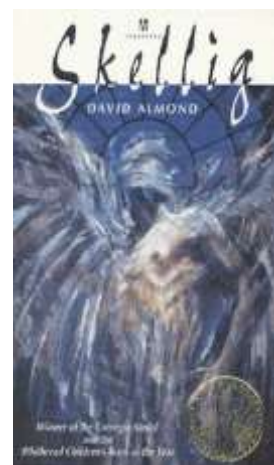
### History

In history lessons we are learning about how the census can tell us about our local area. We have looked at examples of a census and identified the information we can learn from it.

### English

We have been thoroughly immersed in our class text, *Skellig*.

So far, we have written dialogue between the characters and setting descriptions. Next half term we will write a non-chronological report and narrative dream sequence.

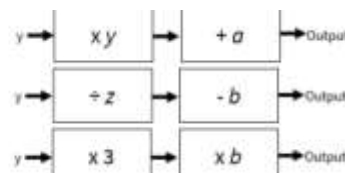


### Science

We have been learning, firstly, about evolution and inheritance. We learned how different species have evolved and adapted over millions of years. We learned the scientific concept of inheritance and how some of our characteristics are adaptive or inherited. We also learned about how humans have evolved.

**Maths**— this week we have been learning about algebra. We begin our understanding of algebra using 1 and 2-step function machines. Next, we learn how to write an expression and how to substitute an algebraic letter for its value. We are making links to the order of operations (BIDMAS) and why this is so important. We have also applied simple formulae to help us solve problems.

**12. Write the expressions to match these two-step function machines.**



Finally, again, thank you for all of the support you have given the children over the term with their reading and homework. We are now firmly in the run up to our SATs assessments. This is a time for every child to show how amazing they are. However, this is not a time to worry - in school we reassure the children that they should try their best. We are so proud of all they have achieved so far this year.



## What is NumBots?

NumBots is an online maths learning platform that helps children learn how to add and subtract, improving their fluency and recall in basic mental maths, and equipping them with maths confidence. NumBots covers subitising, number bonds, and addition and subtraction of double-digit numbers; gradually helping your child to build a solid conceptual understanding of number sense.

## Logging in:

NumBots is accessible via browser ([play.numbots.com](https://play.numbots.com)) or via the app, which is free to download on Amazon, Android and Apple devices. Children in EYFS to KS1 have a Numbots account. On occasions, some children may continue to use Numbots in LKS2. This will be on an individual basis that the class teacher will decide upon with your support. Children will automatically be given a TT Rockstar account in LKS2 to help them become fluent in their times tables recall.

## How The Game Works

There are two game modes in NumBots which serve different purposes:

### 1. Story Mode (for Understanding)

In Story Mode, the emphasis is on mathematical concepts and is underpinned by a mastery approach to teaching. Story Mode features visual representations, procedural variation, exposure to different calculation strategies and interleaved material - all in very carefully sequenced order.



### Unlocking Levels

Story Mode is set out as a series of Stages (Rust, Tin, Iron, etc) each containing numerous levels. Rust is the first Stage and level 1 is unlocked initially, so this is the place to start. To unlock the next level, players need to earn two or three stars by showing sufficient proficiency.

The levels in Story Mode follow a natural mathematical progression and move the pupil through the game automatically, which means you don't have to set anything (You're welcome 😊)!

### 2. Challenge Mode (for Recall)

In Challenge Mode, the emphasis is on improving response time and accuracy when recalling number facts and answering basic calculations. Children try to answer as many questions correctly as they can in 1 minute, aiming to beat their own high score.



**Unlocking Challenge Mode:** when children start NumBots, Challenge Mode is locked. Challenge Mode unlocks when players pass Stage 2 (Iron): Level 26 in Story Mode.

## How long should my child play?

We encourage a healthy screen time. Approximately 10 minutes in EYFS – KS1. This can increase to 15 – 20 minutes as children go through KS2.



## 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 blue banner for the Studybugs app. At the top, there is a white bird-like character holding a blue envelope, with two small white clouds on either side. Below this, the text reads: "Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness." Underneath the text is the website URL "https://studybugs.com" in a light blue font. At the bottom, there are three logos: "Download on the App Store" with the Apple logo, "GET IT ON Google Play" with the Google Play logo, and "Get it from Microsoft" with the Microsoft logo.

Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness.

<https://studybugs.com>

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play | Get it from Microsoft

## Free NSPCC Training for all Adults in the UK

A graphic for the NSPCC 'Listen up, Speak up' campaign. On the left, there is a white box with green text that says "Listen up, Speak up". Below this, in smaller black text, it says: "It's up to all of us to keep children safe. Take our free, 10-minute digital training and learn what to do if you're ever worried about a child or their family." At the bottom of this box is a green button with white text that says "Sign up for our 10-minute training". To the right of the text box is a collage of diverse people, including a woman, a man, a young boy, and a baby, all smiling. The background of the collage is green with colorful geometric shapes like triangles and circles.

**Listen up, Speak up**

It's up to all of us to keep children safe. Take our free, 10-minute digital training and learn what to do if you're ever worried about a child or their family.

**Sign up for our 10-minute training**

Here at Maple Tree we teach the children to 'Speak out and Stay Safe' using the NSPCC resources and now they have launched a brand new campaign for adults to 'Listen up, Speak up' including 10 minutes free training.

It takes a village to raise a child. And it takes a community to keep children safe.

That's why the NSPCC are encouraging every adult in the UK to take their [10-minute digital training](#) and learn how to listen up and speak up for children.

Listen up, Speak up will show you:

- some signs a child might be at risk, and steps you can take to help
- how to approach difficult conversations to help keep children safe
- who you can contact if you're ever concerned about a child or their family.

# Headteacher Awards



Back after half term!

This week's  
House Winners



Congratulations!

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Monday 19th February** Half Term week

**Monday 26th February** FoMT Disco

**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 12th February 2024

The best attendance award is presented to:  
class!

<b>Mulberries</b> 92%	<b>Fir (YR)</b> 93%
<b>Yew (Y1)</b> 95%	<b>Aspen (Y2)</b> 95%
<b>Rowan (Y3)</b> 97% ★	<b>Poplar (Y4)</b> 97% ★
<b>Juniper (Y5)</b> 94%	<b>Elder (Y6)</b> 93%
<b>Sycamore (Y6)</b> 94%	<b>Our target is 97%</b>



# Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

## IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

## ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

## PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At [myaccount.sony.com](https://myaccount.sony.com), create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll need to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

## IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

## XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

## NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

## WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

## CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

## MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

## SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which? PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



The National  
College



National  
Online  
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



**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**





# 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*

