

MAPLE GROVE NEWSLETTER

February 2026



A Message from Nic

A Fantastic Start to 2026

This half term, from January through to February half term, has been a wonderful start to the new year and has been full of exciting learning and achievements across the school.

We began 2026 with a blanket of snow, which brought lots of fun and learning opportunities for our pupils. Many classes embraced the wintry weather with snow-themed activities and outdoor exploration, making the most of a very special start to the term.

Some classes also took part in activities for World Braille Day, learning about Braille and exploring different ways people access reading and communication. It was a valuable opportunity for pupils to develop understanding and awareness in a meaningful and practical way.

Outdoor learning has continued to thrive this half term, helped by our new canopy in the Forest School area. This has made a huge difference, keeping pupils dry and comfortable and allowing outdoor lessons to take place whatever the weather. The children have really enjoyed learning outside even on rainy days.

Our School Council has started the year strongly, with pupils sharing their ideas and opinions confidently. Their voices have been incredibly important, and we will soon be sharing "*What they said*" and "*We listened*" to show how pupil feedback is helping to shape school life. Elle always looks forward to these sessions and is so proud of the pupils' thoughtful contributions.

A real highlight this half term has been the success of our older pupils as they take their next steps beyond school. We are extremely proud to share that pupils have secured college places at Reaseheath College and Wirral Met College, with more interviews coming up soon which is promising.

As well as the incredible work that happens in class with the class team and with Stacey the Careers Lead, part of their preparation, pupils took part in mock interviews with a local professional, who was very impressed with how confidently and maturely they presented themselves. It was wonderful to see their hard work, independence, and self-belief shining through.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are so proud of everything our pupils have achieved this half term and look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead.

Wellbeing Update



Family Support Update

What a wonderful first half term of 2026 we have had!

It was fantastic to see so many of you at our recent Reading Coffee Morning. Thank you to everyone who attended. We are looking forward to our next coffee morning on 11th March, where a representative from Koala will be joining us to share information about sleep hygiene. We hope to see many of you there.

We can't wait to see what people come dressed as for World Book Day on 4th March!

We also have Parents' Evening on 25th March from 3:30–6:00pm. This will be a great opportunity to hear about your child's progress, celebrate their achievements, and connect with staff and other parents.

As always, if you are experiencing any challenges or feel you need additional support and are unsure where to turn, please remember that we are here to help. Do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a time to speak—we are always happy to support you.

We hope you have a restful and enjoyable half term break, and we look forward to welcoming all of our young people back next half term.

Shelly & Charlotte.



Jupiter Class Update

This half-term, Jupiter have been really focused on our English and Maths. We have been looking at how we use our active listening skills and non-verbal communication to engage effectively in debates and discussions. We have also enjoyed partaking in this year's theme for storytelling week - Soundtrack your Story, wherein our learners completed a range of activities such as, identifying literary devices in their favourite songs to tie in with English lessons and writing their own lyrics to popular songs.

In Maths, we have been looking at various tables and charts and how to extract information from them. We have also made our own tally charts and looked at the amount of different cars that have driven past school at particular times of the day.

We have been thoroughly enjoying watch their confidence grow with both travel training, budgeting and swimming. They have impressed us with their communication skills while out in the community and getting stuck into their swimming lessons. We have also been participating in forest school and looking at fire safety.



Mars Class Update

This term, Mars Class have been incredibly busy and enthusiastic across a wide range of activities. The children have enjoyed staying active through swimming, cycling at LIVE, walking to Hoole shops to buy fruit for our snacks and taking part in gymnastics during P.E. lessons.

During Game Time, pupils have shown great engagement by joining in with class quizzes, working as a team and celebrating each other's successes. The class have also done extremely well with their daily supervised teeth brushing, showing a positive attitude towards looking after their health. Alongside all of this, everyone has worked very hard in their personalised learning activities which has enabled them to progress towards their termly targets.

We are thrilled to be welcoming Yuko to our class team. Yuko has been at Maple Grove since 2022 and brings with her a wealth of experience.



Apollo Class Update

We have had a brilliant half term in Apollo Class! It has been fantastic to see how hard everyone has worked and how much progress they have made across all subjects.

In Maths, we have been focusing on Entry Level 3 and Level 1 core knowledge in preparation for upcoming exams and Apollo Class have shown great determination in building confidence with key skills and applying understanding to a range of problem-solving activities.

