



YEAR 5/6 NEWSLETTER



WELCOME BACK

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break with your children, and we'd like to extend a warm welcome to the new school term!

We are excited to begin another busy and productive term. There will continue to be a strong expectation that children complete all homework, as consolidating learning is essential for retention. Homework will always be linked to topics or concepts already taught, to strengthen understanding.

As in previous years, we will endeavour to offer a range of educational clubs as soon as possible to further support your child's learning. Your encouragement in ensuring your child attends these clubs will help them achieve the best possible outcomes. In addition, staff are often available at lunchtimes to provide extra support.

Please also check the school website regularly for our termly knowledge mats and copies of newsletters:

www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk

Important information and letters will be shared via Class Dojo or emailed to the address provided to the office. Additionally, look out for our weekly school newsletter in the 'Key Dates' section.

Curriculum Enquiry

This term, our curriculum is driven by Geography, and our enquiry question is: "What affects the needs of living things in different places?"



Children will explore a wide range of geographical knowledge and skills. They will learn about different biomes around the world and investigate how these environments meet the needs of living things. As part of this enquiry, pupils will compare the UK to Mexico, gaining an in-depth understanding of Mexico's geography, climate, and culture. This will include interpreting maps, graphs, and data, as well as exploring how physical and human features vary across regions.

English

The Year 5 and Year 6 English topics, which often link closely with our curriculum enquiry, are as follows:

Year 5

- Fantasy narrative
- Balanced argument
- Explanation text
- Ballad

Year 6

- Fantasy narrative
- Balanced argument
- Explanation text

Throughout these units, children will use their growing understanding of the wider curriculum to support their writing across different genres. Alongside this, they will continue to develop key skills in grammar, punctuation, and spelling to strengthen the quality and accuracy of their work.



Reading

At Mapplewells, we strongly believe that daily reading is essential for children to become fluent readers and to develop a lifelong love of books. By practising reading with you at home every day, children are given the best possible start — learning to read so that they can later read to learn. This supports their academic, social, and emotional development both now and in the future.

It is very important that you listen to your child read each day and record this in their pupil organiser. We expect every child to read at least 4 times a week. Don't forget our Rise and Shine Reading sessions every Friday from 8:30am, where classrooms are open for you to share a book together before school.



Mathematics

Year 5 have made an excellent start to their Maths learning. During the Spring Term, a large part of their focus will be on fractions. Alongside this, they will also cover decimals and percentages, perimeter and area, and statistics.

In Year 6, children will continue to practise a wide range of concepts through fluency activities to strengthen their long-term understanding of key procedures. The core objectives for Year 6 this term include: fractions, decimals and percentages, ratio, algebra, area, perimeter, volume, and statistics.

For both year groups, we would like to emphasise the importance of practising times tables at home. Secure knowledge of multiplication facts is essential to support upcoming learning and ensure that times tables do not become a barrier to progress in lessons.



Science

In Science, children will work scientifically through investigations, research projects, and recording observations. Both Year 5 and Year 6 will be studying ‘Living Things and Their Habitats’. While the theme is the same, each year group will be taught separately and will work towards different learning objectives tailored to their stage.



Learning for Life

This term, our work will focus on building strategies to keep ourselves and others safe. Lessons will provide children with plenty of opportunities to discuss real-life scenarios they may encounter throughout their lives. Our aim is to equip all pupils with the confidence and skills to identify situations that are not acceptable and to challenge them appropriately.

History

Year 5&6 will be moving on to a different period of history this term – The Victorians! We will be exploring the many inventions during this time, how the British Empire expanded and Queen Victoria’s reign as monarch. Throughout this learning, we will also be encouraging children to continuing using skills as a historian such as comparing this period to the modern day.



Physical Education

This term, children will begin their PE learning with lessons in dance and football, focusing on developing key skills such as balance, coordination, and agility. In the second half of the term, PE lessons will move to dance and athletics, giving pupils the opportunity to experience and progress in a variety of sports and activities. PE will continue to take place on **Tuesday** and **Friday** afternoons.

Key dates	
First Day back	5 th January
Dress in Mexican colours Day	7 th January
NSPCC Number Day	6 th February
Individual Pupil Photos	11 th February
Last day of spring 1 – Non-Uniform day	13 th February
INSET Day	23 rd February
World Book Day	5 th March
Red Nose Day	21 st March
Last day of Spring	27 th March

Finally, if there are any issues, you wish to speak with us about please see us. If the issue cannot be dealt with there and then, we will arrange a convenient time for us to meet.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we look forward to seeing you all throughout the year.

The Year 5/6 Team