

# MAPLE GROVE NEWSLETTER

October 2025



## A Message from Nic

### **How Have We Reached Half Term Already?**

It's hard to believe we've already reached the halfway point of the term... how time flies! It's certainly been a jam-packed few weeks!

A real highlight this half term was our Doodle Evening for staff and their families, raising funds for *Epilepsy Action*. The visiting artist also spent the day working with pupils and it was a fantastic experience for everyone involved.

We kicked things off by celebrating World Mental Health Day with a cheerful yellow theme. It was wonderful to see everyone getting involved, raising awareness, and supporting such an important cause.

Our parent coffee mornings have also been a success. One session focused on Eating Skills, led by members of our clinical team, and another explored Careers, guided by Stacey. Both mornings were full of conversation and valuable insights. Thank you to all who attended.

We're very proud to share that several staff members achieved their Level 1 British Sign Language Certificate which is a wonderful accomplishment! A big thank you to Andrew and Sarah for their ongoing support and encouragement throughout the course.

A special congratulations to Archie, who received the High Sheriff's Award! What an incredible and well-deserved achievement!

Our newly appointed School Council has already been hard at work. Their early meetings were full of great ideas, including new lunchtime clubs and ways to make school life even better.

Finally, we enjoyed an inspiring day with Conductive Music, where science met music in creative and surprising ways...a perfect blend of learning and fun!

As we head into half term, we want to thank our pupils, families, and staff for their continued energy, positivity, and support.

# Wellbeing Update



## Family Support Update

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to warmly invite you to visit the school on Wednesday 26th November, between 4:00 and 5:00 PM. This will be a great opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and teaching assistants, learn more about what your child is doing in class, and ask any questions you may have. This will be in your child's classroom.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing more about your child's learning journey.

Best wishes,  
Maple Grove School

## Attendance

At Maple Grove, we know that every day in school matters. Good attendance helps children build strong friendships, develop good learning habits, and make the most of every opportunity to grow and succeed. When children are in school regularly, they feel more confident, stay on track with their learning, and are better prepared for the future. We're here to support families in making sure children are in school, on time, every day, because every day really does count!

## Parent Coffee Mornings

It was lovely to welcome so many of you to our recent parent coffee mornings. A big thank you to Stacey and Anna for leading the brilliant Careers session, and to Rachel and Ray for their fantastic Eating Skills workshop. It was great to see so many parents getting involved and enjoying the events.

Our next gathering will be our festive Christmas Craft Event on Tuesday 16th December, from 10am–12pm at Hoole Community Centre. To book your place, please email Shelly or call the school office. We hope to see you there!



# Jupiter Class Update

This half term we have enjoyed settling into our new class and beginning the year together. Everyone has worked hard to get used to new routines, build friendships and support each other as we adjust.

In English, we have explored a variety of texts and videos that have inspired us to produce our own creative writing. Pupils have experimented with different styles and ideas, showing real imagination and pride in their work. Sharing stories with one another has been a highlight and has encouraged confidence in writing.

Science lessons have focused on the human body, particularly how our organs function. This has given us a deeper understanding of how our bodies work and why they are so important. We also took part in some first aid training, learning valuable skills such as the recovery position, which gave us practical knowledge to use in real life.

In Past and Present, we have been learning about Islamic traditions and civilisations from around the year 700. It has been fascinating to discover different parts of this culture and how our world has changed over the past 1,300 years.

One of the most exciting events this half term was Doodle Day, when an artist visited our school to run a workshop. Everyone had the chance to explore drawing in new and creative ways, filling pages with doodles, patterns and imaginative designs.

Overall, this half term has been full of creativity, curiosity and new experiences. We are proud of the way we have settled in and look forward to all the learning and opportunities the rest of the year will bring.



# Mars Class Update

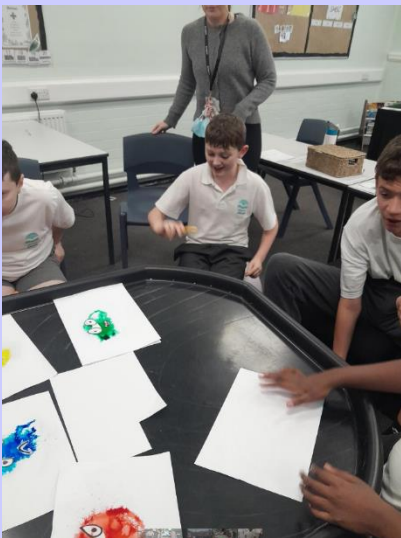
Mars Class have had a fantastic start to the year! We've been busy setting and working towards our individual learning goals in Maths and English, and we've loved creating our own *That's Not My...* books.

In My Independence, we've been developing important life skills for home, such as cleaning up spills, recycling, and using the Hoover to tidy a room. During My Creativity, we've explored collage and texture, producing some wonderful and imaginative artwork.

In Personal Development, we've focused on emotional literacy and enjoyed structured games to help build our social and communication skills. We've also had great fun in our weekly Play for Work sessions and during My Outdoor Learning, where we continue to learn through exploration and teamwork.

