



# Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 1st March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It really feels like spring is well and truly on its way, with longer days and hopefully milder temperatures. We have lots coming up at Mapplewells, including World Book Day and Comic Relief 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 22 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 - 95%

Elm - 97%

Hazel - 94%

Hawthorn - 95%

Oak - 94%

Maple - 96%

Juniper - 95%

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 - Noah

Birch - Emily

Elder - Jack

Elm - Amelie

Hawthorn - Eliza

Hazel - Pristine

Oak - Ava

Maple - Lollie

Juniper - Stevie

Pine - Seren

Rowan - Logan

Willow - Scarlett



## Letter from the Minister for Schools

We were delighted to this week receive a letter from Damian Hinds, Minister for Schools, congratulating the school on their end of KS2 results.

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. What an amazing achievement!

This is down to the hard and dedication of the children, staff and whole Mapplewellian community. Well done to everyone.



**Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP**  
Minister for Schools

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe

Mr A Whittle  
Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School  
Henning Lane  
Nottinghamshire  
NG17 1HU

5 February 2024

*D. Mr Whittle,*

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on the very high standard of achievement demonstrated in the reading, writing and mathematics Key Stage 2 assessment last year.

Your school's results, as published on 14 December, show that 90 per cent of your pupils reached or exceeded the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of Key stage 2. This means that for achievement in reading, writing and mathematics, Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School is in the top 2 per cent of primary schools in the country.

The government wants to ensure that every child has the fluency in reading, writing and mathematics necessary to prepare them for a successful secondary education and beyond, which is why I was delighted to see your results.

Thank you for your work in continuing the drive towards higher academic standards, and congratulations again to you and your staff for your commitment and success.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

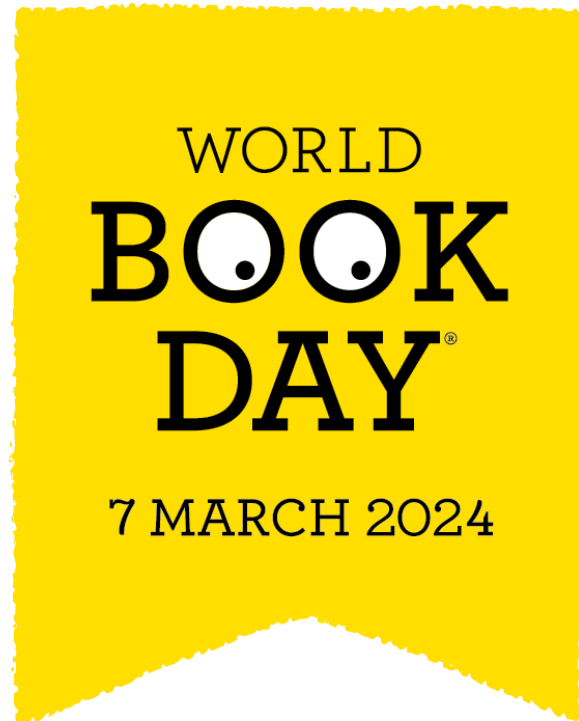
*D. Hinds*

**Damian Hinds**  
Minister for Schools

## World Book Day 2024

World Book Day will be taking place on Thursday 7 March 2024. This annual celebration of authors, illustrators, books and the joy of reading is about celebrating books and reading all year round.

As a way to celebrate our favourite books, we are inviting the children to dress up to represent something linked to reading. This could be as their favourite character from a story, an author whose books they love to read or a word they've discovered in a recent book. For more details please see the letter on Class Dojo.



## Sports kits

It has come to our attention that we are missing quite a lot of our new sports kits. If anyone has any sports kits/items at home, please return them to school as soon as possible. The kits are in a numbered drawstring bag.

We have events coming up shortly and currently don't have enough kits to go around.



