



# Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, it's another week closer to Christmas and it has been another busy week at Mapplewells. This week has been full of Christmas performances, with six this week, which means every child from Nursery through to Year 2 has the opportunity to take part in a performance.

Please read on for an update on all things happening at Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School..

## [Attendance](#)

### **The Importance of School Attendance**

Our current school attendance after 13 weeks is 95% which is now above our floor target, well done! We want to work together to continue to improve this figure over the coming weeks. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch - 96%

Elder - 95%

Elm - 97%

Hazel - 95%

Hawthorn - 95%

Oak - 95%

Maple - 96%

Juniper - 96%

Pine - 95%

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 on Thursday.

Ash - Oliver

Birch - Alice

Elder - Jesse

Elm - Klara

Hawthorn - Annika

Hazel - Paddy

Oak - Isabella

Maple - Henry

Juniper - Joey

Pine - Joshua

Rowan - Elsie

Willow - Eben



## KS1 Nativities - Christmas with the Aliens

We had an amazing week of Nativities this week as Years 1 and 2 got to showcase their talents in their nativity 'Christmas with the Aliens'. The children had worked exceptionally hard to learn their lines, sing their songs and put wonderful performances. Throughout the week they have performed to packed houses to rapturous applause. Well done to all who took part and thank you to all the staff for their hard work and time putting on the performance.

We are very proud of everyone!

## Christmas Fair

A truly jolly time was had by all during our annual Christmas Fair last Friday. It was a wonderful event which attracted a hefty crowd to sample the delights on offer such as the candy floss, gingerbread decorating, guess the elf's name and the many craft stalls on offer. Father Christmas in his grotto was as popular as ever and we even had a Christmas Spiderman in school!

Thank you for all those who were able to come or bought tickets for various raffles, your support is really appreciated. Also, a special thank you to the Friends of Mapplewells and especially our very own Miss Christie for all the organisation that went into making the Fair such a success. Thanks to everyone's hard work and generosity the amazing sum of £2225.62 was raised.



## Christmas menu next week

As previously communicated via email, this is our festive menu for next week. Wednesday's meal is the only one that needed to be pre-ordered (for F1 & KS2).

Join us for



# Christmas

Menu week



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>MAIN MEALS</b>	Festive pizza <small>Gluten Milk Soya</small>	Beefburger in a petit pain <small>Gluten Sesame Vegetarian Soyfree</small>	Roast turkey, gravy & stuffing <small>Gluten</small>	Party pasta <small>Gluten Mustard Soya Egg</small>	MSC Omega 3 Fish finger wrap <small>Fish Gluten</small>
	Pommes Noisettes Baked beans Sweetcorn	Jacket wedges Carrot sticks Peas	Chipolata sausage <small>Gluten Soyfree Soyfree</small>	Crusty bread <small>Gluten Sesame</small>	Tomato ketchup Oven chips Mushy peas or garden peas Sweetcorn
	OR	OR	Roast potatoes Mashed potatoes Sliced carrots Brussel sprouts	Crunchy vegetables <small>Gluten Sesame</small>	OR
	Ham & cheese panini <small>Milk Gluten Soyfree</small> & mixed salad	Jacket potato with cheese <small>Milk</small> , baked beans or tuna mayonnaise <small>Egg Fish</small> & mixed salad		OR	Jacket potato with cheese <small>Milk</small> , baked beans or tuna mayonnaise <small>Egg Fish</small> & mixed salad
				Jacket potato with cheese <small>Milk</small> , baked beans or tuna mayonnaise <small>Egg Fish</small> & mixed salad	

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>DESSERTS</b>	Chocolate orange muffin <small>Gluten Egg</small>	Fruit Flapjack <small>Gluten</small>	Festive Christmas ice cream tub <small>Milk</small>	Snow topped marble slice <small>Gluten</small> & chocolate sauce <small>Milk</small>	Christmas cookie <small>Gluten</small> & orange wedge <small>Milk</small>



# Internet Safety



<http://www.netsmartzkids.org>

## **12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a Tech-Free Christmas**

With Christmas right around the corner, millions of families are excitedly anticipating the chance to spend some quality time with each other over the festive season. When everyone's engrossed in their phones or glued to their games consoles, however, genuinely meaningful moments with loved ones can often be difficult to orchestrate.

Our Christmas #WakeUpWednesday guide will lend a hand: providing some advice on helping young people to set aside their devices for a while and live in the moment. Even if going full tech cold turkey feels unrealistic, implementing just a few of these tips could still decrease the amount of screen time in your home this festive season – enabling everyone to make the most of it.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it's needed. This guide focuses on several holiday ideas which we believe focused adults should discuss if please visit [www.nationalsafety.org](https://www.nationalsafety.org) for further guides, tips and top experts.

## 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distracting ping-pong phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

### CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the glue, glue and scissors and have a go at paper-making, making gift tags... You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

### WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks and the walking. The family can all benefit to enjoy the beauty of your neighbourhood and about the crisp winter air together.

### NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbols of the time of year – like ivy or pinecones, say.

### BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

### CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

### ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for spending stories. Get cozy and have yourself a bedtime book from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more recent favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

### WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving these magical holiday moments.

### SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition.

### TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Just down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also set some of your most goals for the new year.

### GAMES NIGHT GALA

Use this time to unwind and have fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have about the best of time for a season.

### WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping, break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make packing up those presents into a creative adventure.

### GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

### Meet Our Expert

Michelle is a parent and teacher who has a long career in primary schools. She is a qualified primary school teacher and a member of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers. She is also a member of the National Association of Primary Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers. She is also a member of the National Association of Primary Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

The National College

National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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F2 trip

F2 loved their visit to the post box this week. The children have been busy putting together some special post for the Jolly post man to deliver! Keep your eyes peeled grown ups!









## Car parking

I would like to take the opportunity to remind families that parents/carers should not park in the staff car park during pick up and drop off times.

Only parents or carers whose **children have a blue badge** can use the two allocated spaces within the staff car park.

Please do pass this information to on any family or friends who drop off or collect your child(ren).



## Tins Not Tinsel Christmas 2023

Following the success of previous years, we are once again running 'Christmas is about Tins Not Tinsel'. We would like to collect donations of food, toiletries and gifts which we will pass on to The St. Mary's Food Bank. Anything that you are able to donate will be gratefully received. We are hoping that a little Christmas magic, along with your kindness will help us fill our tinsel trollies with treats!

The last date for donations is 9am on Wednesday 20th December 2023.

A big thank you to the Alfreton Road COOP for letting us use their trolley, which is now in the school hall, all decked up and ready for those tins!

Merry Christmas from the School Council!



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Bousfield on the arrival of her beautiful baby girl. Sending our love & best wishes to your family during this magical time with your newborn. Enjoy all the wonderful moments ahead!



## Christmas Party

This year our Christmas parties will take place during the afternoon of Friday 22nd December, the last day of term. Children may come to school in their party clothes/non uniform for the whole day.

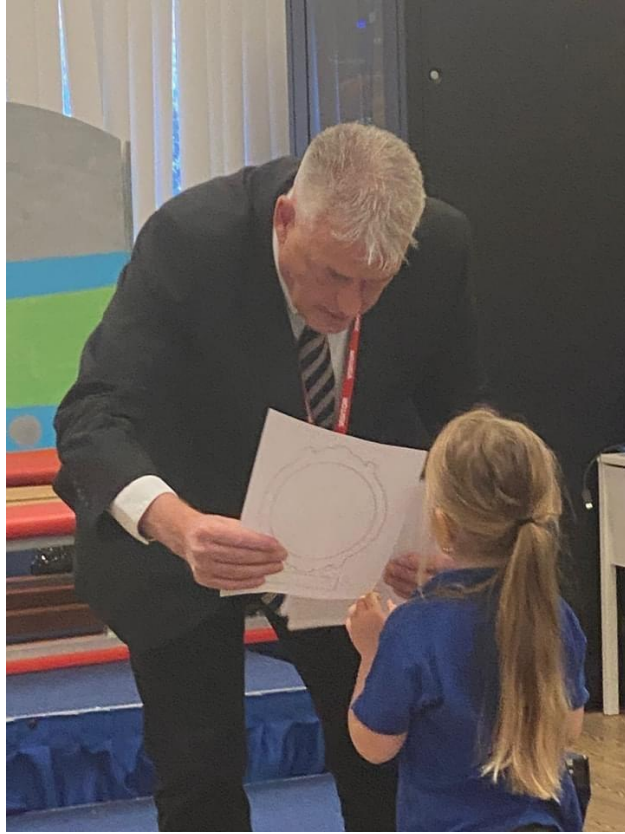
Friends of Mapplewells will be covering the cost of the parties this year. The children can expect an afternoon of fun, games and treats! We are sure all of the children will have a fantastic time.

We would like to thank all of our Mapplewells community for supporting the events that the Friends of Mapplewells have run so far this year, including the autumn discos and Christmas fair. All of the donations raised help Friends of Mapplewells to fund equipment and activities for our children.



## MP visit

F1 and F2 had a visit from Lee Anderson where we shared what we've learned during our Autumn enquiry 'Who is significant?' We showed the pictures we drew of significant people and showed him a video where we talked about people we think are significant like Robin Hood, Florence Nightingale and Guy Fawkes. We were very excited to share everything we've learnt.





## Key dates

Dates for your diary are listed below. You can also use the calendar on our website - <https://www.maplewellprimary.co.uk/diary/grid/2023/12/>

Diary Dates	
2023-24	
<b>December</b>	
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Y5 Christmas Carol concert
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas meal (pre-orders only)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Christmas party
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Last day of Autumn term
<b>January</b>	
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	First day of Spring term
<b>February</b>	
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	INSET day
<b>March</b>	
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	school photos
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of spring 2 term
<b>April</b>	
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
<b>June</b>	
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

Mr Whittle

Headteacher

Mr Latkowski

Deputy Headteacher