



# Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 9th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another week and another half-term has flown by and as always, the children and staff have been really busy. Here at Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School, we are passionate about providing an exceptional, innovative education that inspires and empowers our pupils, in every class, every day!

We aim to develop confident, resilient, independent lifelong learners and this has been evident in the lessons I have visited this week. I am always blown away by the children's articulation about their learning and the pride they have in themselves.

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 20 weeks is 95.5% 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 - Flora

Birch - Gracie

Elder - Hope

Elm - Eli

Hazel - Imogen

Maple - Lucy Mae

Juniper - Alfie

Pine - Tommy

Willow - Taryn



## Debate Club

Today, the Debate Club competition took place at Kirkstead Primary School amongst the schools within the Flying High Trust.

The children at Mapplewells have spent many weeks practising for the competition. They have used their pupil voice and pupil speaking skills to argue for and against a range of topics. The children presented their arguments in front of a panel of judges. A huge well done to all for their hard work to practise their arguments and research the topics. We are awaiting the final results so watch this space.

## Children's Mental Health Week

This week was Children's Mental Health Week and the theme this year is 'my voice matters'. The children had an assembly based upon this theme, during which we explored that everybody is important and everybody's voice matters.

Please find attached some top tips for families to ensure that all children feel that their voices are heard. Alternatively, please visit Families - Children's Mental Health Week ([childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk](http://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk))<sup>1</sup> for more ideas and information.

# My VOICE MATTERS

Place2Be's  
**CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
WEEK**

## TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

### Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?

This Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, whoever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe – "My Voice Matters".

We visited primary and secondary schools to ask students what they wanted from the week – to help shape the activities we create for schools; the messaging we give to teachers, the tips we give to other children, and the advice we give to parents, carers and families.



### LOOKING FOR FREE PRACTICAL ADVICE TO HELP YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour, and act on their views.

[PARENTINGSMART.ORG.UK](https://parentingsmart.org.uk)

### Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- 1 We don't need to have 'one-off conversations about our mental health' – sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- 2 I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- 3 Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling – it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- 4 Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- 5 Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- 6 Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying – I don't always need answers (or lectures)
- 7 Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me – I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- 8 If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- 9 Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age – my siblings, cousins, friends, younger teachers at school - because they 'get it'.
- 10 Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.



### WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? CREATIVE VIDEO ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

These wellbeing activities can help children and young people think about and share what matters to them.

[For primary children: bit.ly/3PzG0i8](https://bit.ly/3PzG0i8)

[For secondary children: bit.ly/3LBD2wk](https://bit.ly/3LBD2wk)

**My VOICE MATTERS**

Place2Be's  
CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
WEEK  
8-14 FEB  
2024

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

Some ways to start a conversation with your child about mental health could be...

- TELL ME ABOUT YOUR DAY
- WHAT WAS THE BEST THING ABOUT TODAY?
- WHAT IS THE BIGGEST STRESS / WORRY IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW?
- WHAT'S YOUR ONLINE LIFE LIKE?
- WHO WOULD YOU TALK TO IF YOU WERE FEELING WORRIED ABOUT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?
- WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP YOU?

CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK

## F2 activities

Number day - F2 loved taking part in number day. We came to school dressed in numbers and spent the day taking part in lots of maths activities. We even did some number dancing!

Learning for life - Last week in learning for life we tried a variety of fruits and vegetables after reading 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. We talked about the importance of keeping our bodies healthy.

