



Middle Barton School

Newsletter

Friday 12th January 2024

Head's News

Happy New Year and welcome back to school for 2024! 🎉

The children have come back very settled and enthusiastic. It was lovely to see them so busy and engaged on Tuesday for 'Brilliant Beginnings' day. The children also seem very well rested and keen to begin their new learning.

Handwriting

Writing can be a very complex process to learn as there are a number of skills needed to achieve success - handwriting, spelling, grammar, content etc... Part of the writing process is the physical element (handwriting) and research tells us: Promote fluent written transcription skills by encouraging extensive and purposeful practice-

- Transcription refers to the physical processes of handwriting or typing, and spelling.
- Children must develop fluency in these skills to the point that they have become automated. If children have to concentrate to ensure their transcription is accurate, they will be less able to think about the content of their writing.
- A large amount of purposeful practice, supported by effective feedback, is required to develop fluency. Achieving the necessary quantity of practice requires that children are motivated and fully engaged in the process of improving their writing.

To support the children with this element of writing, we are currently in the process of introducing a new handwriting scheme. We are well aware that children are doing less and less writing when not in school due to the increase of technology so the skill of handwriting is not always being frequently used, therefore we have to place more emphasis on this in the school day. Once we have it all up and running, we will be sharing it with you so you can support your child at home.

Attendance

You may be aware attendance to school is high on the Government agenda. We are very lucky at our school as attendance is not an issue and has been the highest in the Trust and the local area for quite a while. This is just a reminder that every day counts! Each day the children are in school they are learning something new and missing a day or two can not only mean they miss subject content but the social skills that are learnt and developed in school too. We obviously know, particularly at this time in the year, that children are unwell and we would not expect them to attend school if this is the case.

Our attendance: September to today 96.7% This week's 97.4%

Curriculum

Acorn class

The children have come back to school ready to begin their new topics. This term they are learning all about the history of space travel, which is always a very interesting topic. Mrs Merry has also listened to all the children read this week in Year 1 and it is great to hear how much progress they are making. Please continue to read with your child at home as we know that reading underpins all areas of the curriculum. The whole class has been making pizzas with Mrs Horner today- I think you may only see photographs and I am sure they will all be consumed at

snack time! 😊🍕

Maple class

They spent the whole day on Tuesday being Artists. 🎨👧 Their focus this term is cubism and they have learnt about Picasso and Jacob Lawrence. They have created some very inspiring landscapes and portraits- our art gallery is displaying some lovely examples. This term their history focus is on Ancient Egypt so I am sure it won't be long before you hear about canopic jars and mummification!

Willow class

I believe the class had great fun on Tuesday making and playing some Victorian Games. The class will be learning about the Industrial Revolution with a focus on the Railway Revolution and the impact on Britain. They have also begun reading their new class text- Street Child by Berlie Doherty.

Oak class

They have started this term off by looking at the history topic on the Vikings. They spent Tuesday making their own Viking longships. In reading they are focussing on the text, Viking voyages, which links nicely with their history. They have also been outside learning the skills for TAG rugby. 🍌

Dates for the diary

<https://www.middlebartonschool.org/school-calendar-and-term-dates/>

W/C 15.01.24. – Clubs start:

Monday – Teams sports for Y5,6

Tuesday – Choir for Y3,4,5,6

Thursday – Eco committee (nominated children from classes) until half term

Friday – Football Club

Tuesday 16.01.24. – Oak swimming (first session)

Wednesday 17.01.24. – CNPS swimming gala (nominated children)

Tuesday 23.01.24. – Willow swimming (first session)

Tuesday 30.01.24. – Oak swimming (second session)

Wednesday 31.01.24. – CNPS hockey tournament (nominated children)

Friday 02.02.24. – West Oxon cross country finals, Bicester (nominated children)

Friday 02.02.24. 3.10pm – clothing swap (further details will follow)

Monday 05.02.24. – Rags to Riches textiles collection

Tuesday 06.02.24. – Willow swimming (second session)

Wednesday 07.02.24. 2.30-3.10pm – Open afternoon for parents and Acorns' bake sale

Wednesday 07.02.24. – CNPS ball skills festival for Years 3, 4

Friday 09.02.24. 3.10pm – end of first half of term (football club on as usual)

Morning run

Happy New Year Morning Runners!

We have had Morning Run and also Morning Walk due to the frosty conditions, but still people have managed to completed their challenge. Many congratulations to our certificate winner this week!

One-and-a-Half Marathons: Nate F

Nate has run the furthest out of anybody so far this year!

Special mentions: Rowan, Millie, Amelia M, Lyla, Faith, Hope, Alfie A, Mia, Gwennie, Annabelle M and Archie H.

