



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope you all had a lovely summer break and are enjoying being back in school. It has been lovely to see the children looking so smart in their uniforms, smiling faces and getting stuck in with such enthusiasm with their learning.

As a staff we are really looking forward to working with you all in our school community in what we know will be another action-packed year! I would especially like to welcome our brand new Mapplewellian children and families. We are really looking forward to getting to know you and seeing the children develop as Mapplewellians throughout their school journey. Mapplewells is a very freindly school and we value the important contribution that parent/ cares make, therefore good home and

school communication is essential. Each week the **Mapplewells Weekly Newsletter** will give you a range of information. We hope this continues to help parents/ carers to have a greater insight into events and important information. We will be also be asking for your views on certain aspects throughout the school via questionnaires, but please feel free to discuss anything with myself or school staff. We will be out on the playground most mornings or you can arrange a meeting for a more convenient time. This is our school and by working together we can make Mapplewells even better this year.

Each class teacher will also be available on the playground most mornings. This will give you the opportunity to discuss anything with them or ask any questions. We hope that the staff, governors, children and parents will all be working very hard together to continuously improve our school and make it a great place to be for everyone. As this is the first newsletter of this school year it will mainly consist of helpful information about the organisation of our school....here goes!

Staffing Update

We are delighted to officially welcome Mr Binion as a new member of our teaching team. Mr Binion has joined the Year 5/ 6 team and has already settled in really well. Keep an eye out on the playground to say hello to Mr Binion.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to replace Mrs McCallum as Office Manager, therefore the position will be re-advertised in order to employ the best person for the position.

'Meet the Teacher and Welcome' Session

Over the next couple of weeks we will be hosting our 'Meet the Teacher'sessions. During the session the teachers discuss the year group expectation, demonstrate and model activities that will help support your child and answer any potential questions you may have. These sessions are a wonderful opportunity for you to see what your child is doing in school and to see how best to support their English and Maths skills at home. The dates of the sessions are listed below:

KS1:

Year 3: Thursday 14th September - 3:30pm

Year 4: Monday 11th September - 3:30pm

Year 5: Tuesday 12th September - 3:30pm

Year 6: Monday 18th September - 3:30pm

*EYFS presentations will be re-shared via Class DOJO

Newsletters and Knowledge Mats

Each teacher will send a class newsletter home every half term informing you of the work your child will be doing in their class. We hope you find this information useful and if there is anything not included,

which you feel would be of benefit, please let me or the class teacher know. In addition, children have been given their new knowledge mats to support their learning in class, a copy of this is also available on the class page on the school website, along with the class newsletter. Links to news letters and knowledge mats are as follows:

F1 - newsletter & knowledge mat¹

F2 - newsletter & knowledge mat²

KS1 -newsletter & knowledge mat³

Yr 3/ 4 - newsletter & knowledge mat⁴

Yr 5/ 6 - newsletter & knowledge mat⁵

School Arrangements

As many of you will be aware the School day begins at 8:45am and finishes at 3.15pm. Nursery times will be 8.35am-11.35am for children attending the morning session and 12.35pm-3.35pm for children attending the afternoon session. For those children who are accessing the 30 hours childcare, Nursery will begin at 8.35am and finish at 3.35pm. Please can you make sure that child/ ren are ready to line up when the whistle blows just after 8:40am each morning so that the classes can come into school promptly to start their learning.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is available and is led by Mrs Smith and Mrs Young. Breakfast Club starts at 7.45am and will run to when children are delivered to their classes at the start of the school day. The cost is £4 per child per day. Children who are eligible for income based free school meals will receive a 50% discount and service children are able to receive 5 free sessions every half term. Breakfast club should be paid in advance via Scopay.

Medication

Non-prescription medicines are not administered at school and pupils should not bring them to school for self-administration. Medicine should only be brought to school when it is essential to administer it during the school day. In the vast majority of cases, doses of medicine can be arranged around the school day thus avoiding the need for medicine in school. Antibiotics for example are usually taken three times a day, so can be given with breakfast, on getting home from school and then at bedtime. In order for school staff to administer medicines, the parent/carer must supply the prescription medicine in the original pharmacist's container with the child's name and complete a red permission form (available from Reception).

