



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 12th July

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this week's edition of the Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School newsletter! We are thrilled to share the joyous highlights from our recent Summer Fair, which brought together our wonderful community for an afternoon filled with fun, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

Additionally, we are incredibly proud to announce the outstanding KS2 SATs results achieved by our diligent students. Their hard work and determination have truly paid off, reflecting the exceptional dedication of both our learners and staff. Enjoy reading about these and more exciting updates in this week's newsletter!

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Children must attend school every day, on time (unless they are too unwell to do so). As you know, I am not permitted to authorise holidays in term time and leave of absence will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and on a case-by-case basis.



Our current school attendance after 37 weeks is 95.33% We want to work together to continue to improve this figure over the coming weeks. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch - 95%

Elder - 94%

Elm - 96%

Hawthorn - 96%

Hazel - 95%

Oak - 95%

Maple - 96%

Juniper - 95%

Pine - 93%

Rowan - 96%

Willow - 96%

Well done to **Elm, Hawthorn, Maple, Rowan & Willow classes** on their fantastic attendance this week. Let's keep striving to improve our attendance, to continue to exceed that figure of 95%, and strive to achieve 97% attendance.

Stars of the week

SUCCESS stars of the week congratulations to the following children who were chosen by their class teacher as 'SUCCESS start of the week'. The children received their certificate in assembly today.

Birch - Billy

Elder - Oliver

Hawthorn - Annika

Oak - Olivia

Maple - Libby

Juniper - Thea

Pine - Zach

Rowan - Mollie

Willow - Taryn



Year 6 SATs results

Congratulations to our Year 6 students on their amazing SATs results! Once again the children of Mapplewells have achieved well above national averages in all subjects.

Your hard work, dedication, and resilience have truly paid off, and we couldn't be prouder of your achievements. Each one of you has demonstrated remarkable progress and commitment, and these fantastic results are a testament to your efforts. Well done, Year 6!

Summer Fair Success

Well I'm sure you will join me in celebrating our fabulous Summer Fair this year! The event was extremely well organised and it was great to see so many stalls, games and events and so many people there to enjoy it. The fabulous weather certainly helped and everyone had a super time.

A huge thank you must go out to everyone who supported the event including;

- the Friends of Mapplewells group
- the local businesses who donated prizes for the raffle
- the companies who came to provide activities
- the parents who manned a stall or donated goods for the stalls
- the parents who helped to set up the fair on the day
- the staff for generously giving up their time
- the parents and members of the local community that attended the event and supported our fund raising efforts.

Special thanks must go to Miss Christie and everyone who put up the marques and helped at the Fair. The list of thank yous is quite extensive (too many for a newsletter!), it is suffice to say that a lot of people have invested a huge amount of time and effort to ensure that the Fair was a success and it is only with your generosity and hard work that we are able to hold such fabulous events.

In total we raised an amazing £2,844.73!

Apologies if we have missed anyone - the event was a huge success and all your support is greatly appreciated.













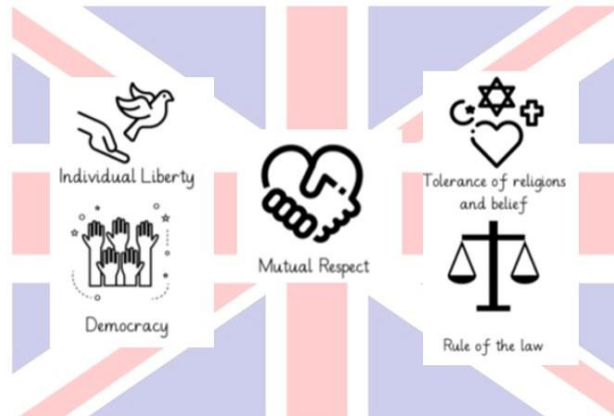
Spotlight on British Values



Respect and Tolerance

At Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School, we place a strong emphasis on the British value of **Respect and Tolerance**. We actively promote these principles through various school activities and programs, encouraging our students to appreciate and celebrate the diverse cultures and beliefs within our community.

Through assemblies, classroom discussions, and collaborative projects, children learn the importance of listening to and valuing others' perspectives. Our inclusive environment fosters mutual respect and understanding, ensuring that every student feels valued and respected.





Internet Safety



<http://www.netSMARTKIDS.org>

10 tips to promote a love of early writing

The ability to write – both to communicate information and express feelings and ideas – is a vital life skill. From making those first experimental marks on paper to their pride in forming letters and words that can be recognised by others – and, even more thrillingly, be used to convey *meaning* – seeing young children discover the art of writing is a joyous experience.