# Internet Safety



<http://www.netsmartzkids.org>

## **What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Group Chats**

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as bullying, inappropriate content and unknown members.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trained adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trained adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, tips and tips for carers.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are especially aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If the person is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways. Starting a new group for interests but factually excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on a platform which doesn't have a place to 'mention' (they can't be involved & chat but take part through when a group chat is started) or a chat which is not on a device that everyone else has then left out.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some platforms in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and undesirable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whereas the content may not be visible to you. Some chat apps have a 'report' or 'block' function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

### SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or even before they've posted. The risk of something your child posted in a group chat becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the chat, but not necessarily friends of your child. It's vital for young people not to share personal details or photos because they have no way of knowing who else might see them when they've put them online.

### NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A constant stream of group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be pinged with an alert; potentially, not necessarily friendly towards your child. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This should cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage them to consider how other people might feel if they disagreed in this behaviour. If your child sees (and a member of their group chat) support them to reach out, where appropriate and apologise for their mistake.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Encourage them to think about whether it's appropriate to share their details (like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen online) outside their chat conversation. If shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

### AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Easily, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they don't comfortably with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

### GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Support your child if they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put every back in context by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the sender, sending the material, report them to the host of the chatroom and leave the group. If any of this content could be picked a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's not for them to simply leave the group chat if they don't feel comfortable being a part of it.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive distraction and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to mute the notifications and catch up with the chat invitation at a time which better suits them.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr Claire Buchanan is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher and has developed and implemented contributing and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written several academic papers and worked on research for the Australian government comparing internet use and setting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) @natonlinesafety NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.04.2022

## 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.



## Spring 2024 Parents' Evenings

The booking slots will be released at 6pm on **Monday 4th March**. You will receive an email from Primary Site, our web host, inviting you to book your slot. Please ensure you book by Monday 17th March at the latest.



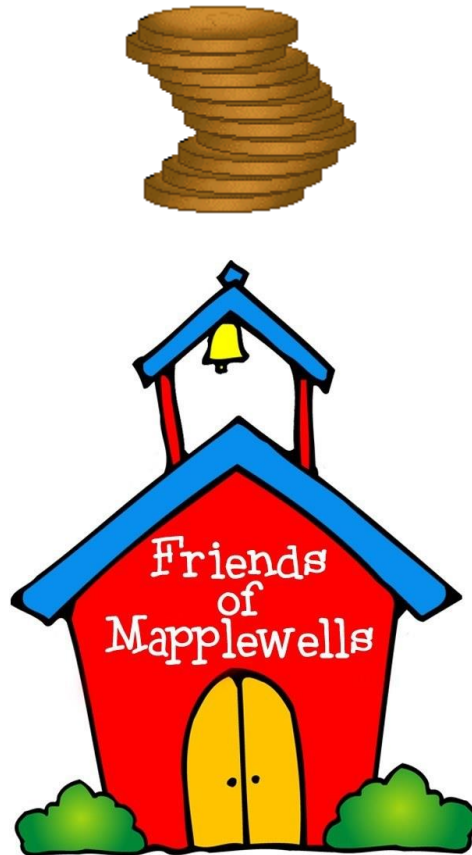
## Parents' Evenings

## 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!



## Eco Team

Introducing Mapplewells' very own Eco Team!

- Kobi
- Maisie
- Laura
- Mya
- Henry R
- Callum K

- Eli
- Sienna

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:

Elder and Miss Ellis, Rowan and Mr Binnion

Well done everyone!

## 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=4MQ8K0TtE06j7kRzuVcCGkJYpzIhZHZKlcr4-Vg9ieFUOExCMTVXMUtVNFdYQTNVSDNNTko5OFRKNy4u>

Please see the dojo post for further details



# Flying High Partnership

EYFS Open

**For parents of F1 and F2 only** - Please come to our stay and play afternoon on 12th March!



MAPPLEWELLS PRIMARY SCHOOL  
HENNING LANE  
SUTTON IN ASHFIELD

**EYFS**  
**OPENING EVENING**

RAFFLE TICKETS  
£1

Come and take a look at our wonderful environment and take part in activities with your child

