



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 22nd March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very busy week comes to an end once again at Mapplewells and this week has been full of amazing things. We have enjoyed fantastic parents' evenings, both virtual and in person, boys and girls football matches and a walk to discover Sutton to name but a few.

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 25 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 - 94%

Hawthorn - 95%

Oak - 94%

Maple - 96%

Juniper - 96%

Pine - 94%

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.

SUCCESS is in our hands

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 - Eve

Birch - Robin

Elder - Emily

Elm - Jasper

Hawthorn - Thea

Hazel - Ralph

Oak - Sienna

Maple - Elsie

Juniper - Emily

Pine - Finley

Rowan - Eliza

Willow - Amelie



Sports News

Huge congratulation to the boys football team who beat Morvern Park by a massive 6-0 this week!



Uniform

We would like to remind our Mapplewellian family that children are only permitted to wear their PE kits on their specified PE days.

At all other times children are expected to be in full school uniform. A copy of the school uniform policy can be found here: <https://primarysite-prod->

sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/mapplewellsprimarynurserysutton/UploadedDocument/a1bc63c5-9027-4f9b-912b-efb2ba55192e/school-uniform-policy-2023-mapplewells.pdf

In addition, we have noticed a number of children wearing nails and make up. As stated in our school uniform policy: *'Make-up, nail varnish and non-natural hair colours are not considered appropriate in our learning environment. Make up and nail varnish must not be worn, nor should pupils adopt non-natural hair colourings.'*

Thank you for your continued support

Children's Parliament

On Wednesday afternoon, Head Boy, Josh and Head Girl, Jess attended the Flying High Children's Parliament. Joined by children from school across the Flying High Partnership, it was an opportunity for the children to discuss and share ideas on sustainability at Mapplewells and beyond. Jess and Josh shared about the school's uniform drive and plans to develop the sensory garden. They also worked collaboratively with children from the other schools on new upcoming projects.





Internet Safety



<http://www.netsmartzkids.org>

What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Tekken 8

Since they were first played in arcades on oversized machines, fighting games have found their way not only into our homes via consoles and PCs, but also – in the case of franchises like Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat – into the pop culture elite, with merchandise and movie adaptations. The most recent entrant to the arena is Tekken 8, which recently launched to critical acclaim.

With a cast of colourful combatants, Tekken offers an adrenalin hit of fast-paced fisticuffs and slick presentation. As with any fighting game, however, Tekken's competitive nature and focus on violence may not be ideal for the younger element of its user-base. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide has some top tips for allowing fans of virtual martial arts to enjoy the action more safely.

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. Formally published by National Cyber Security, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TEKKEN 8

Thirty years after its debut on the original PlayStation, the Tekken franchise is back with its eighth mainstream installment. A one-on-one fighting game series in the same vein as Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, Tekken 8 can be commended for its relative lack of in-game purchases – but there's still plenty to consider in keeping young players safe from potential hazards.

AGE RESTRICTIONS
PEGI 16

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FUTURE SPENDING?
 Tekken 8 carries a PEGI 16 rating, with the reviewer noting its violence, occasional gore and in-game purchase options. The latter item, however, is a little upmarket in what is usually a genre of free-to-play, casual, multi-player games. Tekken 8's content is all-for-avail without spending any extra money, the exceptions are two DLC characters, which will become available to purchase separately from the game.

FAMILY CONFLICT
 Tekken 8's story mode, 'The Dark Awakened', focuses on two of the series' most important characters – 'Iron Horse' Dr. Dr. Heihachi and son who have been rearing 'lost souls'. The plot of the family feud may be over-the-top, fighting about 'other things he needs to do' (and 'other people to deal with') for some children – causing confusion and concern over why relatives would want to hurt one another.

