



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 29th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow! It never stops here at Mapplewells. Walking around school during the day, it is brilliant to see our children actively engaged in their learning, proud of the outcomes that they are achieving. It also reminded us, being amongst staff and children, what an amazing school I have the privilege to be part of our Mapplewellian Community.

The final Welcome Meetings taking place. Hopefully, those who attended found them useful and informative. In addition, Years 5 and 6 had their WW1 experience and KS1 have just today been on their trip to Newstead Abbey. Both experiences help the children further understand and gain more knowledge about their enquiry and lead towards them answering their enquiry question.

This year we will continue to focus on attendance as we have a target of 97% to achieve. Attendance has been off to a great start of 96% so far since our return and we know we can meet our target. Keep up the great work and ensure that children are not missing out on learning opportunities.

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 from Mr Whittle in SUCCESS Assembly today.

Ash - Luca I

Birch - Lana-Fayth

Elder - Zara

Maple - Jenson

Juniper - Sophie

Oak - Ava C

Pine - Laura

Rowan - Luke

Willow - Leanne



Attendance

The Importance of School Attendance

Our current school attendance after 3 weeks is **96.3%** 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 - 97%

Elder - 94%

Elm - 99%

Hazel - 96%

Hawthorn - 95%

Oak - 96%

Maple - 96%

Juniper - 96%

Pine - 95%

Rowan - 97%

Willow - 93%

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 96%, 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



INSET Day - 29th September 2023

A reminder that due to staff training, school is closed on Friday 29th September



WW1 Day - Years 5 and 6

On Thursday Year 5 and 6 children took part in the WWI workshop. They learnt many interesting facts about the Great War and experienced the life of a soldier in the trenches through the virtual reality headsets. Additionally, the children loved looking at different memorabilia from the war and even got a change to try on some old uniforms!







Uniform

What a child wears to school reflects his/her learning. Wearing a school uniform creates pride, creates an identity for a school and it also portrays the school's ethos and shared positive values. It is also important for children to wear the correct clothing for physical activities. For PE, children are required to wear the correct PE Kit.

The wearing of a school uniform creates a sense of a collective and individual pride in our school community as well as giving our students a sense of belonging. Security around the school is also significantly enhanced as our children can be readily identified as belonging to Mapplewells.

Additionally, equality is fostered by a uniform policy common to all students. Compulsory uniforms assist in eliminating peer group pressure to wear less appropriate clothing, reduces competition amongst children and removes pressure on families to provide "fashionable" items for daily wear.

We have a smart uniform that all children are expected to wear.

Our school uniform:

- White tailored shirt or white/royal blue polo shirt
- Royal blue jumpers or cardigans.
- Royal blue fleece with school logo (optional)

- Girls - Plain black/grey tailored trousers/skirt/pinafore –(Plain black grey tailored shorts or school dresses may be worn in summer months)
- Boys - Plain black/grey tailored trousers – (Plain black/grey tailored shorts may be worn in summer months)
- Plain black shoes – Plain black trainers may be worn provided that any logos have been blacked out
- Tights or socks plain black/grey/white only.

Our PE Kit:

- White short sleeved polo shirt
- Royal blue shorts
- Plain black/grey/white socks
- Plain trainers (outdoor) or plimsolls (indoors)
- A plain tracksuit in keeping with school colours of blue, grey or black
- Swimming for girls –A snug fitting one piece swimsuit as specified by Nottinghamshire County Council Swimming Department. No two part or bikini types.
- Swimming for boys - Tight fitting trunks or shorts with no pockets and which are no longer than mid-thigh length as specified by Nottinghamshire County Council Swimming Department.

Children should come to school in their PE kit on their allocated day(s) as changing facilities are restricted due to the measures in place. We appreciate that we are in autumn so children can wear tracksuits and their PE kit underneath – your class teacher(s) will communicate further details on Class Dojo. This maximises the amount of time children get for their PE lessons.



Online Safety

Top Tips for Setting Boundaries Around Online Gaming

Behind video-sharing platforms (like YouTube) and streaming TV shows and movies, gaming is the third most popular online activity for children in the UK. In fact, according to recent data from Ofcom, an overwhelming 89% of children aged 3 to 17 play video games. Of those, more than one in five (22%) talk to other players online who they don't know outside the game.

The risk of contact from strangers is just one of the reasons that many parents are concerned about their child's gaming: increased screen time, inappropriate content and in-game spending also figure among the most frequent fears. Agreeing on some rules around your child's gaming activities can certainly help, and our guide has some useful tips for establishing these boundaries.