¹<https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/f1/>

²<https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/f2-birch-elder/>

³<https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/year-12-elm-hawthorn-hazel/>

⁴<https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/year-3-4-oak-juniper-maple/>

⁵<https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/year-5-6-rowan-pine-willow/>

Reporting absence

If your child will not be attending school, parents/carers are asked to make contact by 10.00am on the first day of absence by personal contact or telephone call informing the school of the reason for the absence and/or nature of any illness. They are also asked to inform the school if there is a likely return date. If your child has a medical or dental appointment, please provide us with a copy of the appointment letter. It is expected that appointments of this nature will only require 1 session of absence. In the event that schools are not provided with a reason for absence, the parent/carer will be contacted via telephone and via letter if a reason can't be obtained from this. Parents wishing to request a leave of absence should complete an 'Application for withdrawal from learning form' (available from Reception), explaining the circumstances and providing a minimum of 4 weeks' notice. Head Teachers are only permitted to grant leave of absence for any reason if they are satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist. School will then confirm receipt of the application and outline any potential further action.

Child and Family Support Officer

At Mapplewells, we have our own dedicated Child and Family Support Officer – Donna Laverty – who works at our school Monday - Friday. Donna offers a range of pastoral support and advice for our children and families in liaison with staff, children and families.

If you ever need to contact Donna please do so on the details below by email or phone:

Donna Laverty

Child and Family Support Officer

familysupport@mapplewells.notts.sch.uk

07958110747

Summer School Improvements

I would like to give a special mention to Mr Brown who, has worked extremely hard over the summer holidays preparing our school for another academic year. Mr Brown has carefully coordinated, managed and completed to ensure the school is in tip-top shape.

Work throughout the school includes:

- Repainting and touching up of the paintwork in the school hall
- Repairing of the floors in F2 classrooms
- Painting of the hallways throughout school
 - Painting of the children's toilets
 - Painting of the black gates throughout the school
 - Tidying and removal of bushes in the school car park

- Upgrade of F1 wash facilities
- Painting of the courtyard fences & decking

It is crucial to have a Site Manager who cares and has high expectations. In the short space of time Mr Brown has been our site manager he has shown how much pride he takes in his work and his passion and commitment, which means that our school continually improves for the children. Thank you Mr Brown.

Uniform

It is lovely to see the children all looking so smart and ready to learn in their uniform. We firmly believe that wearing school uniform helps the children to establish a sense of pride and belonging in their school community and also puts them into a positive frame of mind for working hard. For these reasons our **school uniform was made compulsory by the Governors!**

I would just like to take this opportunity to point out a couple of reminders;

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.

It is essential that items of clothing are labelled with the pupil's name.

Jewellery and watches Jewellery represents a Health and Safety risk in school and is not to be encouraged. One pair of small ear studs may be worn but no other form of jewellery is allowed. One watch suitable for the pupil's age may be worn.

No jewellery (ear studs must be covered) or watches may be worn during PE lessons, sports or other non-standard physical activities.

Expensive jewellery and watches must not be brought to school. The school will accept no responsibility for any loss of or damage to any jewellery, watches or mobile telephones brought onto school premises.

If it absolutely essential for a child to bring in a mobile phone, this must be switched off and given to the school office for safekeeping at the beginning of each school day. It may be collected at the end of the school day.

Make-up and Hair colour

Make-up, nail varnish and non-natural hair colours are not considered appropriate in our learning environment. Make up and nail varnish must not be worn, nor should pupils adopt non-natural hair colourings.

Pupil Organisers

All children from Year 1 to Year 6 will have received their new Pupil Organisers. The organisers are part of our drive to develop the independence of our children and encourage their organisation skills.

The organisers contain many useful pages which have been specially selected by our staff in order to help the children when they are completing their class work and activities to support home learning.

Could I please ask you to remind your child to bring their organiser to school every day and to also check it with them each night for any updates. Our children need to get used to this routine so your support will be greatly appreciated.

When your child receives their Pupil Organiser could I also ask you to **discuss and sign the Home/School Agreement (page 2) along with your child as well as the internet policy (page 3/4)** to show that we are all working together to achieve the best for our children.

Thank you for your support

Home Learning

Home learning is set on a Friday for collection on the following Friday. Homework will be shared on class Dojo by 3:30pm each Friday. All homework will be a consolidation of previous learning and not new learning.

EYFS - one phonics task and one maths task per week

KS1 - read to a parent/carer at least three times a week to a parent and talk about the book. Each reading session to be recorded in pupil's organiser by the parent. There will be six spelling words to practice for the test the following Friday and a weekly rotation between a Maths and English activity.

Years 3 and 4 - read to a parent/carer at least five times a week for a includes time to talk about the book, 10 spellings to learn, which are set and tested on a weekly basis and an alternate maths or English task set weekly focusing to the children's current learning.