COPYCAT RISK
 With characters flying across the screen using a mixture of punches and increased fighting styles, younger children and impressionable teens may be tempted to imitate the moves. Real-world incidents of children copying what they see in real life. This could simply amount to harmless fun, but could also lead to real-world accidents. It's your best friend if young gamers start mimicking bad habits.

RANKED ONLINE PLAY
 Tekken 8 features an array of online modes, most notably its 'Ranked Action' where players battle to reach the top spot of a worldwide leaderboard. Many players will be competing for significant amounts of time to practise and – while challenges can be fun – some of these matches can get extremely competitive. Children could become obsessed with climbing the rankings and dedicate an unhealthy amount of time to the game or game mode if they wind up on a losing streak.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY
 As a fighting game, Tekken 8's gameplay is heavily based on punching, kicking and throwing opponents around. While some characters' attacks occasionally involve weapons (such as the electrically charged 'Thunder' in its evolution 'Thundering in the Storm'), for the most part the action is effective and intense combat and inflicting damage on opponents.

ONLINE CONTACT
 Tekken 8 doesn't offer voice chat by default, but if players do opt to enable it on their PlayStation Network ID, Steam account or Xbox gamertag, they'll be able to communicate via text messages if they wish. Given the game's family-compatibility rating, there's a communication can potentially put children at risk of online abuse if their opponents are particularly sore losers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TRY IT OUT YOURSELF
 As with many popular games, we'd recommend checking it out for yourself to determine if it has any concerns. In the case of Tekken 8, there's a free demo version available (for all platforms) which lets you experience a fight with a handful of the characters. A useful way of establishing for yourself whether some children might find the game's violence to be too intense.

EXERCISE YOUR JUDGEMENT
 While Tekken 8 features a sort of 'spray' impact effect when attacks land, it's not the kind of game that most children would describe as 'gory' (unlike, for instance, the Mortal Kombat franchise). Of course, any fighting game worthy of the name will include a significant degree of violence – but the level of which the battles in Tekken are pitched may not be an issue for some children.

MARTIAL ARTS MOTIVATION?
 With characters utilising real-world fighting styles such as Jiu-Jitsu, boxing and kickboxing, Tekken could represent an opportunity for parents to channel the game into a beneficial interest in real-world martial arts. Classes can help to build young people's confidence and physical fitness, as well as providing avenues for making new friends.

CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS
 If a child plays Tekken online with anyone apart from their friends, then parents and carers could consider restricting communications – such as disabling the facility to be messaged by other players (although the child's profile name will still be displayed). To reduce the chance of contact from strangers, this can be done via the console's account settings or through the child's Steam account (if playing on PC).

Meet Our Expert
 Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site DigiSec, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety. Writing mostly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

WakeUpWednesday
The National College

www.nationalcollege.com

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 06.03.2024

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.



Easter celebrations

Decorated Eggs

Our annual Easter Egg competition will take place on the Thursday 28th March. Each child will therefore need to bring a HARD-BOILED egg to school on that day please. The children are also welcome to bring in any resources which they would like to use to decorate their egg or they can decorate their egg at home.

Easter Bonnets

Our annual Easter bonnet parade will also be held on Thursday 28th March during the Easter Assembly. As in previous years this is an opportunity for you and your child/ren to spend some creative time designing and making a bonnet at home. The children can then bring their bonnets to school.

Please see your child's class teacher if you have any further questions regarding the Easter celebrations.

