



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 17th May

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very busy week at Mapplewells once again and this week Year 6 have been in the spotlight as they have undertaken their SATs tests throughout the week. Each and everyone of them should be extremely proud of the hard work and effort they have put in this week and throughout the school year - we certainly are.

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.



The Importance of School Attendance

Our current school attendance after 31 weeks is **95%** but we want to aim for over 97%. With your continuing support we believe that this remains achievable for this academic year, and we will continue to provide your children with enriching educational opportunities every day.

Additionally, some children are missing out on part of their education by arriving late to school. The gates are open from 8:30am. Please make sure your child arrives before 8:50am when the gates close. We are monitoring punctuality very closely and may contact you if we have a concern

Our current attendance by class is:

Birch - 96%

Elder - 94%

Elm - 97%

Hazel - 95%

Hawthorn - 96%

Oak - 95%

Maple - 96%

Juniper - 96%

Pine - 93%

Rowan - 96%

Willow - 96%

Well done to Elm class 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.

Ash - Theo

Birch - Dylan

Elder - Alex

Elm - Alice

Hawthorn - Harper

Hazel - Jude

Oak - Henry

Maple - James

Juniper - Harriet

Pine - Louie

Rowan - Maddison

Willow - All of Year 6!



Year 6 SATS

A huge well done to all of our Year 6s, who have this week completed their SATs tests. A week of spelling and grammar, reading and maths has been conquered thanks to the determination, resilience and hard work of all the children and staff involved. We are very proud of how the children have applied themselves throughout the week and they thoroughly deserved their celebratory McFlurry on Thursday afternoon.

Well done to all involved.

INSET day

Reminder that next Friday 24th May is INSET day.



Year 3 Residential - Sherwood Forest and Walesby

The Year 3s had a fantastic time on their overnight residential at Sherwood Forest and Walesby last week. They all enjoyed taking part in many activities, such as soft archery, animal den building, zipline, assault course, indoor rock climbing and laser tag. We ended the evening with songs around the campfire and all had lots of fun in the sun.







ScoPay

We have been informed by ScoPay that they are making changes to their app that parents/carers use to make payments. Going forward all payments including school meals, breakfast club and trips will need to be made via the ScoPay website. If you have any issues with making payments via the website please let a member of the office team know.

You can login to the Scopay website here - <https://www.scopay.com/login>



Forest school & the foundation playground

A reminder that the play equipment in the Foundation play area should not be used at all before or after school as the staff work very hard to set up activities for the session which are often spoilt if the resources have been used or moved.

The same applies for Forest School - this area should not be used before or after school session times.

Nursery places available for September 2024

Applications are open for a place in our Nursery from September 2023. We offer 15 hours or 30 hours places.

F1 is open 5 days a week. 15 hours sessions are either morning or afternoon. The morning session is from 8.35am to 11.35am, and the afternoon session is from 12.35pm to 3.35pm. We also now offer 30 hours funded childcare. These sessions are 8.35am-3.35pm which are broken down into two 3 hour sessions with an hour lunch in between.

If you would like a place for your child then please contact the school office for an application form or visit our website. Further information about admissions to Nursery and Reception can be found on the school website <https://www.maplewellprimary.co.uk/admissions/>

Please note, a place in our Nursery does not guarantee a place in Reception



Online Safety



Internet Safety



<http://www.netsmartzkids.org>

What Parents and Carers Need to Know About Helldivers 2

Within the last few months, Helldivers 2 has propelled to immense popularity in the gaming community, with players of all ages enjoying its frenetic combat, humorous presentation, and challenging gameplay. Whether they're cooperating with friends or competing with strangers, the game has attracted many young players despite its higher age rating.

As can be expected from an online game – especially one rated 18+ – there are several inherent online safety risks posed to children and young people who play Helldivers 2; from the content of the game itself to the dangers of interacting with strangers online. Our guide highlights the most prominent hazards of Helldivers 2 and provides you with top tips for keeping its younger players safe.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2

At the National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip 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 digital change. Formerly published by National Cyber Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

Within weeks of release, *Helldivers 2* had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2018 has exceeded sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

PEGI 18 RATING
 Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, *Helldivers 2* carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are permitted to fight, kill and destroy other players and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether this is a game appropriate for younger players.

FRUSTRATION TRIGGER
 The thrill of barely scraping through a demanding mission in this game is integral to *Helldivers 2*'s appeal. Unfortunately, the feeling of achievement in this game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who have high stamina and enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly frustrating, so repeated failure in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

LACK OF ACCESS
 The game is available on PC and PS5, but not Xbox and on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and game lock the same suggested approach to user interface and in-game purchases as *Helldivers 2*.

