

Maple Ridge School

Maple Crescent  
Basingstoke  
Hampshire  
RG21 5SX  
Telephone: (01256) 323639  
www.mapleridge.hants.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mrs V. Clovis

# Maple Ridge News

October 2025

## Message from the Headteacher...

Dear Parents / Carers

It has been great to see everyone back for the start of the new academic year and to welcome all of our new children and families.

Following on from the refurbishment and building work that took place last academic year, our official number of school places is now 110 and we have welcomed the addition of Aspen Class in Team 2 as an additional class.

We have included in this issue some photos of our refurbished and new therapy rooms, Sycamore and Juniper, which the children are already making good use of to support their regulation and sensory needs. All classes now have timetabled slots in a therapy room.

Over half term next week, we have got some contractors back on site 'making good' around the new section of car park as well as around some of our external play equipment.

We will shortly be sending out a survey to parents to find out about what you might be interested in suggesting or doing to support our community events, which have previously been organised and run by a very small and dedicated group of parents/carers and our School Business Manager in the form of FMR. We would like to take a different approach and encourage more parents and families to become involved by approaching each event with a working party of willing volunteers to support the event. This support could be attending and helping on the day, making something in advance, attending a meeting to share ideas or something else. At the moment we are planning two key events for this year, our Winter Festival/School Disco and our Summer Fayre. We hope that by making it easy for families to offer short term support or as many events as you would like to support, it will enable some of you who have been concerned about the commitment to be able to join us and take part. Please do respond to the survey!

I hope you all have a great half term and we will look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025.

Kind regards

Vicki

PS I hope you all like our new look headed paper – we will be starting to use this for all of our letters soon 😊

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## Dates for your Diary

### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November

Parents Evening- Years 3,4,5 & 6

### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November

Children in Need- Wear Spots

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November

INSET DAY

### Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

School Photographer- Portraits

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Family information session Communication

10am-12pm & 12.30pm-2.30pm

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Year 6 Special Performance at Winchester Cathedral

### Monday 8<sup>th</sup>-Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Class Christmas Experiences – Parents can attend

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Dinner Day- Wear Christmas Jumpers

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Winter Festival including our School Disco

### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

INSET DAY

## Class Christmas Experiences

### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Maple Class 13.45-14.15pm

### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Birch Class 09.45-10.15am

Elder Class 10.45-11.15am

Holly Class 13.45-14.15pm

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

Oak Class 09.45-10.15am

Chestnut Class 10.45-11.15am

Willow 13.45-14.15pm

### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Ash Class 09.45-10.15am

Pine Class 10.45-11.15am

Beech Class 13.45-14.15pm

### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Aspen Class 09.45-10.15am



## Parents Evening

Parents Evening will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November. This will be for Year 3,4,5 & 6 ONLY.

Letters have been sent home, please respond by logging into your Scopay account and choosing your preferred time, the portal will close by midday on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025.



## Therapy Rooms

We would just like to say how proud we are of all of the children; they have all coped exceptionally well with the challenges of the building works around school.

We thought that you would like to see our new and refurbished therapy rooms.



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## Wellbeing at Maple Ridge

We continue to work toward the Wellbeing Award for Schools and enjoyed a staff training session this half term to support our understanding of what wellbeing means. The training gave us a great opportunity to talk as a staff team about the challenges and strategies we can use to support wellbeing.

This half term the focus of our Wellbeing Afternoon was World Mental Health Day, which took place on 10<sup>th</sup> October. We enjoyed a 'Yellow' treasure hunt, having time outside is great for our wellbeing. We also enjoyed a variety of yellow craft activities.



## Task Force- Help!

**Can you spare a few hours every few weeks, to make resources to help our children work independently?**

In school we use lots of visuals and PECS symbols to encourage our children's communication skills, these take time to prepare and are needed in large numbers. We have a few committed parent helpers who come in to school regularly to help us make up the resources.

We would love some more volunteers to help laminate, cut and assemble visuals and work tasks.

Tea and biscuits are provided, along with help and training from our regular helpers!

## Annual Reviews

Year 1 & 2 Annual Reviews have begun, Year R children will have their reviews before Christmas.

Please try your best to attend for the given time slot, with 110 children now at Maple Ridge it can be difficult to reschedule the appointments.

We will obviously do our best to accommodate you where possible, however, if for any reason you are not able to attend your rescheduled appointment, this meeting will still go ahead.

## Poppy Appeal

The Royal Legion Poppy Appeal merchandise will be in school from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

If you would like your child to purchase any of the merchandise available, please send in your donation.

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## Attendance

Just a reminder for everyone that our school Attendance Policy is available on our website. This is based on both local and national expectations and guidance.

One of the key bits of information for parents to be aware of in the DfE document [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working\\_together\\_to\\_improve\\_school\\_attendance\\_-\\_August\\_2024.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf) is the section on granting leaves of absence (p.17):

*All schools can grant a leave of absence when a pupil needs to be absent from school with permission. All schools are expected to restrict leaves of absence to the specific circumstances set out in regulation 11 of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and schools maintained by a local authority and special schools not maintained by a local authority must do so.*

*All schools can grant a leave of absence for other exceptional circumstances at their discretion. In the case of schools maintained by local authorities and special schools not maintained by local authorities, it must be requested in advance by a parent who the pupil normally lives with. Schools are then expected to consider each application individually taking into account the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request. If a leave of absence is granted, it is for the school to determine the length of the time the pupil can be away from school.*

With regard to medical and dental appointments (p.81):

*319. Schools should encourage parents to make appointments out of school hours. Where this is not possible, they should get the school's agreement in advance and the pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment.*

*320. Schools maintained by a local authority and special schools not maintained by a local authority can only grant leave of absence for this under regulation 11(11), where an application is made in advance by a parent the pupil normally lives with (or the pupil if they will be over compulsory school age by the time of the absence), and the school is satisfied that, based on the individual facts of the case, there are exceptional circumstances which justify the leave.*

We are a local authority maintained special school and are required to follow these regulations. At Maple Ridge School, the only person authorised to grant leaves of absence is the Headteacher.

Please make sure that all absence requests are completed on the correct form and sent in to school well ahead of the requested date so that the request can be given consideration. Exceptional Absence Request Forms are available from the school office.

Thank you to everyone who is consistently getting the request forms in to school with the relevant appointment letters so that your absence request can be given due consideration.