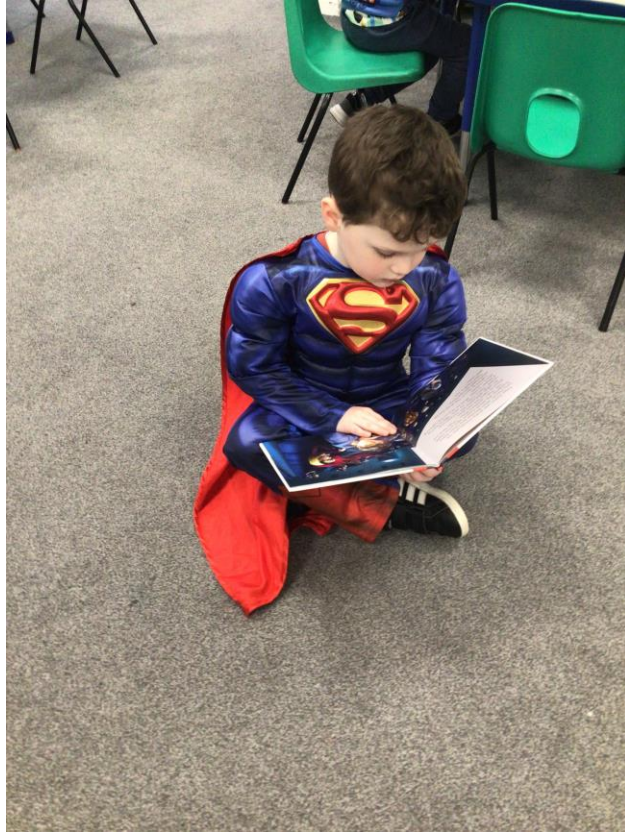
All about me day - This week in Literacy we are writing biographies. To kick-start our learning we had an all about me day where we came to school dressed in our favourite clothes, brought our favourite book and snack and a family photo. We loved talking to each other about ourselves and did some super writing at the end of the week!











## Co-opted Governor Vacancies

We still have vacancies for up to two co-opted Governors to join our Mapplewells Governing Body. Please see the advert below and if you are interested or require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Please follow the link below for more information:

Co-opted Governor Vacancies<sup>1</sup>

## 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.

## Online Safety



# Internet Safety



<http://www.netsmartzkids.org>

### What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Monkey

With Omegle finally shutting down in late 2023, the top spot among video chat services is up for grabs – and Monkey has its eyes set on the crown. Randomly matching its users for 15-second conversations, the platform’s developers claim to have created a dynamic online space for people to make new connections and, potentially, even some new friends.

<sup>1</sup><https://mapplewellsprimarynurserysutton.secure-primariesite.net/governing-body-vacancies-1/>

Despite these innocuous-sounding intentions, however, Monkey has been criticised for moderation which may not be comprehensive enough to defend against the obvious dangers that unregulated, random video calls pose to the younger element of the site's userbase. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide tells trusted adults what they need to know about Monkey.

**What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY**

Also known as Monkey Cook, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by plugging users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the app store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

**17+** (Age Restriction)

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT** (Age 18+)  
The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity but videos are posted, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the news indicate that inappropriate content remains commonplace on the app (including sexual gestures or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app - including those aged under 18.

**IN-APP SPENDING**  
While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users were able to make use of a 'break check-out' (Monkey's text-based messaging option) before using the app. Chatroulette-style random video calling features will need to pay to be able to do so.

**CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**  
The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know who or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, generally dangerous - especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chance of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.

**INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY**  
According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as phone number, profile picture and date of birth) is not controlled (including any photos, text, videos and conversations shared) once users browse and it is accessible to other users. This is a concern as the amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users - and of this information is shared with third parties.

**Advice for Parents & Carers**

**DISCUSS THE DANGERS**  
Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers: that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.

**RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING**  
If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.

**REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is self-governing. If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' icon in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.

**SPOT THE SIGNS**  
If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey - or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content - it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or losing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr Sara Hutchinson is a leading expert on child protection and online safety, who has supported and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies in schools. She has also written numerous guidance papers and articles on the education of parents concerning prevention and taking behaviour of young people to the UK, USA and Australia.

**The National College | National Online Safety | #WakeUpWednesday**

@nationalonline\_safety | /nationalOnlineSafety | @nationalonlinesafety | @national\_online\_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 07.02.2024