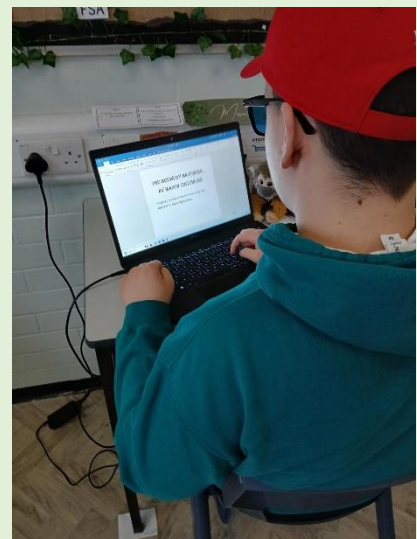
In English, we have been studying the first act of Blood Brothers. We have explored themes of class division and discussed the different feelings and motivations of the characters. There have been some great discussions in speaking and listening and excellent creative writing that show a growing understanding of the play.

In Art and History, we have been learning about the Normans and how William the Conqueror established motte and bailey castles across the country. Apollo Class have enjoyed combining creativity with historical knowledge to explore how these castles were designed and why they were effective.

In Science, Apollo Class has worked incredibly hard with Irene on their physics unit, learning all about magnetism and electromagnetism. They have shown real enthusiasm during practical investigations and developed a strong understanding of the scientific concepts.

In PE, Apollo Class have put a lot of effort into their strength and conditioning unit. They have worked especially hard during the practical sessions, showing resilience, teamwork, and a positive attitude towards improving fitness.

We are very proud of Apollo Class for their effort, focus, and achievements this half term. We are welcoming Sarah-Jayne into our class team. Sarah-Jayne started at Maple Grove just before Christmas and has been gaining experience in all of our classes over the last half term.



Ceres Class Update

Ceres Class have had a great start to the Spring term, full of exploration, independence, and fun. Pupils have enjoyed Fun with Food sessions, exploring new foods through looking, smelling, touching, and optional tasting, helping to build confidence around food.

We've been developing life skills through travel training walks to our local Sainsbury's, practising road safety skills such as stopping at pavements, looking and listening. Pupils also took part in shopping for our weekly snacks using visual shopping lists, finding items in the shop and scanning them at the till, and paying.

In class, we've begun using our class AAC device, with adults modelling how to navigate, find key words, and create simple sentences to support communication. We also celebrated National Storytelling Week with a sensory story of *Peppa's Chinese New Year* and exploratory tuff trays linked to our class favourite books *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

Looking ahead, next term includes exciting SMSC events such as World Book Day, British Science Week, and Neurodiversity Celebration Week. We're very proud of the progress pupils have made and look forward to another exciting term ahead.

We will also be welcoming Katie into our class team. Kate has worked with some of our pupils in the past and brings energy and positivity to every activity.



Neptune Class Update

As we come to the end of another busy and successful half term, we would like to take a moment to reflect on all the learning and progress that has taken place in class this year.

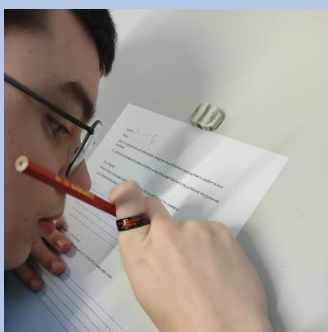
Throughout the year, pupils have covered a wide range of learning across the curriculum, developing both subject knowledge and key learning skills. In Past and Present, pupils explored Eastern and Western philosophers, engaging thoughtfully with different ideas and perspectives. In Maths, we focused on ratio and proportion, as well as developing confidence with the order of precedence of operators. In English, pupils worked on identifying relevant information and following clear lines of argument in explanations, strengthening both their reading and writing skills.

In PSHEE, our topic was **Relationships and Goals**, where pupils reflected on positive relationships, personal aspirations, and strategies for achieving their goals. In Employability, learning focused on social media in the workplace, helping pupils to understand professionalism, digital responsibility, and appropriate online conduct.

We have also thoroughly enjoyed working towards achieving our **Duke of Edinburgh Award**. As part of this, pupils took part in renovating the chicken shed into a seating area. This project has been a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop their organisational skills, teamwork, communication, and planning skills. We are proud to say that the flooring has now been completed. Next half term, pupils will work together to install the benches and focus on decorative work to complete the space.