The journey isn't always an easy one, however, so it's important that we provide little ones with a suitable springboard from which to take their first literary leaps. Showing children the real-world advantages of writing, making sure crayons and paper are always available for them, and encouraging their efforts are among our expert's tips for promoting an early affinity with writing.

At the National College, our wellbeing strategy guides employees and equips parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, visit our [Website](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

PROMOTING A LOVE OF EARLY WRITING

Mastering writing skills at an early age can result in better literacy and communication capabilities, giving children improved prospects in their later education and career. To write meaningfully requires motivation, inspiration and fine motor skills. Children gradually come to understand that writing has meaning and that the words they write can be read back again.

- 1 MODEL WRITING HABITS**
Children often copy the behaviours of the adults they observe around them, so modelling writing habits to them early on – such as reaching for a pen to grasp that writing has meaning. As many adults now write with digital devices instead of pen and paper, we'd recommend using obvious writing surfaces so that children can see how to maintain good posture when writing and how to hold a pen or pencil correctly.
- 2 WRITE FOR A REAL PURPOSE**
Adults can promote writing by involving children in real-life purposes, such as shopping lists or letters and cards to friends and family. This is easier said than done because when writing becomes more structured and task orientated, children may lose their interest in writing. Technology for their early writing, such as iPads, is important to encourage and engage all the forms that writing might take for children at home.
- 3 CREATE THE 'WRITE' ENVIRONMENT**
Where possible, providing accessible opportunities to write is beneficial for children, who need to engage in writing in a fun and playful way. To be fully prepared in the classroom, writing their concentration and letting them build up the amount of time they spend writing. They could keep paper, clipboards and a range of writing tools near their writing area. For example, they could also take their own writing tools to school.
- 4 UTILISE THEIR INTERESTS**
To inspire children to write and keep them motivated, relevant opportunities linked to their interests and play is important. They could write instructions for how to play a game or a list of rules. They could also write a story or a letter to a friend. These opportunities can be created organically by giving children access to a variety of writing tools in the environment.
- 5 CONSIDER THE PROCESS**
In terms of development, children generally learn to speak first. Then build their vocabulary and develop the fine motor coordination they need to participate in writing. All these stages are important and should be encouraged. As they grow older, children can be encouraged to use pictures and objects to support them to make links between the spoken language and written words.
- 6 FOCUS ON FINE MOTOR SKILLS**
Before learning to form letters, children will make marks as they learn how to hold instruments like pencils or crayons. To do this, they'll develop the necessary arm and movement in their fingers that's needed for writing. You can support this by engaging in play which builds these skills in both children and adults. Fine motor activities such as dough, string, tooth sticks, playdough, a field (cherry stems, for example) will also help.
- 7 PHASE IN PHONICS**
Using phonics builds the knowledge of sounds and the link of grapheme. For young children to be able to copy what they've learned is important. It's important that they get lots of opportunities to play and explore the sounds that make up words. Moving to more formal phonics, children can be encouraged to write words that they know. This is important as it helps children to see the link between the sound and the letter. Phonics should be able to be used in a variety of ways to introduce this.
- 8 BUILD A POSITIVE MINDSET**
In developing early writing skills, children engage in mark-making, which might not necessarily represent letters and can sometimes be symbols and pictures. Posing a child's effort here positively is an important aspect of writing. It's about demonstrating that they understand it's not just about making marks but about the meaning and meaning. Ask them to share what they've written. Encourage children to be proud of their work and try to avoid correcting them too much in the early stages.
- 9 TAKE REGULAR BREAKS**
While writing and early mark-making can be taught explicitly, children can also sometimes struggle to be fully present in class or engage with writing. Fully engaging them with writing is a challenge. You could try using some marks or writing a few words. Then try to make it fun. You could also focus on some movement breaks and having children to write in a particular way is key to ensuring they don't become disengaged.
- 10 LINK WRITING TO READING**
As children get older, you can (where reading is appropriate) highlight particular sounds in words – perhaps those with letters in the same letters in their names. You can also show the direction you're reading in to help them to read right to left in Arabic and so on, which will help them to see the connection between the writing and the reading. It's important to encourage children to begin writing and reading.

Meet Our Expert
Kara Kieren has worked in senior leadership positions both in the UK and internationally. She has worked for the UK and international education. She has delivered training for a range of organisations, including on EYF practice and child development. She has been head of a nursery and junior school and has also been a director of early years.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

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Car parking

In response to concerns from local residents, please can I ask parents and carers to be considerate when parking if you are driving to school, please do not to block driveways or pavements when parking.