In the next half term, Mars Class will be heading out into the local community to visit the park and nearby shops, learning how to stay safe when out and about, including practising road safety and understanding stranger danger. As part of My Physical Wellbeing, we'll also be visiting SPACE every three weeks to take part in fun, active sessions.

In English, our focus texts will be chosen based on the pupils' interests to encourage engagement and inspire a lifelong love of reading. During My Creativity, we'll be exploring the exciting world of drama — developing confidence, expression, and teamwork through performance.



# Apollo Class Update

What a brilliant start to the year it has been for Apollo Class! The pupils have settled back into school wonderfully and have shown incredible enthusiasm and determination in everything they do.

Over the past few weeks, Apollo class have been working extremely hard towards their qualifications, showing real focus and perseverance. We are so proud of how much effort everyone has put in so far! In PE, we've enjoyed a range of exciting lessons, including our fantastic sessions at Alexandra Park tennis courts, where we practised our tennis skills and developed great teamwork and sportsmanship.

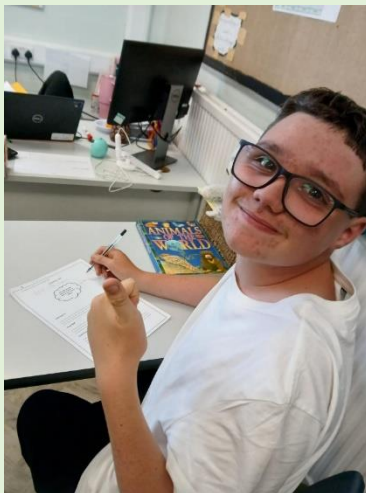
We have had some fantastic art lessons this half term. We have been exploring the work of Wassily Kandinsky, learning how art can be created through emotions and sound. Apollo class have listened to different pieces of music and expressed what they heard and felt through colour and shape and the results have been amazing!

In maths, everyone has been working hard to build their skills and confidence, tackling new challenges with a positive attitude. We've also had plenty of opportunities to practise our speaking and listening skills in English, with some brilliant class discussions and creative ideas being shared.

It's been a joy to see how much Apollo Class have achieved already this year. We're very proud of their hard work, enthusiasm, and kindness towards one another.

We're now looking forward to the next half term, full of more learning, creativity, and fun!

The Apollo Class Team



# Ceres Class Update

What an amazing start to the year! Ceres Class have settled beautifully into their new classroom in the mobiles and have quickly embraced their new class name. We absolutely love our new space! it gives us so much more room for play, sensory integration, and developing independence in our group area.

We were also very excited to welcome a new pupil to our class, who has jumped right in and joined the Ceres Class fun!

This term, we've enjoyed exploring through sensory play, including lots of mark making with glitter, shaving foam, and flour. Our daily tub time sessions continue to be a favourite, and we've had so much fun with sensory stories such as a magical Diwali story based on 'Peppa's Diwali' and a spooky twist on the classic 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', retold as 'We're Going on a Ghost Hunt'! After both stories, the pupils did a fantastic job taking turns and using the resources independently.

There's so much to look forward to after the half-term break, with lots of exciting events and SMSC days ahead, including Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Children in Need, Road Safety Week, Hanukkah, and Christmas.

Have a spooktacular week, everyone!



# Neptune Class Update

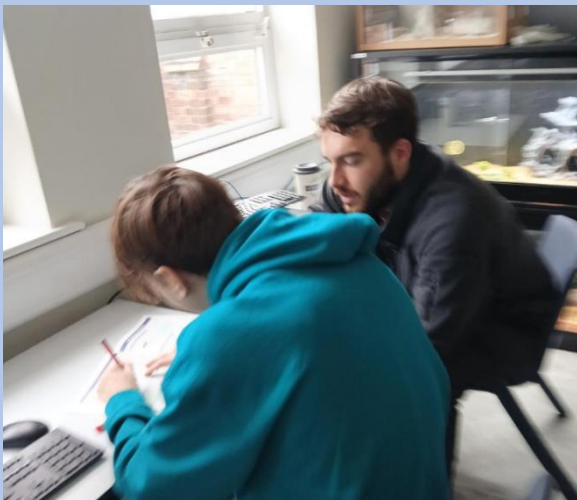
I am delighted to share how well the students in Neptune Class have settled into their new class this term. They have shown such maturity, resilience, and enthusiasm, and I couldn't be more pleased with how they have approached their learning and new routines.

It has been a busy and productive term. We have been working hard towards our qualifications, taking part in DofE activities, developing travel training skills, and engaging in plenty of sport and teamwork opportunities. The students have also participated in many thoughtful discussions, where they have shown open mindedness and the ability to reach some insightful conclusions together.

I am incredibly proud of everything Neptune Class has achieved so far, and I am very much looking forward to seeing what the next term brings.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,  
Neptune Class Team



# Venus Class Update

What a wonderful term Venus class have had!