IN-GAME PURCHASES
 In *Helldivers 2*, players can use real money to buy in-game currency with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending as much as a penny, but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the pressure to purchase new weapons more quickly than their in-game currency allows through play.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING
Helldivers 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game text to coordinate, strategise or just have a laugh. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this increases a risk of abuse, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can restrict/adjust other players' abusive behaviour via the game's 'social tab'.

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST
Helldivers 2 is a three-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements. But much of its comedy is based on player gets killed and gives up shortly after reaching the game. It's worth getting to know the game's controls and mechanics first, so you can see whether it's worth considering whether *Helldivers 2* is really the game for them.

SET EXPECTATIONS
 At the time of writing, *Helldivers 2* costs £34.99. It could seem like an expensive and essential purchase if a player gets killed and gives up shortly after reaching the game. It's worth getting to know the game's controls and mechanics first, so you can see whether it's worth considering whether *Helldivers 2* is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES
 If playing on Xbox – where *Helldivers 2* isn't available – consider something like *Call of Duty: Warzone* as an alternative. One of its game modes – 'Hardline' – replicates *Helldivers 2*'s mission to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted *Overwatch* game, which sees them play as fantasy divers in space, floating for less gruesome violence.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS
 Many titles offer in-game purchases, but *Helldivers 2*'s are comparatively cheap. You still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account) to see your child hasn't spent more money on the game than you intended. However, the game's setting methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS
 Thanks to an in-game "ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't integral to *Helldivers 2* as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat system in-game on PC, or via Xbox's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

Meet Our Expert
 Ulysses Coleman is the Editor in Chief of OfCom, and has been working in the public media industry for 16 years. As well as being an award-winning game journalist, he is also a parent, and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and games, his work has been published on sites including *OK!*, *Technik* and many more.

WakeUpWednesday | The National College

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.05.2024

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!

Breakfast Club

We are delighted that Breakfast Club has become increasingly popular provides a valuable service to our Mapplewellian children and families.

Recently there has been a sharp increase in the numbers attending and this means that on occasions we have reached the supervision limit set within our Breakfast Club Policy. Owing to this, we will be

reinforcing the pre-book/pre-pay system that the club was initially set up with. **Starting from Monday 13th May** your child will need to be booked into Breakfast Club by the Thursday prior to the week they are attending in order for us to be able to make appropriate supervision arrangements. **Children will not be accepted to Breakfast Club without prior booking unless there are exceptional circumstances.**

Parents/carers need to pre-book and pay for their child's place prior to them attending in order to maintain the correct staff/pupil ratio and first aid administration. As attendance was low, children were occasionally admitted on a daily basis without prior booking as there was no concern over reaching the supervision limit.

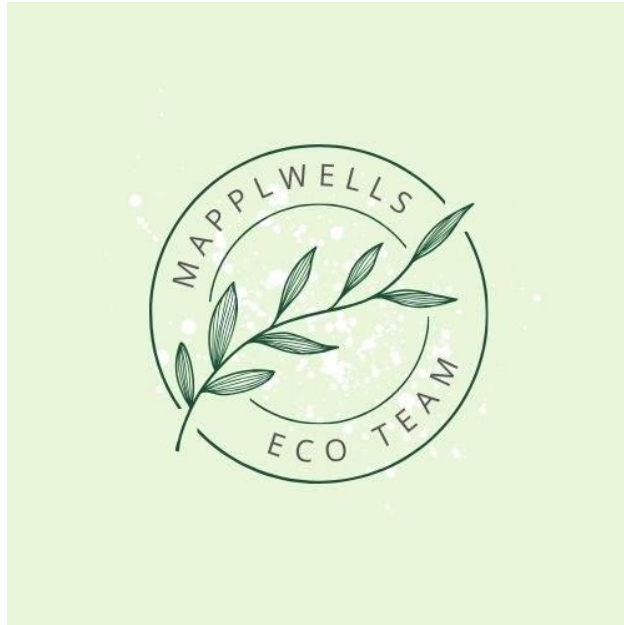
Bookings should be made via ScoPay up to 48 hours in advance, we understand with busy lives there may be an occasional need to book with less than 48 hours notice, if this is the case you will need to call the office team so we can book this for you.



