



FI NEWSLETTER



Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you had a fantastically festive Christmas break and were able to spend quality time with your families. We can't wait to get cracking with our Spring term and we hope the children are excited as we are!

For those of you that are new to Mapplewells, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and we hope that you are beginning to find your feet and settle in. There is lots of information in this newsletter which we feel may be useful and answer your questions. Over the coming weeks you may have questions about the routines of our class or how you can support your child at home. Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the Foundation team should you have any questions. In FI, the teacher is Miss Coleman and our Teaching Assistant is Mrs Smith.

We have lots of fun activities planned for the coming term and look forward to seeing how brilliantly the children continue to make progress.

Curriculum Enquiry

Each term we focus our learning around an enquiry question based on a whole school driver. This term our driver is 'Understanding the world - Geography' and our curriculum enquiry question is 'What makes Britain great?'

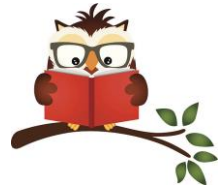
Children will be learning about the United Kingdom, as well as beginning to understand that the world is made up of different countries and making comparisons between South Africa and the UK. We will also be learning about different cultures through our enhancer subject 'Expressive Art and Design' where children will explore art and cuisine from different countries.

Children will use what they have learnt to create work to display in our 'Mapplewells Museum' which will then be presented to a special visitor at the end of term, who will discuss the findings with the class.

During the Spring term, we will be reading a variety of stories linked to the enquiry and the provision will be set up to enhance and support the children's learning.

Reading

We encourage you to read with your child every day at home. For each read that your child completes and is written in their reading diary, your child will contribute towards the total class reads, when we reach 250 reads, we will have a class treat. For every 2 reads that your child completes a week, they will receive a raffle ticket. At the end of each week, a raffle ticket will be pulled out for that child to receive a prize.



Children will bring home a book to share and love. Our children will choose this book from their class reading area. The children might have heard it lots in class so can take it home to retell or it's a book that someone at home can read to them.

Children will also bring home 2 independent books, these may not have any words in, it is for them to get used to holding a book, the parts of the book and telling a story using the pictures. If your child has a book with words you can encourage them to say the codes that they can see and help them to blend the words.

Phonics

In the Spring term children will move to Phase 2 of their phonics learning, where they will begin to follow the 'Tiny Reading Seeds' phonics scheme. This is where children will learn the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make. They will also begin to learn to blend sounds together for reading.

Maths

Children will continue to build on their number recognition and counting skills, learning to subitise amounts, and beginning to record numbers in the written form.

Hot Snack, Fruit & Milk

For the first time ever, we are now offering our Hot Snack option to FI (previously only F2 upwards). Snack can be ordered via Scopay for the following week. Alternatively, children can bring in their own healthy snack from home - please not chocolate or crisps. Suggestions would be yoghurt sticks, cheese strings, fruit winders, raisins, cereal bar etc. For any children not wishing to bring snack from home or purchase from our kitchen, there is the opportunity to select 1 piece of fruit per day from our basket. If you wish for your child to have milk, please sign up via the Cool Milk website.

Physical Education

PE sessions are on a **Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons**. If your child has their ears pierced, can you please ensure that on PE days their earrings are taken out before school and that no jewellery is worn. It is part of our Uniform Policy that every child at Mapplewells wears the correct PE kit.

Our PE Kit:

- White short sleeved polo shirt
- Royal blue shorts
- Plain black/grey/white socks
- Plain trainers (outdoor) or plimsolls (indoors)
- A plain tracksuit in keeping with school colours of blue, grey or black



Forest School

- We are delighted to offer our foundation children the opportunity to attend our on-site Forest School. Our sessions are led by our qualified Forest School leader.
- If you are new this term, in your welcome packs you should have received a permission form for Forest School, please ensure this is returned to school as soon as possible if it hasn't been done so already. If you require a new form please let a member of Foundation know.
- Forest School will take place on alternate Wednesday afternoons (dates below). On this day the children will need to come to school dressed in their Forest School clothes. Your child will be provided with waterproof clothing from school, however please feel free to provide your child with their own waterproof clothing if you wish.
- We will be attending Forest School whatever the weather and we will not be held responsible for the damage of any clothes during the sessions, so please be aware your child's clothing may return home damaged, dirty and muddy.

The correct clothing is listed below:

- Warm trousers
- Thick socks
- A long sleeved top (no t-shirts or short sleeves)
- Wellies or walking boots (named, to stay in school)
- A hat (when appropriate)
- A pair of gloves (when appropriate)
- A scarf (when appropriate)

Please see below the dates for the Forest School sessions for the Spring term:

- 15th Jan, 29th Jan
- 12th Feb
- 12th March, 26th March



Belongings

Please ensure ALL your child's things have their name on, as I am sure that you can imagine how difficult it can be if items are not clearly named. If something does go walkabouts please report this to a member of the Foundation Staff straight away. It is easier to find things if we know immediately. We do encourage the children to take responsibility for their own items and we ask that you too take this approach. If we have unclaimed items, these will be put outside for families to look through, however any left overs will be either put in the school spares box or given to charity.

Coming into school

Remember, the gate will be opened for the morning session at 8.30am and children are collected at 11.30am. The gate will be opened for the afternoon session at 12.30pm and the children collected from 3:15 to 3:30pm. If you are late to school, please report to the school office so that your child can get their mark. Just a polite reminder to please **remain outside** when dropping your child at school. We would like the children to come into the classroom independently and find their peg etc. An adult will be in the classroom to support them. If you will be collecting your child early please let the office know in advance to allow us to get your child ready, when we are not expecting someone to go home it can cause interruption to our learning time. Thank you.

Bringing Toys to Nursery: We completely understand that some children like to bring a toy as a comfort, however we do not want any toys being lost or broken. We ask that the only belongings being brought into school are their water bottles, coats, reading bags and a spare set of clothes and wipes.

When Collecting Your Child: When collecting your child, they will wait with an adult until they are called, please wait on the playground for your child, if you need to speak to a member of staff please hang around until all of the children have been dismissed and someone will be happy to have a chat with you. If a member of staff needs to share any information with you they may ask you to wait until the end so that they can have a more private discussion with you.

Contributions

We love to get creative in EYFS and use all our senses to explore. We always try to plan exciting learning opportunities for the children to enjoy. Some of these activities require us to use lots of resources. If you would like to make a voluntary donation towards these consumables of £2 each half term it would be greatly appreciated. Alternatively, if you wish to donate resources to support us, that would also be extremely appreciated. Such as:

- Flour & salt (playdough)
- Colouring pencils
- Gel pens

Outdoor Equipment: For safety reasons, please make sure your children are not playing on the equipment in the Foundation Unit playground before and after sessions and with the activities set out.

- Notebooks
- Paint
- Food colouring
- Envelopes
- Marbles/smooth glass pebbles
- Corks
- Dry beans
- Cardboard tubes
- Glitter
- Wooden logs
- Wooden pegs
- Bottle tops
- Dry pasta
- Rice
- Conkers
- Pine cones

Key Dates

- 5th January - return to school
- 7th January - Afternoon Tea
- 11th February - School photos
- 13th February - Non-uniform (Last day of Spring 1)
- 23rd February - INSET Day
- 24th February - Spring 2 begins
- 5th March World Book Day
- 21st March - Red Nose Day
- Easter Bonnet & Egg Decorating Competition TBC
- 27th March - Non-uniform (Last day of Spring 2)



We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all in advance for your support and express how much we are really looking forward to our new term together.

Miss Coleman & Mrs. Smith