



# Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 10th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. After what was a very interesting end to the last half-term, we hope you had a restful and enjoyable break.

We would like to thank all of our Mapplewellian community for the patience and understanding on the last Thursday and Friday of term - it was certainly unexpected. It was wonderful to see how many children engaged in the home learning in many different ways from Nursery all the way up to Year 6. Thankfully, over the half-term period the problem has been fixed and the fire alarm system is working and thoroughly compliant. Thank you again for your support

Please read on for the latest instalment of our newsletter...

## SUCCESS is in our hands...

SUCCESS Stars of the Week Congratulations to the following children who were chosen by their Class Teacher as 'SUCCESS star of the Week'. The children received their certificate in SUCCESS Assembly today.

Ash - Olivia

Birch - Raine

Elder - Jasper

Elm - Tahlia

Hazel - Evin

Hawthorn - Archie

Maple - Tristan

Juniper - Harrison

Oak - Jack

Pine - Nyla

Rowan - Alex

Willow - Rayan



## Attendance

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

Our current school attendance after 8 weeks is 95.8% 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 - 95%

Elder - 95%

Elm - 98%

Hazel - 95%

Hawthorn - 95%

Oak - 95%

Maple - 95%

Juniper - 96%

Pine - 96%

Rowan - 96%

Willow - 96%

Well done to Elm class on their fantastic attendance this week and throughout this term.

Let's keep striving to improve our attendance, to continue to exceed that figure of 95%, and strive to achieve 97% attendance.



## Punctuality

At Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School, we monitor punctuality as well as attendance. The law treats some persistent lateness in the same way as irregular attendance and parents may be prosecuted by the Local Authority if late arrival is not resolved. The school gates open daily at 8:30am. Poor punctuality can lead to your child...

- Feeling embarrassed in front of their friends
- Missing the beginning of vital lessons
- Missing important instructions for the rest of the school day



## Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week 2023 will take place from Monday 13th - Friday 17th November. The theme is Make A Noise About Bullying.

Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week on Monday 13th November. Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or to buy expensive costumes. All you have to do to take part is wear odd socks with your usual school uniform- it couldn't be simpler!



# Online Safety

## What Parents Need to Know About X

The social media network formerly known as Twitter has undergone numerous alterations since its change of ownership and rebranding as X – and many of these recent developments have proved controversial. With any user now simply able to pay a fee for account verification, for example, the once-reliable ‘blue tick’ system has become largely meaningless.

It’s just one of several changes that have set the social media giant on what many consider a concerning path in online safety terms. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide provides a run-down of the most significant tweaks made to X; their potential safeguarding implications; and how to help ensure young people minimise the risks while they continue to use the service.

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

**AGE RESTRICTION 13+**

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**  
In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform, not all of which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 500 million users of Twitter. (Now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its share of controversy and criticism in recent times.

**A BLOCK ON BLOCKING**  
X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this allowed users to prevent unwanted posts from appearing on their feeds. Now, the feature will no longer exist. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking is an essential tool to protect themselves from users who promote sexist and hateful content.

**AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While account restrictions can be used to help limit access to these posts, X has a reputation for allowing content from users that is not suitable for children. It is important to ensure that users do not attempt to circumvent these restrictions and that children are not exposed to anything that could be harmful to their well-being.

**BLUE TICK SALE**  
Historically, Twitter's moderators granted accounts verification, identifying someone as authentic by putting a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall. This caused the number of verified accounts to drop significantly. In an attempt to regain some of its legitimacy and influence, X has introduced a 'blue tick sale' for accounts seeking to appear more trustworthy.

**VERIFICATION FOR SALE**  
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**Advice for Parents & Carers**

**PROTECT PRIVACY**  
Unscrupulous characters may try to gain access to a young person's account in order to view their posts and gather information on them, or to attempt to take control of it. To minimise this, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings) so that strangers can't view your posts without first being approved as a follower.

**DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT**  
To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation, and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Remember that if your child mentions someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

**STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS**  
Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks do not confirm the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if celebrity blue ticks appear on their feed, it's important to remember that on X user avatars can be easily changed. If your child is contacted by someone claiming to be a celebrity or someone they know, it's important to be cautious and not to interact with that account.

**ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS**  
Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow. It's important to check the content of these accounts regularly, being prepared to report, block or adjust content that your child finds to be harmful. Report or adjust content that your child has reported to X.

**BE READY TO TAKE ACTION**  
If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account temporarily. Secondly, it's a smart idea to have a plan in place for reporting any incidents. If your child is being harassed or is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from a subgroup.

**Meet Our Expert**  
NOS National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

**@nationalonline\_safety** **/NationalOnlineSafety** **@nationalonline\_safety** **@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: 01.11.2023

## Foundation open evening

If you or someone you know has a child approaching school age, we would like to invite you to come to explore our fantastic Early Years Foundation stage on Thursday 16th November from 3.30 – 5.30 pm.



Is your child approaching school age?

If so, we would like to invite you to come and explore our fantastic Early Years Foundation stage.

There is no need to book to join us for this event. Simply arrive at our school office at Henning Lane where you will be greeted by our staff.

You are welcome to bring your child with you to explore the setting.

We look forward to meeting you!

Tel: 01623 455949  
office@mapplewells.notts.sch.uk



Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November from 3.30 – 5.30 pm

## Car Parking

I would like to take the opportunity to inform our new families and to remind families who are already aware that parents should not park in the staff car park during pick up and drop off times. We have had instances of staff being unable to get in and out of the car park and there are only just enough spaces for staff to park.

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).



## Friends of Mapplewells

We are looking for new members to become part of the group to help with organising and attending fund raising events.

We meet once a month (a notice will go out for the next meeting) and we would really like for you to come along and meet us if you get the chance.

It is a great opportunity for you to get involved and meet other parents and also get to know the wonderful staff at Mapplewells School.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the Christmas Fair on 8th December. Please do let Miss Christie know if you can spare any time.



## KS1 Phonics Open morning

We are really excited to inform you that we will be holding phonics open morning after the October break. This will be a chance to come into school and experience a phonics lesson with your child which we hope will be beneficial in supporting your child at home. We know the children will be so thrilled to show off their learning with you all so we hope you are able to attend.

Year 1: 15th November 9am

Year 2: 16th November 9am



## Year 4 perform their poems to F2

F2 were very lucky this week as the year 4 children shared their stone age poems with them which they had written before half term. The poems were fantastic and included rhyming couplets, metaphors and

similies. The F2 children were able to spot some of the rhyming words and answered questions about the poems. Well done everyone!





## Instagram

You can now follow us on Instagram @mapplewellsprimaryandnursery



## Children in Need

Look SPOTacular to raise money! We will be joining in with BBC Children in Need on Friday 17th November. Children may come to school dressed in pyjamas or something spotted. You could go head to-toe in spots or be more subtle with spotty socks instead. Whatever you decide please can pay a voluntary £1 donation in school or on your 'Scopay' account – please visit [www.scopay.com/mapplewellspr1](http://www.scopay.com/mapplewellspr1) Log on to your child's ScoPay account (please contact Reception if you need a Link Code). The Children in Need fundraiser is listed under Trips and Events.



## After School Clubs this half term

This term Mr Murray will be holding the following after school clubs:-

Mondays - F2, Y1 & Y2 Multi sports

Tuesdays - Y3/4 Football

Wednesdays - Y3/4 Netball

Thursdays - Y5/6 Basketball

Fridays - Y5/6 Handball



## Non uniform day

In lieu of the 20th October, we will have a non uniform day on Friday 25th November. This term instead of asking for a £1 donation for non-uniform day we are asking for a bag of sweets or a chocolate bar for the tomobla at the Christmas Fair. Any donations can be handed to class teachers that Friday.



## Remembrance Day

This week we have been learning about Remembrance Day. Every child in F2 has completed a poppy by finger painting it. The children were encouraged to use the correct colours. We then created class wreaths to be taken to the cenotaph. We attended an assembly where we learned more about why Remembrance day is important.





## 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>	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Phonics Open morning
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Foundation open evening
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Phonics Open morning
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need – dress in spots or pjs
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	F2 trip to Sherwood Forest
<b>December</b>	
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	F2-Year 6 Pantomime trip
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Fair
<b>January</b>	
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 VR workshop
<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>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>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