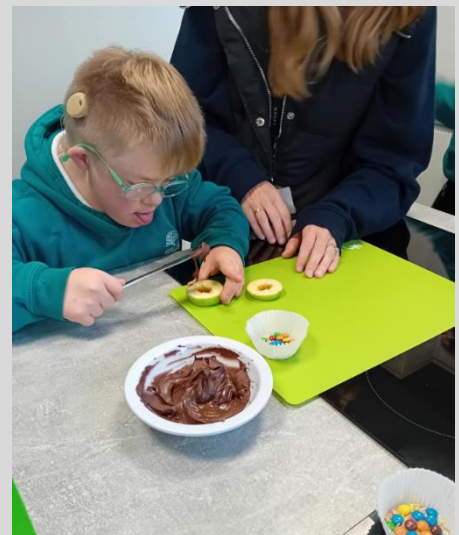
During our My Creativity lessons this half term, we have enjoyed reading the colour monster and discussing all of the different emotions and how we might act when we are feeling them. We've danced to different pieces of music as a chosen emotion, played emotion musical statues and even made our own paper masks based on the emotion of our choosing! In English, we have focused on our comprehension and speaking in a logical order. We've completed colourful semantics to help us order words, completed sequencing activities to show 'what comes next', and listened to stories carefully so we could then answer questions about the text afterwards.

In Maths, we have been practising following instructions using prepositional words such as 'next to', 'between', 'behind', 'in front of' etc and have found treasure in an under-water sea map by listening to our peers' prepositional directions.

During our Outdoor Learning, we have enjoyed a trip to Thursaston beach to go litter picking in aid of recycling week, we've visited Hawarden farm to enjoy a walk around the pumpkin trail, we've picked apples from a tree in Chester Zoo Nature Reserve and decorated them afterwards and even made our own woollen apples using red and green wool.

In PE, we have focused on our running technique and how we can change our tactic for sprinting or running a marathon. In My Communication, we enjoyed playing some new boardgames that we all chose together as a class; we played with our peers and learned to turn take – plus had lots of fun!

On a Friday we have been having lots of fun at Bren Bikes where we have been practising road safety with red and green cones to mimic traffic lights, cycling around a make-shift roundabout, and trying to keep our balance when cycling slowly – we've also enjoyed lots of free time cycling around the field with staff. We are very much looking forward to what's to come next term!



# Luna Class Update

What a lovely start to the school year we have had in Luna Class. This half term we have based our learning around the book *Spot Goes to School*. We have been learning to recognise our own and each other's faces and are even beginning to self register ourselves in the morning! We have enjoyed welcoming old friends back and also getting to know our new friends. We continue to love exploring with our senses and lots of our learning has involved getting messy from Rangoli patterns with coloured rice to making pumpkin soup for Halloween! We have been out and about in our community- walking to the shops to buy ingredients for shopping and venturing into the nature reserve for our Outdoor Learning. We are very proud of the children this term for settling back into school routines, working on their communication and for beginning to share space and resources with each other. Well done Luna Class!



# Juno Class Update

What a fantastic first term!

This term, we've been reading *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl* by Stacy McAnulty. The children have really engaged with Lucy's story, exploring themes of friendship, difference and perseverance. Through reading and discussion, we've been developing our comprehension, inference and creative writing skills. In Maths, our focus has been on understanding and confidently using numbers and the number system. We've covered the four key operations, as well as exploring decimals and fractions. The children have worked hard to strengthen their number sense and apply their knowledge to solve real-world problems. Our topic in Past and Present this term has been Ancient Islamic Civilisations, learned about how people lived during this period, why the city was designed to be round and the events that led to the civilisation's fall. In PSHEE, we've been focusing on setting SMART goals and explored the concept of identity, thinking about what makes each of us unique and what is important to us as individuals. Our weekly trips to the park have given the children the chance to enjoy the outdoors. We are incredibly proud of how the children have settled into the new year, and we are excited to see what next term brings!



# Careers

## Careers Update

The school year has started off really well, and our careers programme is already in full swing! Our Year 10 students have now completed their one-to-one careers interviews and have begun discussing their future pathways with Anna, our Level 7 Careers Advisor. It's been fantastic to see them starting to think about their next steps.

We recently held our first **Careers Coffee Morning**, which was a big success! It was wonderful to see so many parents attend and take the opportunity to ask important questions about their child's future. Anna was on hand to offer advice, guidance, and support — and we hope those who came along found it helpful. We're looking forward to hosting more of these sessions.

I've also been sending out emails to parents with information about upcoming college open days — please keep an eye out for these. We strongly recommend starting to explore college options early, ideally in Year 10. This gives both you and your child plenty of time to visit different settings and get a sense of what might suit them best. Some specialist provisions do have long waiting lists, so the earlier you start looking, the better.

Work experience has also begun successfully, with several students now participating in placements at Bren Bikes. It's been wonderful to see them gaining confidence and developing valuable skills in a real-world setting. We're always on the lookout for new and suitable work experience placements — if you know of any local businesses that might be a good fit, or if your child has expressed an interest in a particular type of work, please let me know and I'll be happy to look into it further.

Finally, please keep those conversations going at home about your child's future — their ideas and aspirations can change quickly, and your support makes a huge difference in helping them make informed choices.