



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 12th September 2025

[Welcome Message](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we wrap up our second week back, it's been fantastic to see the school buzzing with energy and enthusiasm. Our children are looking incredibly smart in their uniforms — thank you for helping them start the term with pride and positivity.

This week, our Key Stage 1 pupils enjoyed a wonderful trip to Newstead Abbey, exploring history and nature in a truly inspiring setting. Back in school, we've seen some amazing work taking shape across all year groups — a brilliant start to the year!

Please remember to check the Key Dates document attached for upcoming events and important reminders.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 2 weeks is 97.92%! Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 97%

Elder 95%

Elm 99%

Hawthorn 100%

Hazel 98%

Juniper 96%

Maple 96%

Oak 98%

Pine 98%

Rowan 98%

Willow 95%

Well done to Hawthorn class on their fantastic attendance this week! Let's keep striving to improve our attendance, to continue to exceed that figure of 97%.



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 - William

Birch - Ella

Elder - Olly

Elm - Johnny

Hawthorn - Florence

Hazel - Bill

Juniper - Eva

Maple - Jasmine R

Oak - Alice B

Pine - Lucy Mae

Rowan - Rowan

Willow - Grayson



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:

- **Evie, Faye, Jude** and **Chester** - their amazing drawings of significant people.
- **Maggie** - using very ambitious adverbs in her descriptive writing.
- **Iris** - wonderful writing in her English. Excellent presentation and great use of vocabulary.

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>

F2 literacy & party

This week in literacy, we have begun our learning about lists. We practised writing our names on party invitations and wrote lists of things we wanted at our party and a list of people who were invited. We had a great time at our 'welcome to Mapplewells' party!







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

What Parents and Carers Need to Know About Conspiracy Theories

The latest update to ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ includes clarification that misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories are recognised safeguarding harms. Although they might seem far-fetched, for many people they are very convincing – especially when presented by persuasive influencers or sensationalist videos online. This guide unpacks the risks, including isolation, anxiety, and exposure to extremist content, that can arise when conspiracies go unchecked.

It also highlights how conspiracy theories can erode critical thinking and trust in reliable sources – including schools, families, and the media. With practical advice for nurturing curiosity, encouraging scepticism, and safeguarding children’s digital experiences, this edition of Wake Up Wednesday helps adults to tackle tricky topics in a calm and confident manner.

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. Formerly delivered by National Centre for Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit www.thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and family values, scientists, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by assisting them from reliable sources of information.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that lower their safety and radicalisation.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy theory video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer restrictions if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree. Sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global panic, illness, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness for some young people, to the point of triggering prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This may undermine their academic progress and weaken their ability to take critical safety risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influences.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: 'Who is telling me this?' 'What evidence is there?' 'What do other trusted sources say?' Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert
 Brandon O'Keefe is a healthteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and parental care.

Source: See full <https://www.thenationalcollege.com/updates/Conspiracy-Theories>

[@wake_up_weds](https://www.instagram.com/wake_up_weds)
[www.thenationalcollege](https://www.facebook.com/www.thenationalcollege)
[@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wake-up-wednesday)
[@wake.up.weds](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

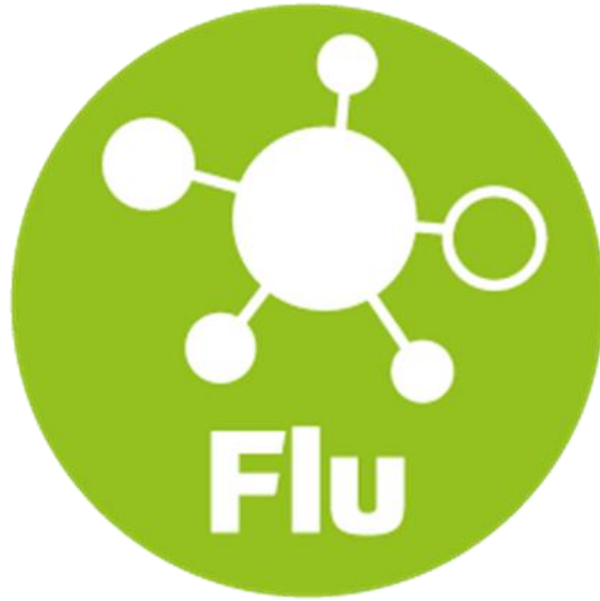
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.09.2025

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://nhsImms.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.



