



**Mapledene
Termly News
Winter Issue
2025**



Key dates for January - April 2026

Tuesday 23rd December 2025 Centre Closes at 2pm Christmas Break
 Friday 2nd & Monday 5th January 2026 Centre Closed Inset Day - Tuesday 6th January Centre reopens for children from 8am - 5.45pm - Monday 2nd February Extended Services Parents Forum - Friday 6th February Day Care Parents Forum Monday 16th - Friday 20th February Half Term - Friday 13th February Valentines/Friendship Day
 Tuesday 17th February Shove/Pancake & Day Chinese New Year - Wednesday 18th February Red Book Day
 Friday 27th February St David's Day - Thursday 5th March World Book Day - Monday 9th March Parent Teacher Consultations - Friday 6th - Friday 13th March British Science Week
 Friday 13th March Mother's Day - Friday 15th March Red Nose Day
 Tuesday 17th March - St Patrick's Day - Friday 20th March Eid
 Monday 30th March Easter Bonnet Workshop - Wednesday 1st April Easter Parade
 Friday 10th April Playing Out
 Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April Easter Holiday - Friday 13th April Centre Closed Inset Day

Visit our web page at www.mapledenechildrenscentre.co.uk

Termly News

Thank you to all our parents and carers for all our fantastic Christmas gifts. We feel very grateful to you all for your kind messages, chocolates, shopping vouchers and home-made treats. You have supported us throughout the year which makes Mapledene a great place for children to learn and grow. We managed to raise a whopping £874.89 to purchase children's cushions across the centre. We also raised £405 for Children in Need...well done everyone! We have noticed an increase in the number of parents/carers still using their mobile phones in the building on drop off and pick up. Please help us to maintain safeguarding standards and only use your phone in the parents' room. New Friends of Mapledene trustees have now been successfully appointed. Katie Burrell is our new Chair who is supported by Reisha Simpson and N'jaindeh Lungoci our Co Vice Chairs. Our new Treasury is Camille Booth and new Secretary is Jasmine Gregory. We welcome this amazing new team and look forward to working closely with them. Friends of Mapledene will meet every quarter with Miza Myers (Mapledene's staff representee).

Mapledene will close for Christmas on Tuesday 23rd December at 2pm. Please make arrangements for your child, to be collected no later than 2pm. We wish you all, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mapledene will open for the children on Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 8am - 5.45pm.

Apples & Seedlings

Apples & Seedlings children will work together to welcome and help new friends to settle in. Staff work to ensure loving care, play and responsive interactions are at the forefront of the curriculum. Our youngest children learn through their senses, relationships and routines. Staff will concentrate on developing our children's early communication, body awareness, curiosity and exploration as well as emotional regulation. This will be done through specific activity linked to the new learning theme.

Maples

Maples children will welcome more friends into their class who made the transition from Palms room. Staff will ensure their Personal, Social & Emotional Development is catered for as this is an important area of their development. Activity will be provided to help name feelings (happy, sad, angry, scared). Taking turns and sharing, managing big emotions, building confidence and independence, understanding right and wrong (Kindness, empathy). Language and Communication activities will be promoted to support listening and following simple instructions, speaking in short sentences, learning new words, asking and answering questions, storytelling and conversations. Staff will ensure to follow what the children are interested in, in order to support their individual needs.



If you have not already completed your online primary school application for your child to start school in September 2026. **Please do so before the closing date of Thursday 15th January 2026.** Applications received after the closing date will be deemed as late which can affect your choice list of schools. If you need help with your application, please let the office know.

Curriculum

January welcomes a new theme based on 'My Feelings and Me' Here are some clear, child-friendly approaches you can use at home with your children. Help your child connect feelings to themselves for example, use a mirror: "This is me. What do I look like when I am happy?" Use photos of your child and talk about what was happening. "I am happy." "I feel sad." Focus on 4-6 emotions: Happy, Sad, Angry, Scared, Excited and Calm. Use emotion cards or faces and ask your child: "Which one is you today?" Try linking feelings to experiences and make it meaningful for example, "You felt happy when you were playing." Or "You felt angry when the toy broke." This helps children understand why feelings happen. It is a good idea to teach your child what to do with feelings for example, if you are angry, stomp your feet or squeeze a ball. Feeling sad, hug a teddy or talk to an adult, when feeling scared, hold a hand or breathe slowly. When feeling happy, smile, laugh and share your joy with others.



