



MAPS Newsletter; guiding you through life at our school!

Term 2, Edition 10 Week Ending 18th November 2016

Car parking: Thank you to those parents who have supported the decision to keep the car park closed to moving vehicles between 8:20 and 8:50am and 3:20 and 3:50pm. The MAPS signs will be added to the MAA car park very soon to designate these spaces; please ensure 'Blue Badges' are displayed and only park in the disabled bays with a valid blue badge. If you park on Trinity Avenue and walk your child into school, please ensure you take care and hold your child firmly by the hand. It is a busy road and we have had a couple of parents concerned about small children running off or cycling ahead unsupervised and potentially being hurt by a moving vehicle or car door when it opens. We teach Road Safety in school and will continue to do so but please keep your own children safe on the way to and from school each day.



Passport to the Moon:

Next week we will be checking children's 'Passports to the Moon' again. If you think your child has achieved the numbers required for a badge, please send their passport in for checking on Monday 28th November. Class teachers will check first and then any child who seems to have earned a badge will come to me for a short interview to discuss their achievements. Badges will be awarded on Friday 2nd December in celebration assembly and parents / carers are very welcome to attend.

-**Bronze:** At least 3 activities from each of the 5 sections with a total of 20

-**Silver:** At least 4 activities from each of the 5 sections with a total of 35

-**Gold:** A total of 50 activities from across all sections

Children in Need: Thank you to all children and families who supported this great charity by wearing your own clothes last Friday. The total amount raised was £155.71.

Mini Disco: Many thanks to the Friends of MAPS for organising another successful school disco. There was a great turn out and they raised £333! This money will go towards resources for the children.

School marking policy: We have recently introduced a new 'FIX' marking label to ensure children are given useful feedback to help them improve their learning. Where children have not fully grasped something in a lesson, they are in the 'Focus' group with the teacher again very soon afterwards and the 'F' is highlighted. Where children have grasped the concept but have an area to 'Improve' a written target is given and the 'I' highlighted for children to work on with their purple pen. If a child has produced a really high quality piece of learning, they are given an 'eXtension' and the 'X' is highlighted.

These letters are nothing to do with grades or levels, it is just a short-hand code to aid marking and feedback.

Advent: Our theme next week is advent and we will be thinking about preparing for Christmas and linking this with our virtue of kindness. We will be encouraging the children to think of others and the true meaning of Christmas.

Godly play: Thanks to Kate Adams (parent and member of the Vineyard church) for working with all six of our classes this week on the bible story of 'The Good Samaritan.' I witnessed the deep philosophical thinking from the children who were really engaged and debated the story excellently and could relate it to their own lives and our school code of conduct and virtues.

Dates for your diary
National Anti-Bullying
Week

Monday 28th November

- Trampolining for Y2 children until 4:45pm
- Lord Blunkett visiting MAPS
- Year 2 RWI Workshop for Parents 3.00pm

Tuesday 29th November

- Fundamentals / multiskills club continuing for Y1 & Y2 until 4:45pm
- School Nurses in for Flu Nasal Spray Year 1 and 2

Wednesday 30th November

- RWI parent workshop 8.50am for Year 2 Parents

Thursday 1st December

- Miss Lally and Mrs Giles out all morning

Friday 2nd December

- Passport to the Moon awards
- Miss Lally's last day before Maternity Leave



Upcoming events



Staffing update:

As you all know, I will be starting my maternity leave soon and Mrs Stevenson will be 'Acting Headteacher' throughout this time. My plan is to commence maternity leave on Friday 2nd December and my baby is due on December 16th - depending on the baby's arrival, I am hoping to still see all of the children in their Christmas performances! Miss Blakemore will be 'Acting Deputy Headteacher' to support Mrs Stevenson and will have some extra non-class based time to help fulfil her additional responsibilities.

We have been very busy trying to recruit the best possible teachers to join the MAPS team – teacher recruitment is very difficult at the moment, but I am delighted that we have appointed two excellent and experienced teachers to work with us. One will cover Mrs Stevenson's two days of teaching commitments to allow her to lead the school; the other will cover Miss Rowland's maternity leave from the middle of January onwards. Their profiles are below.

Mrs Katie Barker will join us on 5th December and will work every Monday and Tuesday. She will teach for one day in Y1 Squirrels and her other day will be used as needed across the school.

Mrs Wendy Cox will join us on 2nd January and will take over as class teacher of Y1 Hedgehogs. Mrs Sarah Brown will move into Y2 Foxes class. Parents / carers in these two classes have received a separate letter.

To ensure continuity and consistency for the children, the teaching assistants will stay the same and the two teachers involved with each class (the new and the current) will have detailed handover sessions and will spend time shadowing their new class before they take over fully.

I am confident the children will continue to receive a consistently high quality education and the school will go from strength to strength with the staffing plans we have in-place.

Here are the introductions for our two new teachers.

My name is Mrs Cox and I have been a Primary Teacher for 16 years. I am a loyal and caring person who loves making a difference to the lives of young children. I believe that children learn best when they are stimulated and having fun.



When I am not teaching I enjoy sewing, reading, baking and taking long walks in the countryside with my family. I have three grown up children and two precious grandchildren who I value spending time with.

I am really excited to be joining the MAPS community and working with you and your children from January.

My name is Mrs Barker and I have been teaching for the past ten years. I truly believe I have the best job in the world and am passionate about inspiring and engaging children with memorable, fun, creative and purposeful experiences. Outside of school, I love arts and crafts, swimming and getting lost in a good book. I have two wonderful daughters who are 5 and 2 years old and love spending time as a family, generally exploring country parks across Northamptonshire in our wellies! I am thrilled to be joining the MAPS community at this exciting time, as it continues to grow. I look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks and months and working with your children to help them all 'reach for the moon.'



Miss Lally

Attendance

Attendance this week:	
Reception Overall: 95.8%	Robins 95% Sparrows 96.6%
Year One Overall: 98.2%	Hedgehogs 97.7% Squirrels 98.7%
Year Two Overall: 95.5%	Foxes 93% Badgers 98%

Well Done to Squirrels class with 98.7% attendance for the week!

Piccard House are the winners of the Special Pebbles this week with 116 pebbles. Well done!