We ask that parents do not park on Mapplewells Crescent or Henning Lane as we need to ensure that access to school is clear and that children are able to walk safely to and from school.

We highly recommend that where possible children and parents walk to school. This is to ensure the safety of all our fellow Mapplewellians.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and co-operation in this matter.



Can you help F2?

The F2 staff are wanting to improve the writing area within the unit to encourage children to do more independent writing and we need your help! If you have any of the following items, please could you give it to a member of the EYFS team:

- *notebooks
- *coloured/fancy paper
- *pencil crayons
- *range of pens/pencils
- *cards/envelopes
- *to do lists/shopping lists
- *party invitations

Thank you for your continued support, we really do appreciate it!

School Crossing Patrol vacancy

Via East Midlands is looking to recruit a School Crossing Patrol (Lollipop Person) to the site outside our school. The role is term time Mon - Fri £12.03 per hour. If you would like to find out more information, you can use the link below, or contact Via on 0115 9774373, or by email: roadsafety@viaem.co.uk¹.

To find out what current patrols like about their role in the community please visit Via's YouTube – Working for Via as a School Crossing Patrol – YouTube

¹<mailto:roadsafety@viaem.co.uk>

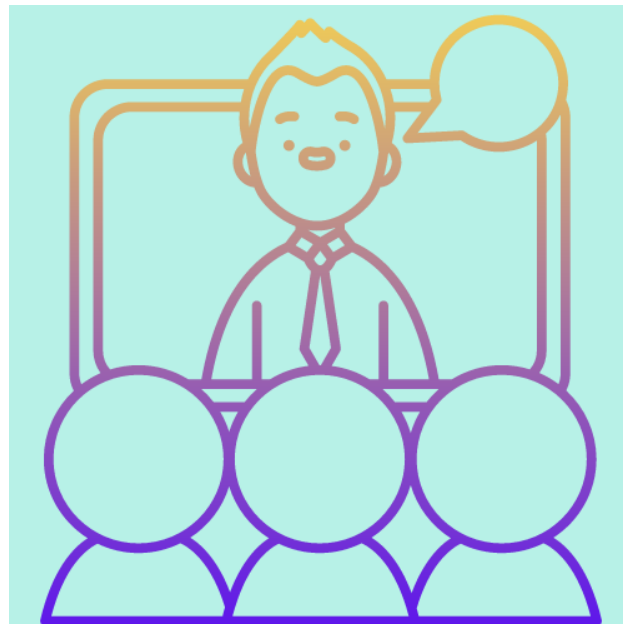
<https://www.viaem.co.uk/services/road-safety/school-crossing-patrols/>



Interoception and mental wellbeing in autistic children

We are planning to arrange an expert to come into school in September to do some interoception training with our parents. This session will be open to all, whether your child has a diagnosis of autism or not. Our SenCo Mrs Richards thought it might be useful to share a link on interoception from the Autism Education Trust so you can read whether this may be of interest - <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/professional-practice/interoception-wellbeing>

If this training sounds useful to you or your family please let us know what time of day suits you best by completing this survey - <https://forms.office.com/e/ZONSEUNPU1>



Fundraising

Friends Of Mapplewells are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

And here's the best part: for the next two weeks, every supporter who signs up to support Friends of Mapplewells through easyfundraising will trigger a £1 bonus donation!

Ready to make a difference? It only takes a few minutes to sign up. You can find our easyfundraising page at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-mapplewells/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=gs-email1

Thank you so much!



Year 3 & 4 Ancient Greek art exhibition

Year 3 and 4 hosted an Ancient Greek art exhibition for F2, KS1 and UKS2 this week.

They talked to their visitors about their pottery and the design process they went through to make it.

They also enjoyed showing their double page spreads and sharing lots of interesting facts about Ancient Greece lives, gods and goddesses and Olympics.

All of our visitor loved seeing the artwork, pottery and especially the amazing creative homework.



