



PHOTOS: MANDA WILSON

## MAF co-founder 'lands' in Kent playground

A rare sight beheld the pupils of Seabrook and St Martin's Primary School Federation in Kent, when a light aircraft 'landed' in their playground on Thursday 11 July.

MAF's two-seater Cessna 150 aircraft arrived to mark the end of an impressive year of support, where the pupils raised £1,500 for MAF through a variety of activities including bike rides, art sales and talent shows.

Heading up the celebrations was RAF veteran Jack Hemmings [102], who co-founded MAF when he

flew alongside Stuart King to survey Central Africa in 1948. Jack also took control of a Spitfire in February 2024, raising more than £10,000 for MAF.

The former Squadron Leader made a 'flying visit' to personally thank pupils for their partnership with MAF, adding his handprint to a commemorative MAF mural in the school playground (see above). Also witnessing the special day were The Right Worshipful Town Mayor of Hythe, Penny Graham, as well as BBC and ITV newsreporters.

Impressed by Jack's legacy and MAF's work, Seabrook pupil Ellie [7] said, 'MAF is amazing because it saves loads of lives by flying planes to isolated places. I can't believe Jack can still fly a plane at 102. My dad can't even fly one and he's only 45!'

Headteacher Liz Carter was thrilled to see her students meet Jack and interact with MAF's aircraft, saying, 'Giving our creativity and fundraising to MAF this year has helped spread love, hope and compassion in our schools.'

### Pause for prayer

Please pray for MAF's Community and Events teams who will be taking the MAF Cessna 150 aircraft to various festivals and celebrations across the UK this summer. We hope that many new communities and individuals will be inspired by our work when they sit in the cockpit.

### Stay up to date

Did you know that an MAF aircraft takes off or lands every six minutes? With so much going on, it's hard to stay in touch with the latest news — but MAF UK's News pages have in-depth reports on some of the most exciting flights taking place across the world. Visit [www.maf-uk.org/news](http://www.maf-uk.org/news) to read what's been happening this week.

### Let MAF come to you

MAF has a team of over 100 dedicated volunteers across the country who are waiting to visit you. Whether it's a church meeting, mid-week group or weekend retreat, why not invite one of our speakers to bring MAF's work to life and share stories from the ends of the earth? To book a speaker, visit [www.maf-uk.org/speaker](http://www.maf-uk.org/speaker)