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 is needed. This guide features advice on many issues which we believe to be essential for parents to be aware of. Please visit our [nationalonsafety.com](https://www.nationalonsafety.com) for further guides, tools and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. This is a trade-off for interactive entertainment. UKiA has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are safe for your child can be difficult. It's best to choose games that are cooperative or compete with others, which reduce potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit what you allow your child to send from their headset. Remember your child's of the best advice around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, always in shorter bursts rather than 10-minute sessions. Agree to check that the game (and not the playing team games, for example) can't be stopped or delayed as a reward for taking a break. Breaks every hour or so is good practice, and you could encourage some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There is no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much they're spending on in-game items and subscriptions. It's also important to be aware of where money goes when they purchase, so you could write an agreement to spend on in-game items each week or month. This limit can be reviewed if their responsibilities but will also make them more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or get overwhelmed by even what it's rated above their age, even knowing that the boundaries of in-game items can be broken. It's important to talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this by talking about the games they play together and the items they purchase. Discussing why some games might have certain age ratings.

Meet Our Expert

Written by Sarah-Jane, a former teacher and now a digital literacy expert, who has written 17 guides for children, young people and adults. She has also written 17 guides for children, young people and adults. She has also written 17 guides for children, young people and adults.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle. When friends visit, do they usually visit to play outside or computer? You could put boundaries in place before the guests come by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Agree to check that they're not trying to send messages from the computer, or trying to chat to strangers. It's a challenge for them during screen breaks. If they don't, that's a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be a fun way to enjoy the bonding experience. Encourage some young gamers to play with friends, either in person or over the internet. It can be a good idea to encourage them to share their hobby with you, by trying some of the games that are useful if they love it. Encourage them to share their hobby with you, by trying some of the games that are useful if they love it.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of conflict while playing. Are they allowed to trash talk other players? Do they get angry if they lose? Do they think their opponents are better? Some games can provoke anger, but others can provide a challenge. It's a good idea to discuss these games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who deliberately troll someone. Ask your child to be aware of the risk of someone who makes their experience of playing more negative. Ask your child to be aware of the risk of someone who makes their experience of playing more negative. Ask your child to be aware of the risk of someone who makes their experience of playing more negative.

National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.05.2023

Playground safety

To prevent collisions, knocks & other accidents, children should dismount from their bikes and scooters when they enter the school grounds.



Smoking and Vaping on School Premises

At Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School, we take seriously our duty to promote children and young people's wellbeing and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We are committed to creating a smoke and vape free environment and developing children's knowledge, attitudes and skills in decision making around smoking and vaping.

With this in mind we would like to remind you that smoking and vaping is not permitted on school grounds at any point during the school day.

Thank you for your support.

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 16th 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).



Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning

We will be celebrating the exemplary work of MacMillan on Friday 6th October. This will be a whole day of fundraising for this outstanding charity. Look at what your help can support:

£71 could help run their Online Community forum for over 3 hours. Typically, that would give nearly 198 people affected by cancer both emotional and practical support by providing a safe environment to share their experiences and emotions.

£100 could pay for a person affected by cancer to attend a health and wellbeing event, providing them with skills to improve the management of these areas in their lives.

So here is what we are doing on the day:

- Non – Uniform Day. You can pay a voluntary £1 donation in school or on your 'Scopay' account – please visit www.scopay.com/mapplewellspri¹ Log on to your child's ScoPay account (please contact Reception if you need a Link Code). The MacMillan fundraiser is listed under Trips and Events.
- Coffee Morning in school – we would love you to join us for coffee, cake and a biscuit with your friends and family. Please come along between 9:00 and 10:00am to the school hall. The Friends of Mapplewells are busy getting everything ready for what we are sure will be lovely morning.

¹<http://www.scopay.com/mapplewellspri>



Key Dates

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

Diary Dates	
2023-24	
September	
Friday 29 th	INSET day
October	
Friday 6 th	Macmillan's Coffee Morning
Monday 16 th	F2 – Year 6 flu vaccinations
November	
Monday 6 th	INSET day
Thursday 7 th	Autumn disco
Thursday 16 th	Foundation open evening
December	
Thursday 7 th	F2-Year 6 Pantomime trip
February	
Monday 26 th	INSET day
March	
Thursday 28 th	school photos
Thursday 28 th	Last day of spring 2 term
May	
Thursday 9 th	Year 3 residential
Friday 24 th	INSET day
July	
Friday 26 th	Last day of summer 2 term

Thank you for your continued support

Mr Whittle
Headteacher

Mr Latkowski
Deputy Headteacher