

MAPLE GROVE NEWSLETTER

December 2025



A Message from Nic

This autumn term has been a truly busy and exciting one for Maple Grove. Since September, our children have enjoyed a wide range of enriching experiences, including a music workshop with Conducive, staff achieving their Level 1 British Sign Language Award, and a litter pick as part of Recycling Awareness Week. We also came together to support important causes through events such as our Doodle Evening for Epilepsy Action, Pride, World Mental Health Day and Children in Need.

Celebrations and community links have been a real highlight this term. These have included our Diwali celebrations, coffee mornings at Hoole Community Centre, singing Christmas songs at OFG Headquarters, Girls' Rugby, and a variety of festive events such as the Christmas panto, Christmas Fair, Jingle and Mingle for our taxi drivers, and a festive wreath-making parent coffee morning.

A real highlight has been seeing our young people excel while running their Christmas stalls. A huge thank you to all the families who supported them and helped make this possible.

Overall, it has been a full and rewarding term, packed with learning and wonderful opportunities. I would also like to share our warmest congratulations to Robin on the arrival of baby Colter, and to Rachel, our SALT, on the arrival of baby Leo.

We wish you all a wonderful break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 6th January 2026.



Wellbeing Update



Family Support Update

What an amazing first term we have had! We would like to begin by saying a huge thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Fair and supported our young people in running their own stalls. It was a fantastic success and truly wonderful to see the creativity, effort, and teamwork that went into the stalls, school decorations, and even the making of the Maple Grove Christmas Song!

This half term has been incredibly busy, with choir performances, the launch of new clubs, careers mornings and a pantomime visit just to name a few. Hopefully you have seen some pictures and heard how much of an incredible time we have had.

Thank you if you have attended our coffee mornings; hopefully they have given you some support and insight. We have some great coffee mornings lined up for after Christmas and hope we see lots of you there. We also hope those who attended the recent coffee morning enjoyed making their Christmas wreaths and that they are now proudly displayed at home.

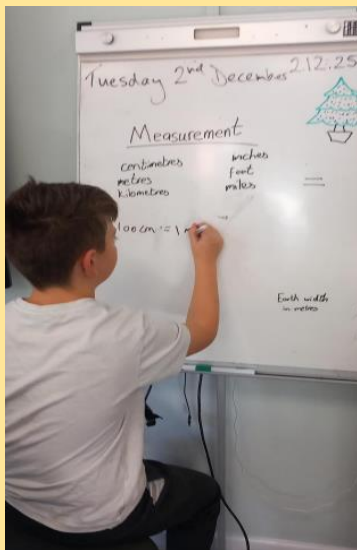
We are pleased to welcome Charlotte, who has recently joined our pastoral team. Please do feel free to stop by, say hello, and let her know if there is any way she can offer support.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in January. In the meantime, we wish you a very happy Christmas and a restful New Year.



Jupiter Class Update

Jupiter class has had a fantastic half term and are excited for the Christmas break! We have been making the most of the different areas we have to offer like using our creative skills in the craft and Lego room or just relaxing having some quiet time in our gated area. In English, we have finished our class novel "Fantastic Mr Fox" and made a start on "George's Marvellous Medicine". We looked at letter/emails and the difference between formal writing and informal writing. We have also been writing our own potions to see if we can turn George's Granny nice. In Science, we have been looking at evolution, fossils and animal adaptations. One of our lovely TA's brought in some Ammonite fossils she had found on the beach for us to have a look at. This really took everyone's interest, and we loved seeing them in real life! In PE, we have moved on to football and have been practising our attacking and defending. At the end of each lesson, we had 10-minute matches of staff vs students. Everyone got fully involved and had lots of fun. In our history lessons we have been looking at World War 2 and the key events and people that were involved. One of the most exciting events this half term was going to the Wizard of Oz pantomime. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in the new year!



Mars Class Update

Autumn Term Newsletter – Mars

Mars Class have had an outstanding term and have impressed us all with their growing independence and maturity. This has been especially evident during our community visits, including trips to the park and local shops, where pupils have demonstrated excellent safe behaviour and growing confidence.

We have also focused on developing important hygiene skills, learning how to wash ourselves properly and understanding the importance of brushing our teeth. Next term, we will build on this learning by introducing supervised tooth brushing.

The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed their forest school sessions, where they have explored working safely with fire, building shelters, and creating Christmas tree decorations.