House Captains and Ambassadors

On Friday 19th September, we invite all children to come to school dressed in their house colours as we will be launching our House Captains and Ambassadors during assembly.

To help you prepare, here's a reminder of the house colours:

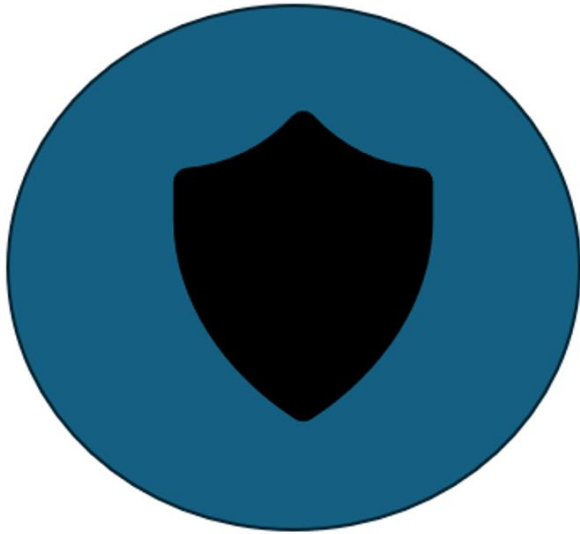
Wallaton Warriors – Green

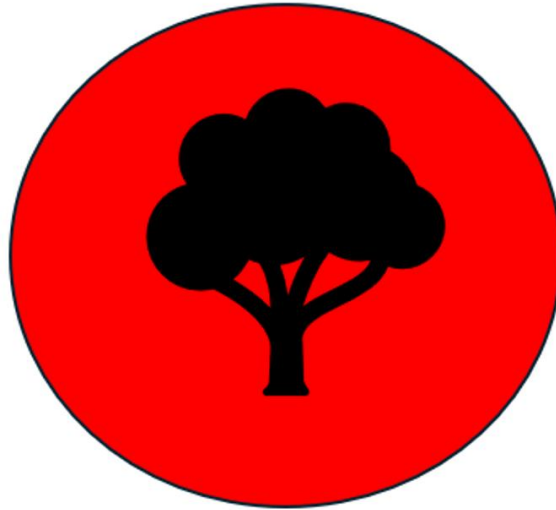
Newstead Knights – Blue

Rufford Rangers – Red

Hardwick Hawks – Yellow

If you are unsure which house your child belongs to, please contact their class teacher for clarification.





[Flying High Partnership Staff Awards 2025](#)

We're excited to launch our very first standalone Staff Awards, shining a spotlight on the incredible people who make our partnership so special.

Nominations open at 9am on Monday 8th September 2025 and close at 5pm on Friday 19th September 2025 at 5pm.

Children's Choice Award - Previously included within our children's awards, this dedicated occasion gives us the chance to truly showcase the passion, commitment and excellence of our staff. This award is chosen by children themselves, recognising someone who has made a real and lasting difference to their school experience. Nominees for this award should:

- Be nominated directly by children from their school
- Demonstrate kindness, support and a genuine connection with pupils
- Be someone children look up to and feel inspired by

Your nominations are invaluable in ensuring that every deserving individual is recognised for their hard work, dedication and embodiment of the Flying High culture. This is your chance to recognise staff who go above and beyond, live our values, and make every day count for our children, teams, and communities.

If your child would like to nominate a member of staff for an award please complete this form -

<https://forms.office.com/e/xsmsFi9xyu>



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.

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

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

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

<https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Useful+Information&pid=86>

Mr Whittle

Head Teacher

Mr Latkowski

Deputy Headteacher