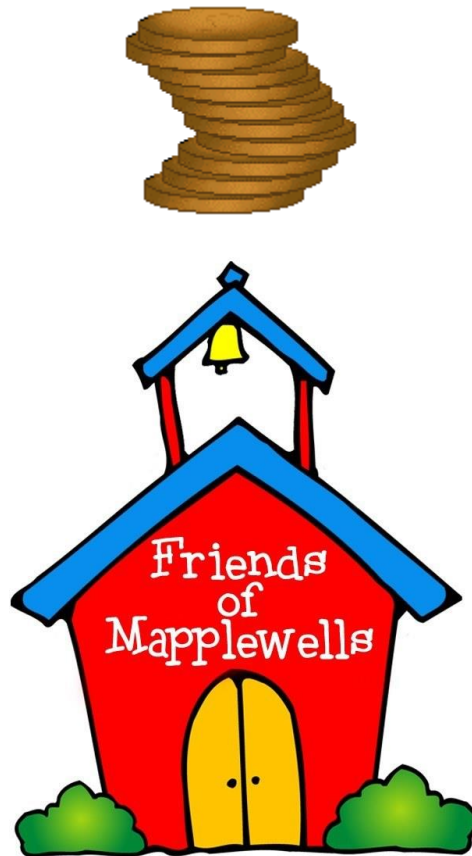


Copper Challenge

Friends of Mapplewells have arranged a Copper Challenge for March. Each class will be allocated a jar and during March the children are being asked to bring in as many copper coins as possible to fill it (English currency only please!). The class who raises the most money by the end of the month will be rewarded with a prize.

The jars will be available daily in the classrooms for children to make their deposits from Friday 1st March up until Thursday 28th March.

We would be very grateful if you could please support our school by saving your loose change for your child's/children's class to collect – thank you!



Flying High Partnership Awards Evening

We are proud to announce that we will be hosting our annual Flying High Partnership Awards Evening on Thursday 18th July, 5:30pm-7:30pm. Our awards evening will be held at the Motorpoint Arena Nottingham.

During the evening there will be music, speeches and most importantly recognition and celebration of children, staff, families, governors, and community members across all 33 schools. To identify the winners to be invited to receive their award, we need your help.

Please can you use the link below to submit any nominations you wish to put forward – you can put forward as many nominations as you wish

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4MQ8K0TtE06j7kRzuVcCGkYpzlhZHZKlcr4-Vg9ieFUOExCMTVXMUtVNFdYQTNVSDNNTko5OFRKNy4u>

Please see the dojo post for further details



School photos - date change

Jane Stapleton Photography will be in school on Thursday 25th April to take individual and sibling group photographs of the children, not at the end of March as previously communicated.

Mapplewells in the news

As you are aware, our school results, published on December 14th, show that 90% of our pupils achieved or exceeded the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of KS2. These amazing results, mean that Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School, is in the top 2% of primary schools in the whole country.

This is down to the hard and dedication of the children, staff and whole Mapplewellian community. What an amazing achievement - see the Nottingham Post article below for some more stats!

Revealed: the primary schools in Nottinghamshire with the best reading, writing and maths attainment

New data has revealed the Nottinghamshire primary schools with the highest reading, writing and maths scores for 2022-23.

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A child during a Year 5 class at a primary school in Yorkshire, PA. Photo: Picture date: Wednesday November 27, 2019. Photo credit should read: Danny Lawson/PA Wire

New data has revealed the Nottinghamshire primary schools with the highest reading, writing and maths scores for 2022-23.

The National Association of Head Teachers said government investment is needed to help pupils recover from the pandemic, as figures show the proportion of students meeting the expected mark is well below pre-pandemic levels.

Pupils scoring at least a scaled score of 100 out of 120 will have met the expected standard in the test.

In Nottinghamshire, three schools shared the top spot with 100% of eligible students achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in key stage two in the 2022-23 school year.

These were the following schools:

- Forest Glade Primary School
- Bunny Church of England Primary School

These schools were then followed by:

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- Langar Church of England Primary School, where 92% of pupils met the standard
- Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School, where 90% of pupils met the standard
- Brookside Primary School, where 90% of pupils met the standard
- Pierrepont Gamston Primary School, where 90% of pupils met the standard

However, school leaders' union the NAHT said ranking schools is simplistic and does not consider the context of the particular cohort or the community the school serves.

General secretary Paul Whiteman added: "No piece of data can provide an accurate picture of the effectiveness of schools, whose work goes far beyond that number, and league tables and ranking of schools should be scrapped.