Weekly Times tables practice completed using <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tablescheck/>

Year 5 -read to a parent/carer (or sustained independent reading) at least five times a week for a period of 20 – 30 minutes (this time scale includes time to talk about the book). Each reading session to be recorded in pupil organiser by the parent/ carer, 10 new spellings set to learn each week, which are then tested in consecutive weeks. 15 spellings to be tested each week - 5 new spellings, 5 from previous week and 5 from the week before, one Maths task set weekly that consolidates current classroom learning and one comprehension task set weekly that consolidates current classroom learning.

Year 6 -read to a parent/carer (or sustained independent reading) at least five times a week for a period of 20 – 30 minutes (this time scale includes time to talk about the book). Each reading session to be recorded in pupil organiser. Each child has been provided with a Maths, English skills and a Spelling workbook and each week they will be provided with homework pages that match the week's learning. The homework is in preparation for SATs and provides additional practice.

Behaviour

As you are aware we are proud of the excellent behaviour exhibited by our Mapplewellians and operate a positive restorative approach to behaviour.

Our aim is to develop responsibility, independence, self-discipline and a positive attitude towards the life of our school. This is done by involving pupils in decisions, valuing their ideas and by providing them with the skills to relate effectively to others. Through assemblies, class times and circle times, pupils are taught the values the school wishes to foster. They are taught the skills they need to get on with each other. They are encouraged to discuss difficulties, their feelings and possible solutions to problems. Pupils are encouraged to play a part in the running of the school.

Success Points are awarded as Dojos when children display one or more of the following behaviours/ traits:

Self-confidence,

Understanding,

Celebration,

Curiosity,

Excellence, enthusiasm and enjoyment,

Self-discipline and Support

However, on the rare occasion where the rules have been broken and requires a sanction. Staff will contact families to discuss strategies and solutions working in partnership.

PE and Sport

Mr Murray, our PE Specialist, will be enthusiastically driving PE and School sport across the school and is keen to build on the successes we have enjoyed . Mr Murray will keep everyone informed of the extensive PE and sport offer for our children throughout the year.

Afterschool clubs have already begun and communications have been sent out. The current list of after-school clubs is as follows:

- Tuesday - KS1 Athletics and Multi-sports
- Wednesday - Y3 & Y4 Netball
- Thursday - Y5 & Y6 Girls Football
- Friday - Y5 & Y6 Boys Basketball

The rota of after-school clubs will be changing throughout the year so please keep an on our weekly newsletters and class DOJO for more information.

Class Dojo

As a school, we continue to utilise Class Dojo as an amazing tool for communicating with home and school and supporting your children's learning. We will continue to use this as a resource to communicate between home and school. Whilst we aim to reply to messages as soon as we can, this is not always possible. Please be mindful that staff have their families to go home to and spend time with and will not be expected to reply or check messages outside of working hours which are between 8:00am and 5:00pm, Monday-Friday.

If something is particularly important, please contact the school office, as staff may not check our messages until the children have gone home due to teaching commitments. Thank you for your continued support in using Dojo to support our children's learning.

We will soon be sending out links to a questionnaire to obtain parent feedback and ideas on the use of Class DOJO so keep on the look out.

Attendance and Punctuality



In order to gain maximum benefit from their education it is very important that your child attends school every day. Every single day missed or late arrival equals a gap in your child's learning. It is very hard for children to catch up when they have missed out vital parts of their education. Being late every day can add up to a lot of lost learning time;

- 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- 15 minutes late is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.

We are constantly striving to improve our attendance and we want every child to achieve at least 97% attendance or higher in order for them to make the best progress possible, therefore if your child is ill please ensure you phone the School Office on the first day of absence before 10am to inform us.

We will be updating our Attendance Policy and Procedures over the coming weeks and will families informed of changes we have made.

As stated in the Attendance Policy, on rare occasions, if it's deemed appropriate for the situation, we will now be forwarding periods of unauthorised absence to the Local Authority. The authority will then make a decision, which in some cases can lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Healthy Eating

Here is a list of our healthy eating rules which are in place to help support the health and well being of our children:

- Each child should bring a bottle of 'Thinking Water' to school each day which is labelled with their name. This should be unflavoured water which the children can access throughout the day.

- The Key Stage 2 children (Years 3-6) should bring a piece of fruit or a cereal bar for their snack at morning playtime. Foundation and Key Stage 1 children will be provided with a piece of fruit each day; however, they are also welcome to bring in a piece of fruit from home if they would prefer.

- Snacks that contain nuts should not be brought into school.

- Children may choose to bring money to purchase a healthy snack from our kitchen at playtimes, the prices are as follows;

- Toast (with or without jam) – 25p

- Crumpet – 35p

- Pizza muffin – 40p

- ½ toasted teacake – 25p

- Fresh orange or apple juice – 50p ◦ Fruit juice cartons – 50p

- Packed lunches should not contain fizzy drinks or sweets (a small chocolate bar is fine). Please include spoons in lunchboxes if your child needs one.