Eco Team

Children from each key stage will be working together with Miss Joy to look after our environment and to innovate ways to keep Mapplewells as eco friendly as possible. Every Friday, the Eco Team will look around the classrooms to decide which class is being the most eco friendly and looking after their environment the best! The winning classes will receive a certificate in SUCCESS Assembly to display in their classrooms.

Eco Team winners this week are all of Birch & Juniper classes.



School photos

A photographer from Jane Stapleton Photography will be coming into school on Monday 10th June to take class photographs for F1 through to Year 6.

They will also be taking the Year 6 individual leavers photos.

If you missed out on a sibling photo earlier this year we are offering the chance to have one taken on this date. If you wish to have a family photograph taken of brothers and sisters in school on 10th June, we ask that you complete this survey by 3pm on Wednesday 5th June 2024 - <https://forms.office.com/e/TYRXPcUtvk>



Year 3 & 4 made the news!

The Year 3 and 4s have some exciting news to share - their fundraising event has made The Chad newspaper. The children worked really hard to create and sell their pizzas. They taught KS1 children about the natural disasters they have been learning about and the importance of the chosen charity - The British Red Cross. All of the children felt really proud to know their efforts have had a contribution to help people in crisis.

Follow this link to read the full article <https://www.chad.co.uk/education/mapplewells-primary-school-children-make-pizzas-to-raise-money-for-red-cross-disaster-fund-4629895>

Mapplewells Primary School children make pizzas to raise money for Red Cross Disaster Fund



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and live on Freeview channel 276

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Children at Mapplewells Primary & Nursery School have used their school lessons to inspire a fundraiser for The British Red Cross Disaster Fund.

Year 3 and 4 children came up with the idea by combining knowledge gained during their lessons.

During their DT curriculum, children learned how to create healthy pizza's, demonstrating hygienic food preparation by thoroughly washing their hands and cleaning down tables. All children followed instructions they had written, using their knowledge of fractions to accurately weigh out the flour and measure the warm water. Working together they made perfectly smooth consistency for their pizza dough before adding a range of healthy toppings, as part of a balanced diet.

Children then sold the pizzas at breaktime to the whole school to raise money for The British Red Cross for their earthquake appeal, which children have been learning about throughout their Curriculum Enquiry of Natural disasters.



Children with their delicious pizzas

Year 3 / 4 Teacher Hannah Morrell explained, "During breaktime, children sold their pizzas to raise money for their chosen cause. They talked to their customers about the charity to help spread awareness and even taught Key Stage 1 children about the natural disasters they have learnt about in their Enquiry lessons. They talked about the importance of raising money and sharing what we have with others in need. We are proud to announce the total amount children raised was £84."

Happy customer Harry is in Foundation 2 class and said, "This pizza is yummy, I really like it!"

Year 3 pupil Tilly was tasked with counting the proceeds and said, "Wow, we raised so much money from our pizzas. We can now give it to a good, deserving cause. It feels so good to give money to people who need it, especially now we know about the destruction earthquakes cause."

Teacher, Hannah Morrell said, "All the children learnt valuable skills of raising money for the British Red Cross. This charity was specifically selected by the Year 3 and 4 Team at Mapplewells. It enabled the children to link their learning of natural disasters and apply it to the real-life events which have occurred. It allowed the children to research these events, becoming more aware and knowledgeable about the wider world. Well done to everyone for their efforts."

Mr Murray, the triathlete

Congratulations to our very own PE Lead, Mr Murray, on his first triathlon last weekend. The course included a open water swim of 750m followed by 22km on the bike and finally a 5km run which he completed in 1.5hrs. Well done!



Yr3's Greek visitor

Today the Year 3s had a special visitor from Ancient Greece, Helen of Troy.

The children asked lots of questions to find out more about her life, in preparation for their biography writing in English. All children loved learning about Helen's hobbies and life in Ancient Greece.



Key dates

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

Diary Dates	
2023-24	
May	
Monday 20 th	Year 5 residential
Thursday 23 rd	last day of Summer 1 term
Friday 24 th	INSET day
June	
Monday 3 rd	First day of Summer 2 term
Monday 3 rd	Year 6 residential
Monday 10 th	Class photos & year 6 leavers photos
Thursday 27 th	Year 2 residential
July	
Monday 1 st	Sports day – EYFS & KS1 am and KS2 pm
Friday 5 th	Summer fair
Friday 12 th	Year 1 trip to Robin Hoods Wheelgate Park
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
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

Thank you for your continued support - SUCCESS is in our hands.

Mr Whittle

Headteacher

Mr Latkowski

Deputy Headteacher