Learning this year has been great fun, and the pupils have engaged fully in lessons and activities. They have shown enthusiasm, commitment, and a willingness to challenge themselves, resulting in excellent progress across the class. We are extremely proud of their achievements and the positive attitudes they continue to demonstrate.

Thank you for your continued support at home, it truly makes a difference. We are very much looking forward to next half term, with more exciting learning opportunities and continued progress. We can't wait to see what the pupils achieve next.



Venus Class Update

Venus have had a fantastic Spring 1 term. In English and Maths, we worked hard on statistics, including tally and block charts, recapped previous learning, and developed our comprehension skills. We have loved listening to *The Magic Faraway Tree* by Enid Blyton during Storytime!

In My Creativity, we explored Nature & Growth through art, music and drama. Inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe, we created bold flower artwork and experimented with different media. We listened and moved to Spring from *The Four Seasons* by Antonio Vivaldi, created our own seed-growing song, and retold Jack and the Beanstalk through drama using music by Claude Debussy and Edvard Grieg. In My Independence, we built practical life skills by learning about clothing, dressing routines and fastenings, and sewing buttons to develop coordination and independence. In PHSEE, we explored Dreams and Goals and visited Orchard Manor Care Home to give residents handmade cards and bookmarks which made them so happy! We also had a visit to Derwen College with our Careers Lead Stacey and got to find out about all the wonderful things Derwen has to offer, and got to have a lovely piece of cake! Venus Class are always brilliant on trips and a real credit to the school!

We also enjoyed Outdoor School sessions with Caroline, planting beans, visiting Chester Nature Reserve and exploring our new outdoor area. We've kept our bodies moving with gymnastics with Claire Archer and yoga with Sally. We've also been doing so well in BSL with Andrew and Sarah and are getting better and better!

Venus team are so proud of you all and we can't wait to see you in Spring 2!



Luna Class Update

We have had another lovely term in Luna Class. The term started off with snowy cold weather which grabbed the children's interest and curiosity so we focussed a lot of our learning around investigating all things cold! We explored cold sensory tuff trays with different textures of snow, rolled our own dough snowmen, had a snowball fight with pretend snowballs and used tools to chisel ice to rescue toys that were frozen!

We have also focussed on our mark making skills this half term, using different resources and materials to make marks. Some children have begun drawing fabulous pictures and even writing a couple of words! We practiced choosing what colours we would like to use with picture visuals and sign language.

A favourite activity this term has been listening to the story Brown Bear , Brown Bear and Polar Bear, Polar Bear. Several of the children are able to recite parts of the story aloud and all of them have enjoyed turning pages, looking at pictures and play activities linked to the story.

Next term we are looking forward to learning all about farms! We have some fun activities booked about animals and we are hoping we might get to go and visit some real animals

Due to some staffing changes we are saying goodbye to Yuko who will be moving into Mars class. She will be greatly missed by all, but we are also thrilled to be welcoming Cheryl into our class team.



Juno Class Update

Juno Class have had an amazing half term, and we are so proud of all that they have achieved across the curriculum. In Past and Present, the children have been learning all about the Victorians, with a particular focus on the lives of Victorian children and the significant differences between the opportunities available to them then compared with the opportunities we have today. In English, we have been enjoying a collection of short stories from *The House on Mango Street*, using the text to explore a range of skills including conjunctions, plurals, newspaper articles and instruction manuals. In Maths, there has been a strong focus on handling data, with the children learning about and using different ways to represent information, such as tables, bar charts, line graphs and pictograms. In DT, the children developed valuable independent life skills by planning and cooking a variety of recipes; they visited the shop to buy ingredients, compared prices, and successfully prepared brownies and a pasta bake. In PSHEE, we focused on dreams and goals, learning how to set short-term and long-term goals that link together, as well as developing an understanding of money, budgeting and financial responsibility through a brilliant interactive game that placed the children in real-life financial scenarios. During travel training, the children learned incredibly important skills for using public transport and worked up to confidently catching the bus into Chester, where they were super sensible, respectful of the public and represented the school brilliantly.

Next term, we will be focusing on the PSHEE topic *Healthy Me*, exploring how to look after both our physical and mental health, as well as learning about the Earth and how to care for it in our Past and Present topic *Earth Matters*. Our enrichment activity will be swimming, so please remember to send your child in with their swimming kit every Friday. We hope you all have a lovely week off and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for Spring 2.

