

December 2024



# MAPLE RIDGE NEWS

What's going on in school and in our community?

01256 323639 [www.mapleridge.hants.sch.uk](http://www.mapleridge.hants.sch.uk)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

Dear Parents / Carers

We are really looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the class Christmas Experiences and FMR School Disco next week. I do hope you can come.

Thank you to all parents who have very quickly mastered the new requirement to complete absence request forms in sufficient time for me to give consideration to the exceptional circumstances. A huge thank you to those of you who have been considerate in ensuring your children's medical appointments are either outside of school time or as close to one end of the school day as possible to minimise absence. This really helps ensure that your children maintain their routine and benefits their progress and self regulation.

I also just wanted to update you that discussions are still ongoing with the local authority regarding plans to repair/refurbish our existing modular buildings. It is now looking likely that the local authority will be providing us with some replacement modular buildings so that we can move into them whilst our existing modular buildings are taken away and refurbished. This is resulting in further discussions about siting and access and so we are not yet at the point of having a firm schedule for works to start, but it will definitely not be before the Spring Term now. I will update you again when I have more information confirmed.

I do hope you have a very enjoyable holiday season and wish you all the very best for a Happy New Year in 2025.

Kind regards,  
Vicki

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

9 December to 13 December 2024: Christmas Celebrations (see page 4 for full details)

12 December 2024: Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

13 December 2024: Santa's Grotto and Christmas Disco

23 December 2024 to 3 January 2025: Christmas Holidays

**6 January 2025: Inset Day**

January 2025: Year R Annual Reviews

January/February 2025: Year 3 Annual Reviews

## **BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK DONATION**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the foodbank collection. We collected an impressive **103.86kg** - a great improvement on last year!

The following three phrases encapsulate what they do and hope to offer:

**Restoring Dignity** - showing empathy and respect for those experiencing crisis.

**Reviving Hope** - promoting the message that love and care for those in crisis can bring hope where there is none.

**Building Community** - enabling the wider community to work together in supporting those in crisis, through donations of food, money and time.



## **TESCO 'STRONGER STARTS' FUNDING**

We won!

That's right, we got the most votes, securing the most blue tokens, and £1,500.00 to invest in improving the sustainability of our Sensory Garden.

We have already started the work on the Sensory Garden to make it low maintenance and accessible all year round. The School Council have also met and chosen the different colour stones and wind spinners that will increase the aesthetic appeal of the environment.

Thank you to everyone in the school community for supporting this initiative.



## WELLBEING AFTERNOON

We held a wellbeing afternoon on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

We all enjoyed an 'autumn hunt' outside, completed craft activities and focused on our theme of World Children's Day: Every child has the right to rest, relax, play and to take part in cultural and creative activities. Here you can see some Team 1 children enjoying a story together outside.



## HAMPSHIRE FA FOOTBALL DONATION

We were fortunate to be the lucky recipients of quality cup final footballs from the Hampshire Football Association. They have also since donated goalkeeper gloves so that the children can try out their skills between the posts.

We were honoured to have Mr Price available for the handover and subsequent photos. You will notice the high level of skill demonstrated by Mr Price and Mr Povey (from Hampshire FA). We are told this skill level is only achieved through years of commitment and training.



# CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS SCHEDULE

Monday	9 December 2024	Sycamore Class (13:45 start)
Tuesday	10 December 2024	Pine Class (09:45 start) Elder Class (10:45 start) Willow Class (13:45 start)
Wednesday	11 December 2024	Oak Class (09:45 start) Chestnut Class (10:45 start) Beech Class (13:45 start)
Thursday	12 December 2024	Birch Class (09:45 start) Maple Class (13:45 start)
Friday	13 December 2024	Ash Class (09:45 start)



## JOIN TASK FORCE

At Maple Ridge we use lots of visuals and PECS symbols to encourage our children's communication skills and to support their learning. As you can imagine this takes a lot of preparation and time because we often need large numbers of everything!



So, if you feel you can spare some time on a Thursday morning between 09:30-12:00, please do come along. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided! If you have any questions about Task Force, feel free to write a message in your home/school book, or call the school and ask for Jane.