Mapledene are excited to have access to specific learning tools and some free training, to support all our children to access the early years curriculum. Staff are able to download and use tools to support routine and next steps.

Mud Kitchen Revamp



Thank you to our parents who pay their nursery fees through 'Benefits'. Because of this Mapledene receives £150 each month adding up to £1,800 per year. We have used this money to purchase new mud kitchen tools for all our children to use.

New 'Best Start in Life' Campaign: Toolkit & Resources

We are delighted to share with you the launch of the new foundation years Best Start in Life campaign, and their new tool kit. The Best Start in Life campaign aims to increase awareness of the role of the early years in your child's development, increase parental understanding of things you can do in your child's early years and how early education supports child development. Click on the links below to discover trusted advice, support and guidance for parents to turn to. [Best Start in Life website](#) [Best Start in Life | Toolkit and creative assets](#) [Best Start in Life 'The Story of You'](#)

Extended Services

Mapledene's January - April 2026 Programme of Activities is available on our website or you can pick up a copy at reception. 'Baby Steps' is targeted at 0-2 years olds. Please see Mango room staff to express your interest. Messy play with Physical Literacy is a great opportunity for your children to experience a range of sensory tools whilst supporting purposeful play. Our under 18 months session is available each Thursdays from 10am - 11.30am. We welcome your feedback on the services we offer. If you have attended more than three services in London Fields and Shoreditch Park neighbourhood, we would love to hear your views and ideas. Please see any member of staff in Mango room to book an evaluation session. Remember your views matter!

Parents Involvement



Autumn/Winter Clothes

As the weather changes, we ask you to please check your child's blue bag and swop out any summer clothes for winter wear. Please also include warm jackets, hats and scarfs. We have a shortage of spare underwear especially socks. If you are able to donate any, we are happy to take them for our children.

Christmas Fun



Please contact the office immediately if you have made changes to your contact details.

Useful links

Breaks Road Safety <https://www.brake.org.uk/how-we-help/get-help-if-a-crash-victim>
Teach your children basic Makaton signs <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p07ctlr6/mr-tumble>
Toilet Training <https://eric.org.uk/potty-training/>

Staffing Structure

Mapledene said goodbye to Jack, Krystle, Krishna and Celestine in October. We welcomed Harry and look forward to working with Jaydean Charles-Ferris and Nazmin Akter in the new year. In January **Apples and Seedlings** room will continue to be led by Tola and supported by Tannae, Olu, Mercy Sabrina and Nazmin. **Palms** room will be led by Merlene and supported by, Dudi, Georgina, Yasmin, Harry and Jaydean. **Maples** room will be led by Kayland and supported by Jasmin, Cherish and Michele. **Mango** room staff is led by Mariam who is supported by Mirembe. **Kitchen** is led by Chantelle, and supported by Maseray and Deslin. Please note that staff are used across the centre to cover and support other rooms. We also give back to our community by hosting students on placement or school work experience throughout the year.

Supporting Road Safety

We work closely with Bakes Hackney, it is a great way to inspire and engage children about the dangers they face on the roads, promote the benefits of walking, and raise awareness among parents and the wider community about the need to protect children on roads. As the nights draw in, we book these important interactive road safety sessions to encourage our children to gain a better understanding of staying safe on the road.



Palms

Palms children are ready to welcome new friends into their room in January. They prepare to start a new topic based on the theme 'My Feelings and Me'. Staff will support them to recognize and name how they are feeling as well as having a better understanding of how they can help themselves to regulate their emotions. Staff will be on hand to teach coping skills early and focus on what Palms room children can do to manage their big feelings. Activities will be provided such as, deep breathing or blowing bubbles. Children will have a quiet corner or calm space in the room for them to go with staff as a distraction and become involved in activity of their choosing. They will also be encouraged to ask for help. Sensory play will be offered daily to support regulation. You can help your child each day by asking them how they are feeling and together come up with coping ideas.

Air Conditioning Units

Work has been carried out in the building to install new air conditioning units in the day care rooms, community room, kitchen and offices. These units will help the children and staff next summer when the temperature rises. Staff will be vigilant as to when to use them and for how long.