"They can have damaging consequences and can actually be a barrier to improvement."

The Government aims for 90% of key stage two children to meet the expected standard in reading, writing and maths.

Overall in England, 60% of students met the standard in 2022-23 – up from 59% the year before but below 65% in 2018-19, before the pandemic.

While Mr Whiteman said key stage two tests can identify "broad concerns", he added government investment is ultimately needed to see improvements.

He said: "Ministers failed to provide anything like the funding recommended by the Government's education recovery tsar to help pupils recover from the pandemic."

Sir Kevan Collins, former education recovery tsar, proposed a £15 billion long-term catch-up programme for children whose learning has been disrupted by the pandemic.

A Department of Education spokesperson said: "We know the pandemic had a significant impact on education globally which is why we have made £5 billion available since 2020 for education recovery initiatives, including just under five million tutoring course starts to date supporting pupils in all corners of the country."

They added England outperformed the international average in maths, reading and science.

KS1 "What makes Sutton unique?"

KS1 enjoyed a local walk into Sutton town centre this week to look at what makes Sutton unique and to think about ways we could make Sutton-in-Ashfield better. The children came up with lots of ideas and enjoyed seeing different parts of Sutton too.

Thank you to all the parents who came with us and made the walk possible.





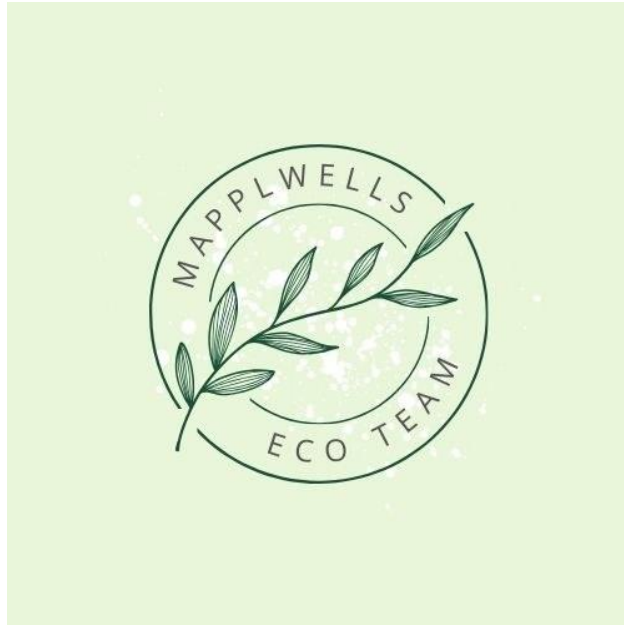




Eco Team

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.

This week's winners are: Miss Coleman and F1 and Miss Tolan and Juniper. Well done!



KS1 Teddy Bear Picnic

As part of our DT learning, the children had to make a hot dish this term and we voted for Victoria Sponge cupcakes to enhance their understanding of our enquiry question: What makes the UK unique? We had also been using our English lessons to apply our knowledge of what makes the UK unique by writing an adventure story about Paddington Bear visiting Buckingham Palace. To tie this altogether, we enjoyed our cakes at a teddy bear themed picnic. The children worked so sensibly to make their cakes which were delicious and we enjoyed having our teddies!







Key dates

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

Diary Dates	
2023-24	
March	
Thursday 28 th	Easter celebrations & non uniform day
Thursday 28 th	Last day of spring 2 term
April	
Monday 15 th	First day of Summer term
Thursday 18 th	Year 4 residential
Thursday 25 th	Individual school photos
May	
Thursday 9 th	Year 3 residential
Monday 13 th	Year 6 SATs week
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	
Thursday 18 th	Flying High Partnership Awards Evening
Friday 26 th	Last day of summer 2 term & non uniform day

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

Mr Whittle

Headteacher

Mr Latkowski

Deputy Headteacher