## 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.

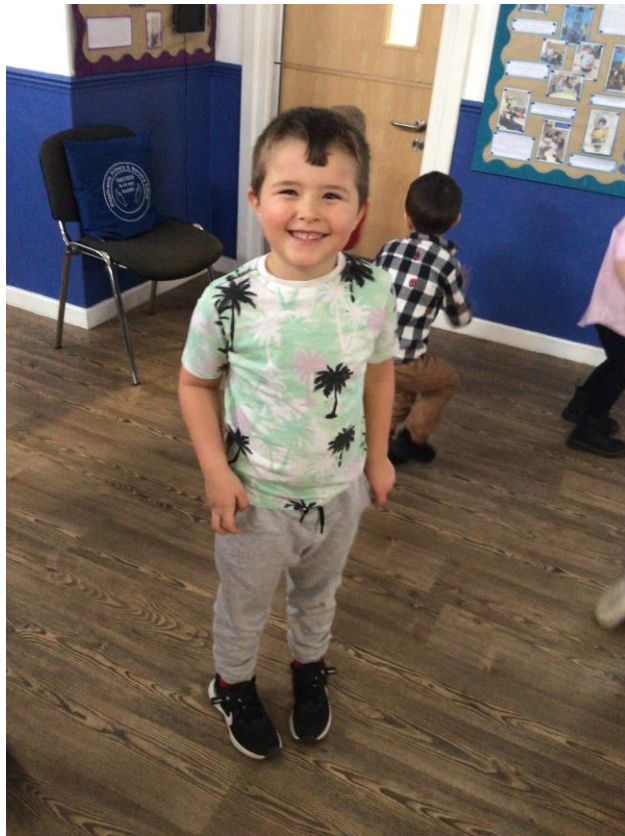


## Valentine Disco

F2 had lots of fun at their valentines disco. We did some excellent dancing, played games and of course had cookies and juice!











## Spring 2024 Parents' Evenings

**We have sent you an email regarding Parents' Evening. Please ensure you have received this email. If not, do call the Office to check your details.**

We will be using an online booking system on our school website so you can choose the slot that suits you best. 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.

We are offering meetings as follows:

- Tuesday 19th March - meetings in person
- Wednesday 20th March - Online meetings via Microsoft Teams
- Thursday 21st March - meetings in person

On each day the time slots will be from 3.30pm to 5.20pm.



## Parents' Evenings

### Live our Best Life Awards 2024

The Live our Best Life Awards 2024 were launched in 2021 to recognise and reward young people who are inspirational, resilient, overcome adversity, selfless or made positive changes to theirs or other people's lives.

The Awards have been named after one of the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundations slogans and form part of our acknowledgement of National Stephen Lawrence Day which is on April 22nd every year. The awards ceremony is due to take place around this date (More Details TBC). You can find out more about Stephens story here: <https://stephenlawrenceday.org/stephens-story/>

To nominate a young person **aged 8 – 18 years who lives or goes to school in Nottinghamshire** please scan the QR code in the flyer or link here: <https://forms.office.com/e/XjaVF25Lbh>

The winners will each receive:

- An iPad
- A Trophy
- A £100 One4all Gift Card
- Experience Days including a VIP tour of our Police Headquarters and Dog Kennels
- An Awards Ceremony with their loved ones
- And Much MORE!!!

The 6 categories to nominate a young person for are:

- Lyrico Steede Award – awarded to a young person who may have been involved in criminality but has made significant progress.
- Rising Above Adversity Award – goes to a young person who despite their background or upbringing are an inspiration to others.
- Young Leader of the Year Award – Awarded to a young person who is leading by example and is a role model to their peers through student, sports or youth work.
- Young Performer of the Year Award – goes to someone who has displayed amazing talents such as singing, dancing, rapping, acting and anything creative.
- Bringing People Together Award – awarded to a person who has tried to bring the community together, raised money for charity or fought to eradicate hate or racism.
- Young Inspiration Award – awarded to someone who has done something inspirational, shown incredible resilience or done something selfless to help others.

The closing date for nominations is **Monday the 4th of March at 12:00**. Any questions please email [Youthoutreach@Notts.Police.uk](mailto:Youthoutreach@Notts.Police.uk)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup><mailto:Youthoutreach@Notts.Police.uk>

**Celebrating young  
people within their  
communities**

**Live Our  
Best Life  
Awards 2024**

Do you know a young person aged  
between 8 and 18 years-old, who is hard  
working, inspirational, or has overcome  
a challenge?

This is your opportunity to nominate  
them and shine a light on the incredible  
work they've done.

Scan to  
nominate



Prizes include:  
iPads  
Gift cards  
Experiences

**Deadline  
Monday 4 March**



For more information visit the Nottinghamshire Police website

## Key Dates

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

<b>Diary Dates</b>	
<b>2023-24</b>	
<b>February</b>	
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	First day of Spring 2 term
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	INSET day
<b>March</b>	
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
<b>April</b>	
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	First day of Summer term
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 residential
<b>May</b>	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 residential
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 residential
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	INSET day and last day of Summer 1 term
<b>June</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	First day of Summer 2 term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 6 residential
<b>July</b>	
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