



# Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 5th September 2025

## [Welcome Message](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As summer draws to a close and we step into the rhythm of a new school year, I hope you and your families have enjoyed a restful and fulfilling break. Whether your time was spent exploring new places or enjoying the comfort of home, I trust it was filled with joy and meaningful moments.

It has been a pleasure to welcome our children back to school this week. The energy and enthusiasm across Mapplewells is already palpable, setting the tone for a year full of growth, learning, and shared success. We have an exciting calendar ahead, filled with opportunities designed to inspire, challenge, and nurture every child.

This weekly newsletter is your window into the life of our school. Through it, we'll share key updates, celebrate achievements, and highlight the everyday moments that make Mapplewells such a special place to learn and grow. I look forward to another year of strong partnership and continued progress.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

## 'Meet the Teacher and Welcome' Sessions

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 in Key Dates below.

## 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 Scott. 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 £5 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.

### **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 school 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.

## Summer School Improvements

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

Work throughout the school includes:

- Painting of the reading sheds at the front of school
- New lighting throughout the school
- New raised bed and seating in the playground
- Staining of the stage in the courtyard area
- New stage in the foundation playground
- cleaning of the bike shed and buildings

It is crucial to have a Site Manager who cares and has high expectations. Mr Barton, our site manager, continues to show 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 Barton.

## Attendance

Mapplewells is committed to working together with parents and carers to ensure the highest possible attendance, which will in turn support the progress of our children, enabling them to achieve the best outcomes and access the best opportunities possible. You can support the school, and your child, to achieve attendance targets by:

- Making sure your child attends school regularly and on time.
- Contacting school on the first day of any absence
- Informing school of any problems that may impact your child's attendance, punctuality, and learning.
- Arrange routine medical appointments outside of school time. If this is not possible, please bring your child in prior to their appointment and ensure they return to school afterwards.
- Ensuring children are ready for school by having good morning and bedtime routines.
- Ensure that you do not book holidays in term time.
- If you feel your child is too ill to come to school, please try to provide medical evidence. This can be prescription medication, an appointment card, or a prescription.



## Stars of the week

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 - Albie

Birch - Freddie

Elder - Keziah

Elm - Isaac

Hawthorn - Olive

Hazel - Harlow

Juniper - Finley

Maple - Iris

Oak - Harold

Pine - Lexi-May

Rowan - Cayley

Willow - Max



## Headteacher Awards

Each week, I will be presenting Headteacher's Awards to children who have been nominated by staff for a variety of reasons — from producing amazing work, going above and beyond, to simply demonstrating what it means to be a wonderful Mapplewellian. These awards celebrate the values we hold dear and recognise the exceptional efforts of our pupils. We'll proudly share the names of our award winners in each edition of the newsletter, so keep an eye out for these special celebrations!

This weeks recipients of a Headteacher's Award are:

- **Callum** - working exceptionally hard to identify adjectives in his writing.
- **Max** and **Athena** - identifying adverbs and using them in the amazing descriptive writing based on WWI.

## 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.



**Guidance for using ClassDojo**

Please use the following guidance for appropriate use of the teacher / parent messaging facility

<p>✓</p> <p>To request some support from the teacher via a phone call or a face to face meeting.</p>	<p>✗</p> <p>To enquire about your child's progress – a phone call or face to face meeting is more appropriate for these matters.</p>
<p>To send a general short message that doesn't need a response from the teacher e.g. "Ella has forgotten her swim kit, I will drop off at school later this morning".</p>	<p>To send a message about absence, medical appointments, dinner enquiries or pick up arrangements. These messages should be sent to the school office.</p>
<p>To send a photo, certificate, or any special event they'd like to share with the class such as a recent achievement, a celebration, or a proud moment.</p>	<p>To make a complaint. Any complaints should be put in writing and sent to the school office for the attention of the class teacher in the first instance.</p>

## Could your child be entitled to extra funding?

### Could your child be entitled to extra funding?

Pupil premium is extra funding for every child who's eligible for free school meals throughout their time at school. This funding goes directly to our school and pays for things like school trips, educational resources, extra support and one-to-one tutoring.

Once a child is in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, our school will receive additional funding (Pupil premium) to help and support them through their education.

We want to make sure as many eligible pupils as possible are claiming. Nottinghamshire County Council use the Department for Education's free school meals eligibility checking system to determine eligibility.

To apply, you will need to register and provide:

- your National Insurance Number or National Asylum Support Service Reference Number
- your last name
- your date of birth

You can apply for free school meals online-

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk> or by contacting NCC on 0300 500 80 80.

Please do get in touch with us if you need any help or support with this.