Looking ahead to next term, we are very excited to begin swimming lessons and continue our weekly visits to SPACE. Forest school will also remain a key part of our Enrichment Friday sessions.



Apollo Class Update

What a fantastic half term it has been for Apollo Class! Everyone has worked incredibly hard on their qualifications, and as a team we are so proud of all the effort, progress, and determination that has been shown.

Throughout the half term, Apollo Class have taken part in weekly cooking lessons, where they have been developing important independence skills for the future. We made some lovely food, learned new techniques, and, most importantly, had a great time working together.

In art, we explored emotions and self-awareness by creating lots of small sculptures inspired by how we feel in the different *Zones of Regulation*. The creativity and thought behind each piece was wonderful to see. We also had the exciting opportunity to create decorations for the Christmas tree at Chester Cathedral, which was a very special project to be involved in.

We enjoyed a brilliant trip to the pantomime to watch *The Wizard of Oz*, which was full of fun, laughter, and memorable moments for everyone.

To finish off the half term, we went on a fantastic trip to Chester Markets, followed by a well-earned visit to McDonald's. It was a perfect way to celebrate all the hard work and achievements of the term.

Well done, Apollo Class, for such a successful and enjoyable half term!

We hope you have a lovely Christmas

Apollo Class Team



Ceres Class Update

Another lovely half term! We have celebrated lots of events such as bonfire night, remembrance, Children in Need and Hannukah. We have learnt about these through tub time, sensory stories and sensory trays. We have focussed on our listening skills this half term by exploring lots of noisy books and guess the noise activities.

In PE, we have been working on our football skills, practicing kicking and stopping the ball with control and moving onto dribbling the ball. We have enjoyed lots of games of 'what's the time Mr Wolf' too.

In Forest School, Caroline has explored lots of animal activities with number songs, for example '5 little hedgehogs'. We can't wait to explore the new canopy in the forest school area more in January.

A particular highlight has been music. We have loved taking it in turns to play instruments freely and sing familiar songs. Especially '5 in the bed' where we wrapped ourselves up in blankets and rolled over. Everyone has loved getting involved in the fun!

Have a lovely Christmas and we cannot wait for another fun filled half term!

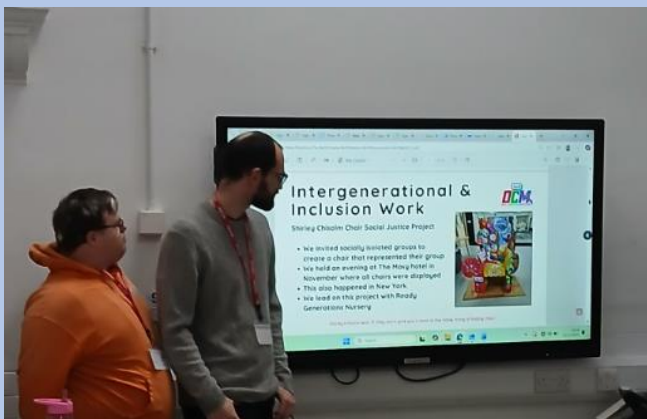


Neptune Class Update

Over the past term, Neptune class has been busy building strong foundations across all learning areas. Pupils have developed their literacy skills through reading a range of texts, improving comprehension, and practising structured writing, while in mathematics they strengthened their understanding of number, problem-solving, and basic operations through hands-on activities. They have also explored a variety of topics in science and Past and present, encouraging curiosity, questioning, and collaboration. Throughout the term, pupils have demonstrated growing confidence, independence, and enthusiasm for learning, and we are very proud of the progress they have made.

Highlights of the term include a visit from Live!, a visit to the Stiwt theatre and class trips to Costa which have helped us towards achieving our AET target for the half-term. 'Initiates interactions with our peers'. Pupils enjoyed working with Jon, Caroline and Stacey during Forest School, DofE and travel training where they learned valuable life skills. In BSL, pupils have engaged fully and demonstrated excellent progress. We would like to thank Andrew and Sarah for planning such fun and exciting lessons for us.

As the class looks ahead to next term, there is a real sense of excitement about the fun that learning will bring, along with the challenges that help everyone grow. Pupils will continue to work hard on their qualifications and build new skills across all subjects, gaining confidence as they try new things and take greater responsibility for their learning. They are also looking forward to developing relationships with their peers and adults, working together and supporting one another. Through these experiences, the class will continue developing relationships and independence, preparing them well for the next stage of their learning journey.