- Children are welcome to bring birthday and holiday sweets/cakes in to share with their class but lollipops are not allowed in school on any occasion.

For more information, please see our food policy on the school website - <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/mapplewellsprimarynurserysutton/UploadedDocument/8df499f0c5354a688545d2ae4d652075/food-policy-july-2021.pdf>

Thank you for your help in supporting the school to provide healthy options for our children.

School Dinners and Dinner Money

Since September 2014 ALL meals for children in Foundation 2, Year 1 and Year 2 children have been free of charge as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme and I hope that your child is enjoying their school dinners and as parents you are enjoying the financial benefit this system brings.

We run our school meals on a very flexible system in Key Stage 2 in order to encourage our children to try new dishes and tastes. A copy of the dinner menu cycle can be found on our school website in the Parents section where you will be able to have a look through with your child and choose the days when they would like to stay for school dinners. The cost of school dinners is £2.55 per day (£12.75 per week). The current menu is on our school website <https://mapplewellsprimarynurserysutton.secure-primarysite.net/useful-information/> You can make payment for school dinners via ScoPay our online payment system. Please make sure that dinners are paid for in the same week that they are taken. We hope this flexible system will encourage your child to try new foods and will suit everyone's needs.

Free School Meals

We would like to make a plea to all of our parents who are entitled to receive free school meals.

Some parents who are entitled to income based free school meals do not claim them as they do not wish their child to stay for school dinners; however, a large percentage of the funding which is given to schools is based on the number of free school meals registered at the school. This means that as a school we will be receiving less funding to be spent on the children and so by registering for free school meals, you will be helping to increase the funding at our school.

You may be entitled to free school meals if you receive any of the following support;

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400

If you are eligible for free school meals (Pupil Premium) then it also qualifies your child for free school milk over the age of 5yrs old and a reduction to the cost of residential visits which are currently offered in Years 2-6.

We would strongly urge parents who are eligible to apply through the Citizen Portal on Nottinghamshire County Council's website or by phoning Nottinghamshire County Council on **0300 500 80 80**.

Data Collection Sheets

Parents/carers will shortly be receiving your child's Data Collection Sheet. In order to keep our records up to date please amend any information that has changed then sign, date it and return to the school office as soon as possible. Please pay particular attention to the priority of your contacts as it is 'Priority 1' that will receive text messages sent from school. If you are separated from your child's mother or father and require messages to be sent to more than one contact then please inform the school office. Please sign

and return the form to the School Office even if no amendments have been made. This will enable us to update our details and contact you in case of an emergency.

Before and After School Supervision

Just to remind parents and carers of the before and after school supervision policy;

- The school gates open at 8.30am – this means that there is no access to the playground until this time.
- Between the hours of 8.30am and 8.45am the Health and Safety of children is the responsibility of their parents. There will be minimum supervision from school staff during this time as it is not an organised play session. At this time the playground serves the purpose of providing an access route into school.
- A member of staff will blow the whistle at 8.43am to provide a signal for the children to line up with their teacher in register order and a second whistle will be blown at 8.45am to signal the children to walk into school in a calm manner.
- If you require morning supervision for your child, we have a Breakfast Club which runs from 7.45am every morning, reasonably priced at £4 per child per day. More details can be obtained from the school office.
- At the end of the school day the gates are opened at 3pm. The children leave school at 3.15pm when their Health and Safety becomes the responsibility of their parents.
- Children should not use the play equipment on the school field before or after school session times. If parents permit their child to use the equipment they will be responsible for their Health and Safety. **The play equipment in the Foundation play area should not be used at all before or after school** as the staff work very hard to set up activities for the session which are often spoilt if the resources have been used or moved.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Parent Noticeboards

We aim to keep you updated with regular information via our parent notice-board, website, our text message communication system, Class Dojo and twitter feed (@MapplewellsPrim). Please regularly check the large notice-board in the playground for whole school information and copies of the latest newsletter (there is also always a copy on the school website). The Foundation Unit staff will put signs and notices up in the classroom windows for F1 and F2 parents.

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).

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 20 th	Last day of autumn 1 term
November	
Monday 6 th	INSET day
Tuesday 7 th	First day of autumn 2 term
February	
Monday 26 th	INSET day
May	
Thursday 23 rd	Last day of summer 1 term
Friday 24 th	INSET day

Thank you for your continued support

Mr Whittle
Headteacher

Mr Latkowski
Deputy Headteacher