## Online Safety

### **Top Tips for Supporting Children Going Back to School**

The return to school after summer can be a whirlwind of emotions – a mixture of excitement, nerves, and everything in between. This guide shares ten practical tips to support children during this transition. From re-establishing routines to encouraging conversations about feelings, this guide is designed to reduce stress and build a sense of calm.

Whether children are starting a new school, heading into a different year group, or readjusting after a long break, these strategies can help to ensure a smooth transition. From planning ahead and refreshing social connections to creating calm mornings and supporting healthy sleep habits, our latest #WakeUpWednesday guide is packed with useful advice to make the back-to-school journey more positive for the whole family.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formally delivered by National Crime Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [thenationalcollege.com](http://thenationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

- 1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES**  
Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins, setting a positive tone for productivity and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving focus and concentration.
- 2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS**  
Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, both to what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.
- 3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP**  
Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a consistent routine without screens at least an hour before bed and encourage reading activities like reading or listening to calming music.
- 4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS**  
Some children hide their anxiety, watch for changes in their behaviour such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worse persists, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.
- 5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS**  
Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Positive faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on that first day back.
- 6 CREATE A CALM MORNING**  
Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and taking calmly about the day, avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.
- 7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES**  
Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school - seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is keeping "Here's your day booster" for "What's been good about your day?" This breeds more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's negative thoughts and return school as a safe and engaging place.
- 8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL**  
If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Making the most of even making a photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.
- 9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER**  
Involve children in preparing for school - filling supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them more of a positive, open response. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.
- 10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT**  
Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there to pick them up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.

**Meet Our Expert**  
This guide was created by Jo Martin-Brown, an Emotional Health Practitioner with nearly 15 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She provides expert, evidence-based advice for parents and trusts adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understood in their emotions.

WakeUpWednesday The National College

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.08.2025

## School car parking

We strongly recommend that families walk to school where possible. If you have to use a car please can we remind you to park safely and be considerate of the local residents.

The staff car park should not be used by parents or carers. The only exception are the two disabled parking spaces that are allocated for blue badge permit holders only. If anyone is found using these spaces without this permit, they will be asked to move the vehicle. Thank you for your cooperation in advance.

Nottinghamshire County Council use CCTV cars to enforce parking outside of schools. They visit schools in Nottinghamshire and will record whilst passing, the details of any cars parked illegally. If vehicles are in parked in contravention the registered keepers will receive a Penalty Charge Notice. These restrictions are in place to provide a safe area outside of the school where the children will gather or cross the road therefore, we ask for your help in keeping this area free of parked vehicles.

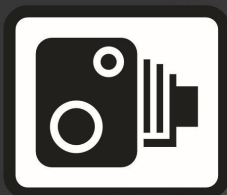


Nottinghamshire  
County Council

# Do not park on school keep clear markings

Our CCTV car is now out patrolling Nottinghamshire schools to help discourage dangerous and inconsiderate parking.

Motorists caught parking on restricted areas near schools or in bus stops will be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) of £70.



Parking on school keep clear markings can seriously endanger road safety for children. Please only park in marked areas and help us keep our school children safe.

[nottinghamshire.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://nottinghamshire.gov.uk/roadsafety)



## Hot snacks

Hot snack will resume again from Monday 8th September and is now available to book and pay for on ScoPay. The following hot snacks are available to purchase:-

Toast 25p

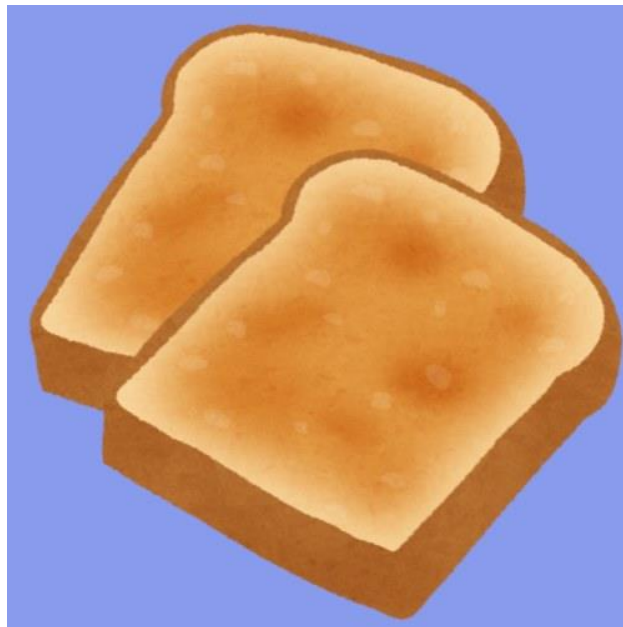
Pizza muffin 50p

Crumpet 50p

Juice (carton) 45p

Milkshake 60p

For your child to receive hot snack for the following week you must book by midnight Sunday evening. You will be paying for one snack item for the entire week, or one snack item and a drink for the whole week (if this is the case, please add both the food item you require and the drink to your basket). We are unable to make exceptions to the system in order for it to run smoothly and there will be no option to bring in cash. This will allow our kitchen staff to count, prepare and deliver the snacks to all the classrooms in time for break time. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer refunds for days where children are off due to illness.