Venus Class Update

Venus has had a fantastic term. In My Creativity, pupils explored colour, pattern, music, and storytelling inspired by global celebrations, and proudly performed with the Maple Grove Christmas Choir in Bolton. In My Independence, they developed key shopping skills through activities such as a Charity Shop Budget Challenge. Outdoor Learning included decorating the cathedral Christmas tree and a visit to Chester Zoo Nature Reserve with Caroline. Pupils also enjoyed rugby sessions with Claire and continued Friday swimming lessons, building confidence, teamwork, and physical skills.

Looking ahead to Spring 1, Venus will be exploring the theme Nature and Growth. Pupils will be inspired by Georgia O’Keeffe in art, listen to Vivaldi’s Spring in music, and bring Jack and the Beanstalk to life through drama. In My Independence, the focus will be on developing self-dressing skills to further build confidence and independence. We are incredibly proud of how hard everyone has worked this term and hope they all have a brilliant break. We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.



Luna Class Update

What a lovely term it has been in Luna Class. We have been busy learning all about sounds. We have explored different ways of making sounds using our bodies and equipment and have had fun trying to guess what the mystery sound is. In our tuff trays, we have investigated noisy toys and have used our fine motor skills to practice pouring, scooping and making marks.

We have continued to enjoy our off-site visits this term. We have been proud of how sensibly the children have been able to walk to the shop and to areas in the local community like the Zoo Nature Reserve and the park.

The children's physical development has impressed us this half term. We have seen children brave new equipment at the park and SPACE centre and they are making good progress in their swimming. In PE we have been learning about dance. The children have impressed us with their own moves!

This term has also been a term of festivals! We have had lots of fun learning about Bonfire Night, Children in Need, Remembrance Day, Hannukah and Christmas through our play, stories, songs and artwork.

Thank you again to all of our Luna families for your help and support this term and we wish you a Happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming the children back again in the new year.



Juno Class Update

Juno Class have had a wonderful and busy term and have made great progress across the curriculum. In English, we explored a book about refugees, following the stories of three child refugees during different wartime periods, which linked well with our learning about World War Two in Past and Present. In Maths, pupils focused on measurement, including shape, time, and money, while in Science with Irene, they explored chemistry, learning about the periodic table as well as acids and alkalines. In PSHE, we celebrated differences and had many thoughtful discussions about how everyone is unique. In PE with Claire, pupils set personal goals and tracked their progress to achieve their personal bests. Alongside classroom learning, we enjoyed weekly trips to the park to promote healthy wellbeing and ended our weeks positively with Friday Bren Bikes sessions.

Next term, the Juno Class is looking forward to starting a new book composed of short stories, with a focus on developing reading comprehension skills. In Past and Present, we will be learning about Victorian England, and in PSHE, we will be exploring dreams and goals. For our Friday enrichment sessions, pupils will take part in travel training with Stacey, supporting independence and real-life skills. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!



Careers

I am delighted to begin this update by sharing some fantastic news. At the end of October, Maple Grove School was awarded the **Quality in Careers Standard**, a prestigious recognition and a wonderful achievement for our whole school community.

I would like to share a short extract from the assessor's report, which highlights the strength, quality, and impact of our careers provision:

“The commitment and enthusiasm of the Careers team at Maple Grove School were evident throughout the assessment. The school provides a high-quality, inclusive CEIAG programme that is personalised to meet the diverse needs of its learners. Strengths were identified in the strong leadership of careers provision, the clear links between curriculum learning and career pathways, and the positive engagement of students, parents, and employers. Evidence from documentation, learner and parent feedback, and observation during the visit confirms that careers education is well embedded across the school and that Maple Grove fully meets all eight Gatsby Benchmarks.”

A huge thank you goes to the students who were actively involved in this process. It was a real pleasure to hear them speak so confidently about their future aspirations and reflect on how they have been supported in achieving their goals.

Visits to colleges and other next-step placements are now well underway. It has been lovely speaking with students about their experiences and hearing how many have already started applying for their next placements. As always, if you or your child need any support with this process, please do get in touch and I will be happy to help.

Finally, I am sure you will agree that the student stalls at the Christmas Fair were a huge success. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the students involved for their time, dedication, and enthusiasm. The feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive, and they should be very proud of their efforts.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. I look forward to continuing our work together in the new year and supporting our students as they take their next exciting steps towards the future.