TEA, COFFEE AND BISCUITS  
£1

TUESDAY MARCH 12TH 2024  
3:30 - 4:30PM



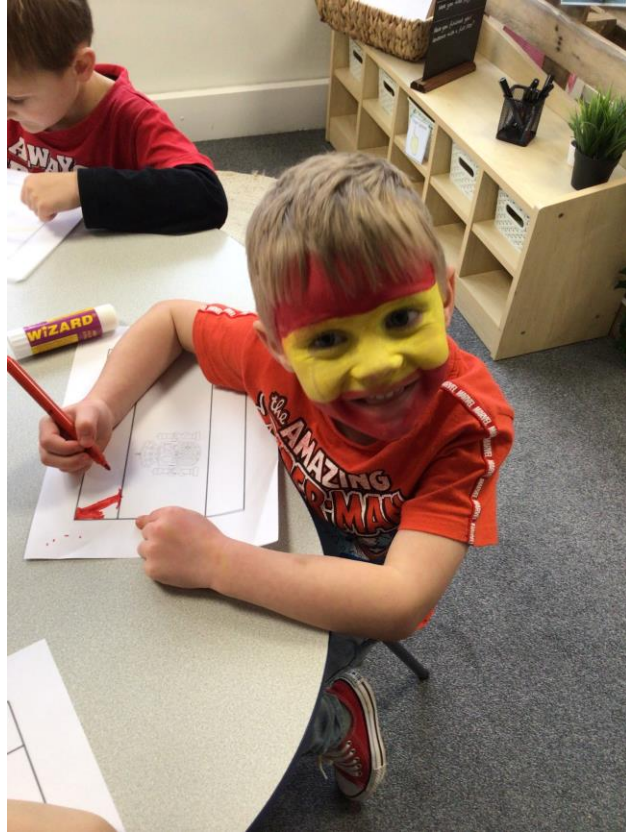
## Y3 Mental Health Workshop

Year 3 took part in a Mental Health and Resilience workshop on Wednesday led by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS service. Children were given the chance to practise mindfulness techniques and discuss their successes. They were shown different ways to manage their emotions and all enjoyed discussing their feelings.

## F2 Spanish Day

We had a fantastic time at our Spanish day! We ate some tapas, learnt some Spanish language, made a Spanish flag and did some paso doble dancing!















## Learning about autism workshop - Tuesday 5th March

Simon will lead a relaxed discussion for parents and anyone who is interested in learning more about autism within a context of positivity. Everyone is welcome! Simon Bentley is District SENCo for the Ashfield Family of Schools. As a specialist teacher, he works within mainstream schools in Nottinghamshire. He advises them on all aspects of support & provision for autistic children. Simon supports schools in their use of the Autism Education Trust framework and resources by leading training, thinking and professional development in this area.

**His approach is wonderfully positive, optimistic and inspiring. He is a great advocate for all autistic children and adults.**

We are thrilled to offer this opportunity. At Mapplewells we want to ensure that parents have access to the latest understanding around autism and have opportunities to access Local Authority experts and advice.

**Everyone is welcome. Please, please come and join us. We will be thrilled to see you!**

**Date:** Tuesday 5th March

**Time:** 4pm (please arrive at 3:45pm to get a drink & seat!)

**Location:** Mapplewells School – Come to the office.

**This is a free event.**

## Debate club

A huge well done to our Debate Club 2024 team! A fantastic performance from everyone.



## Key dates

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

Diary Dates	
2023-24	
March	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Learning about autism workshop
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Spring 2024 Parents' Evenings – in school
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Spring 2024 Parents' Evenings – online
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Spring 2024 Parents' Evenings – in school
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	school photos
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of spring 2 term
April	
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	First day of Summer term
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 residential
May	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 residential
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 residential
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	last day of Summer 1 term
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	INSET day
June	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	First day of Summer 2 term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 6 residential
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 residential
July	
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Flying High Partnership Awards Evening
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of summer 2 term

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

Mr Whittle

Headteacher

Mr Latkowski

Deputy Headteacher