## Flu vaccinations

For pupils in Reception to Year 6. If you would like your child to receive the flu vaccine in school this year, please follow this link to complete the online consent form. If you wish to decline, please use the same link to complete the 'No Consent' form.

<https://nhslmms.azurewebsites.net/session/ea4a4a0f>

The vaccinations will take place at school on the 3rd November 2025. The link will close on the 20th October 2025. If your child has already had the Flu vaccine elsewhere since Sept 2025, please disregard this message. If you have any problems accessing the link, please telephone 0333 3583 397 option 4, option 2.



## Extra-curricular Celebrations

### **Celebrating Achievements Beyond the Classroom**

At Mapplewells, we believe in recognising the whole child — not just their achievements in school, but also the incredible things they accomplish outside of it. Whether it's sporting success, dance performances, community involvement, or learning a new skill or language, we want to celebrate it! If your child has something special to share, please send the details to the

school office. We'll be delighted to feature their achievements in our weekly newsletter and celebrate them with our Mapplewellian community.



*1 - Grace has developed a real love of swimming this year, and now swims for Sutton Swimming Club, Rykneld Swimming Club and Rykneld Synchro Squad. Last weekend, she was chosen as one of only ten swimmers at Rykneld to represent the club at an Adam Peaty (Olympic Champion) race clinic. She was lucky enough to chat to Adam and to hold his Olympic gold medal which has really inspired her to want to achieve more in swimming*

## Key dates - Including Holiday Date 2025/ 2026

As we look ahead, we are populating our school calendar with an exciting array of events and key dates for the new academic year. We encourage you to keep a close eye on these updates, ensuring you remain fully informed and engaged in our vibrant school life.

Diary Dates	
2025	
September	
8 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 3/ 4 Parent meeting
10 <sup>th</sup> September	KS1 trip Newstead Abbey
11 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 2 parent meeting F2 'Welcome to Mapplewells Party'
15 <sup>th</sup> September	F2 'Who is Significant?' Hook Day Year 5 Parent Meeting
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 Parent Meeting
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Netball Skills Festival
October	
10 <sup>th</sup> October	F2 trip to Sherwood Forest
16 <sup>th</sup> October	F2 Diwali Dance Workshop
16 <sup>th</sup> October	KS1 & KS2 – Autumn Disco
17 <sup>th</sup> October	F1 & F2 – Autumn Disco
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Last Day of Autumn 1 – non – uniform day
November	
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	First Day of Autumn 2
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Flu vaccinations
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Whole School Remembrance Service
13 <sup>th</sup> November	F2 Stay and Play 2 – 3pm
18 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 5 Bikeability
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Whole School Pantomime F2 – Yr 6
December	
1 <sup>st</sup> December	F2 Christmas Play 2pm & 5pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	F1 Christmas Play 10am & 4pm
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fayre (provisional)
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Hawthorn Christmas Play
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Hazel Christmas Play
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day of Autumn Term 2 – non – uniform day
2026	
January	
5 <sup>th</sup> January	First Day of Spring 1
7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 3/ 4 Bikeability
February	
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Young Voices
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Individual Pupil Photos
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Last Day of Spring 1 – non-uniform day
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	INSET day
24 <sup>th</sup> February	First Day of Spring 2
March	
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Last Day of Spring 2 – non-uniform day
April	
13 <sup>th</sup> April	First Day of Summer 1
16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 3 residential - Walesby
27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 residential – Caythorpe Court
May	
1 <sup>st</sup> May	LCH Charity Colour Dash
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – School closed
11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs week
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Last Day of Summer 1 – non-uniform day
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	INSET day
June	
1 <sup>st</sup> June	First day of Summer 1
1 <sup>st</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplications Checks
8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Checks
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Leavers Photos & Class Photographs
July	
8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 residential (provisional)
14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Bikeability
24 <sup>th</sup> July	Last Day of Summer 2 – non – uniform day
27 <sup>th</sup> July	INSET day

Our term dates are on the school notice board and our website -

<https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/calendar/?calid=1,3,2&pid=10&viewid=1>

Mr Whittle

Head Teacher

Mr Latkowski

Deputy Headteacher