Acorns stars: Axel, Ivan and Fred

Maple stars: Albie L, Tom, Noah, Jayden and Reggie

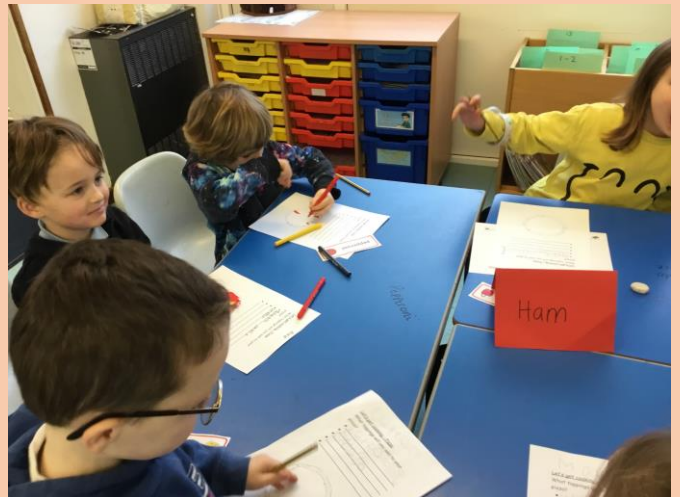
Willow stars: Archie M, Charlie, Asher, Harley J, Henry L, Freddie C and Toby

Oak stars: Mollie, Jozef, Archie A, Stanley, Juno, Thomas, Billy, Leá, Finlay, Katherine and Freddie N

Star of the Week: Lucy

Acorn Class

Pizza cooking!



Maple Class

Cubism painting



Willow Class

The Industrial Revolution and making Victorian toys



Oak class

Making Viking longships



It's cold out there!!



Dojo points

Acorn – Sylvia

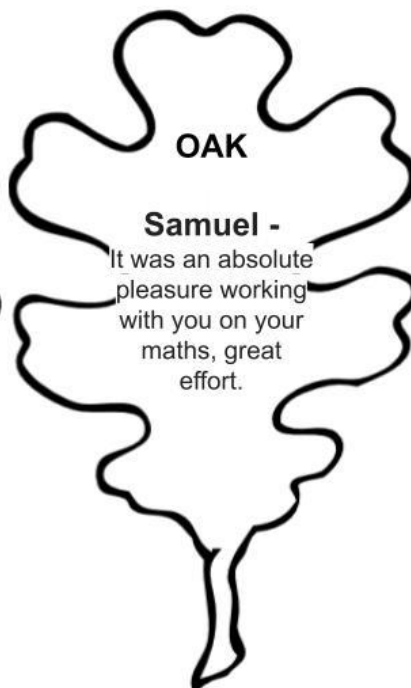
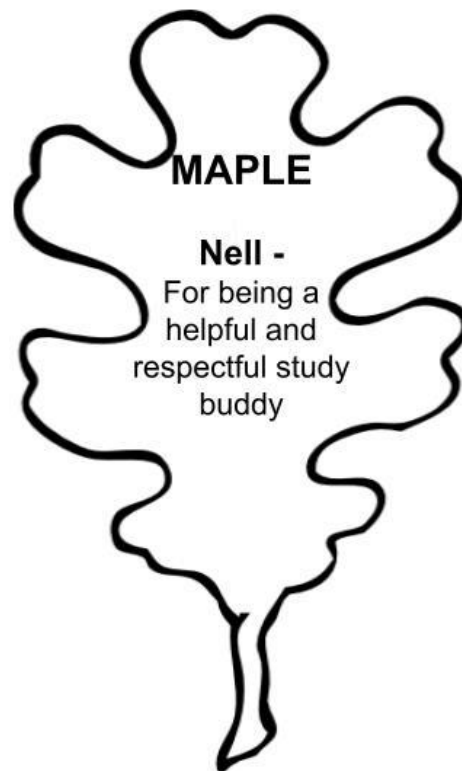
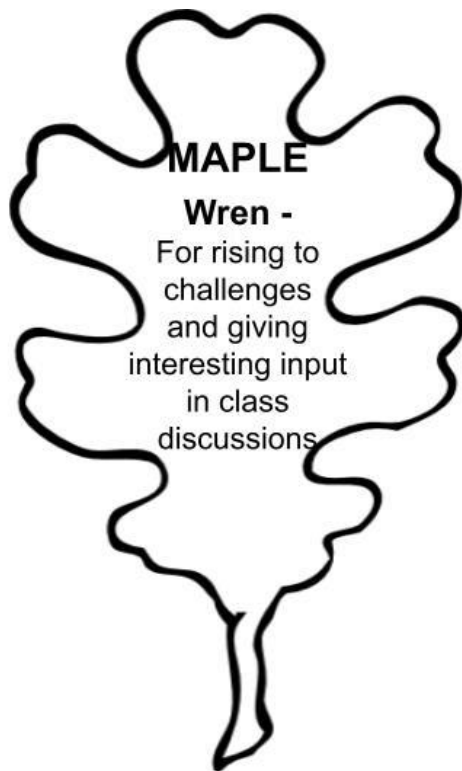
Willow - Alfie A

Maple – Tom

Oak - Annabelle

Values Leaves





Safeguarding Children - what to do if you think a child is at risk of abuse or neglect:

Immediate danger - if you think a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999.

Immediate concern - if you have a concern about a child, please call MASH on 0345 050 7666.

[Report child abuse | Oxfordshire County Council](#)