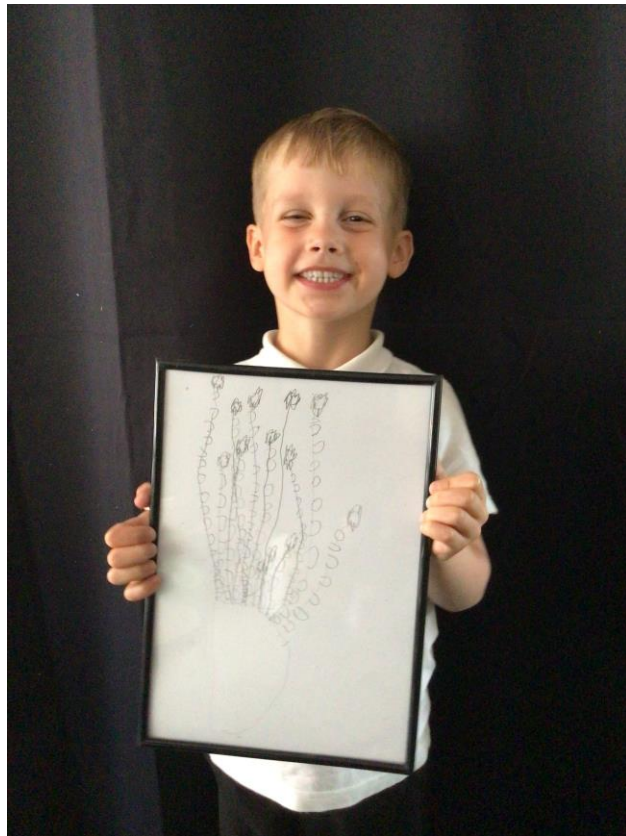




"Can nature inspire art?"

This week, the F2 children showcased their curriculum learning through answering the question "can nature inspire art?" The children have learnt about different artists and artistic skills before creating their own drawings and paintings based on flowers. We showcased our artwork in an art gallery for parents to come and see, and even had a visit from local artist, Paul Lillie! The children were very proud of their work and confidently told our visitors what they had learnt.













Rotary Club donation

A representative from the Rotary Club presented a check for £250 and £100 to restock our supply of children's books in KS2 and purchase lots of lovely new books for our reading area. Receiving the cheques are our Head Boy and Head Girl. The £250 is being matched by Friends of Mapplewells so we will have the amazing total sum of £600 ! We are extremely grateful to the Rotary Club for their generous support, and we know that our children will really benefit from having some lovely new books from a wide variety of authors. We look forward to welcoming the Rotary Club back to Mapplewells when the books arrive.





Local artist Paul Lille visits F1

F1 showcased their end of enquiry masterpiece with the local artist Paul Lille. Each child helped to create the finished piece by painting lots of different sections of paper to produce a final picture. The children were able to tell him about the colour mixing techniques they had learnt and how we created our collaborative piece of art.





KS2 Guitar lessons from September

If your child will be in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6 in September and they would like to learn to play the guitar, please find attached a link to register for Inspire Music lessons 2024-25 beginning in Autumn term <https://inspire2016.wufoo.com/forms/direct-billing-schools-autumn-2024-applications/>

If you wish to proceed with music lessons for the new year, then please complete the application link and submit by **19th July 2024**. After Autumn term, your application will automatically roll over and continue during the Spring 2025 and Summer 2025 terms. If you wish to cancel lessons during the academic year, then please contact imt@inspireculture.org.uk² to arrange this.

Please note, if you are currently receiving lessons and do not reapply, this will remove you from our lesson list for Autumn.

Thank you for your time and your continued support of music lessons. We will look forward to September and the start of the new year.

²<mailto:imt@inspireculture.org.uk>



European Football Championship Final

To celebrate England reaching the Euros final, children can come into school on Monday in football tops or in red, white and blue colours for the day. Fingers crossed that the trophy is coming home! 🏆🇬🇧



School garden

This year some of our year four children have grown some fruits and vegetables in our garden. They have done a lots of planning, from preparing the soil to picking what they would like to grow. The children are really excited about digging up the vegetables they have grown. They are growing potatoes, carrots, cabbages, leeks, beetroot, spring onion, pumpkins tomatoes, peas and beans as well as growing strawberries and raspberries.



Key dates

Please keep updated with our key dates as we will add to this over the coming weeks.

Diary Dates	
2023-24	
July	
Tuesday 16 th	F2 trip to Havenswood
Thursday 18 th	Flying High Partnership Awards Evening
Friday 19 th	Parent picnic
Friday 19 th	Summer discos
Friday 19 th	Year 6 treat night
Monday 22 nd	Start of class swap week
Friday 26 th	Last day of summer 2 term & non uniform day
2024-25	
September	
Monday 2 nd	INSET day
Tuesday 3 rd	INSET day
Wednesday 4 th	First day of Autumn term
February	
Monday 24 th	INSET day

Mr Whittle

Headteacher

Mr Latkowski

Deputy Headteacher