



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 19th September 2025

[Welcome Message](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've reached the end of our third week back, and what a brilliant start to the term it's been! The children have settled in beautifully and are already showing fantastic focus, enthusiasm, and pride in their learning. It's been a joy to see classrooms buzzing with curiosity and determination.

This week, we celebrated **House Colours Day**, a special occasion where we proudly announced our new **House Captains and Ambassadors**. Congratulations to all the pupils who have taken on these important roles—we're excited to see the leadership and positivity you'll bring to our school community.

Also, a reminder if the children have anything from outside of school they would like to share with our Mapplewellian community, please do not hesitate to send it so that we can celebrate it in our weekly newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 3 weeks is 97.62%! Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 97%

Elder 94%

Elm 99%

Hawthorn 99%

Hazel 98%

Juniper 97%

Maple 96%

Oak 96%

Pine 97%

Rowan 96%

Willow 97%

Well done to Elm & Hawthorn classes 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 - Lyla

Birch - Axel

Elder - Stanley

Elm - Robin

Hawthorn - Roslyn

Hazel - Caleb

Juniper - Hugo

Maple - Oscar

Oak - Ewan

Pine - Teddy

Rowan - Thea

Willow - Ava



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:

- **Evin** - working hard to write direct speech.
- **Ella** and **Stanley** - super blending, knowing all their phonics codes and brilliant reading!
- **Ava** and **Athena** - identifying and using adverbs in their descriptive writing.
- **Lottie H, Niall** and **Hattie** - amazing blending, knowing all of their phonics codes and superb reading.

- **Lana** - showing incredible kindness, patience and understanding towards her classmates.
- **Elijah** - working really hard to make inferences in his reading lesson.
- **Olive** - amazing handwriting and working hard to write instructions.

Netball Skills Festival

This week, the Year 5/6 girls represented Mapplewells at the Ashfield School Games Netball Skills Festival. The event itself was brilliant and taught the girls the basics that they need to know to play netball; there was a footwork session, shooting session and ball skills session that they got the chance to take part in.

We all had a great time and the girls were super representatives of our school - well done! They're even asking for a school netball team now!















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

 To request some support from the teacher via a phone call or a face to face meeting.	 To enquire about your child's progress – a phone call or face to face meeting is more appropriate for these matters.
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".	To send a message about absence, medical appointments, dinner enquiries or pick up arrangements. These messages should be sent to the school office.
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.	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.

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 Snapchat

With over 900 million monthly users, Snapchat continues to be a favourite among children and young people; however, with its ever-evolving features, the risks have evolved too. From AI-generated filters and chatbots, to disappearing messages and the Snap Map location-sharing

tool, it's easy for children to stumble into unsafe territory. This guide breaks down the latest updates, including the Lens+ subscription service, and web browser access.

We've also unpacked the risks of sextortion scams, overuse, and inappropriate content that may slip through the app's moderation systems. With expert advice from online safety consultant Dr Claire Sutherland, this guide is a must-read for anyone helping young people navigate Snapchat responsibly and confidently.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT (Age Restriction 13+)

With over 800 million active monthly users and billions of "snaps" sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the My AI character and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share information of interest with targeted advertisers, bypass standards, and collect personal data. Advertisers then use this information to target users, potentially leading to manipulation, harassment, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION
Snapchat boasts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak is being going for a few days, users will see a emoji. The number of streaks it shows the number of days, but users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to reverse it is to pay. This encourages daily use, frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION
Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may lead to a sense of anonymity, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may promise a reward for sending nude images, then someone captures these images to threaten and blackmail the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+
Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering users access to new and exclusive features. In June 2024, Snapchat introduced a new feature called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of new and AI-powered filters, creating and sharing snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or being pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY
Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it if their phone is locked without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The platform uses AI to review content and determine if the poster, or even an innocent search term, could yield age-inappropriate results. The app's flagging message feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so seeing content to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB**
Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that requires the app user and how to use it in-app preferences for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS**
Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you mature on open dialogue. Talk about content and decisions before making a snap up. If they're used to a chat, encourage them to tell you something if you notice any and over judgemental reactions, encouraging to report risks. Furthermore, explain how popular challenges on the platform can have harmful consequences.
- BLOCK AND REPORT**
If a stranger contacts with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to store why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the "nudity and sexual content" category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sensitive explicit images or videos.
- USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**
Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them understand who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are better than others, considering their understanding of core boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship group.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented online bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government concerning internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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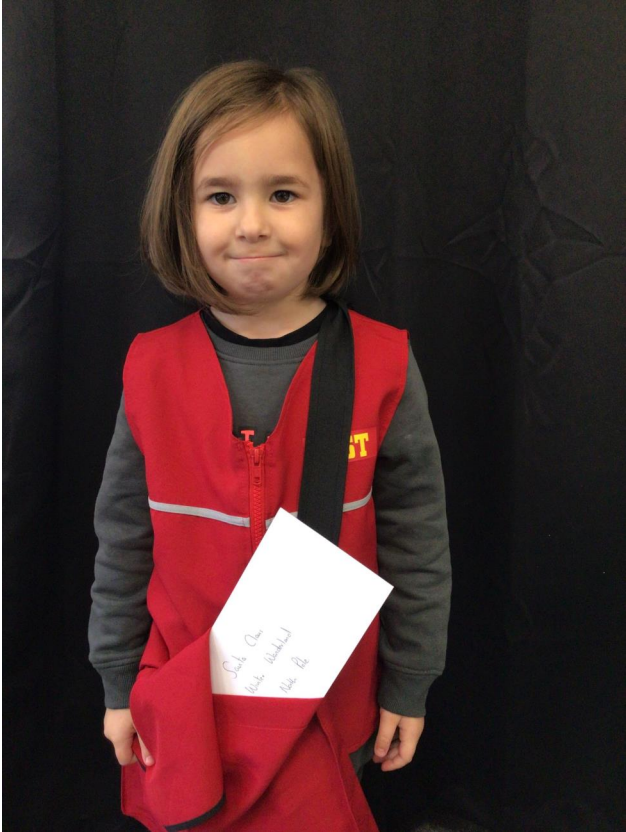
F2 Autumn enquiry

This week we kick started our Autumn enquiry 'who is significant?' by asking the children to come to school dressed as somebody that is significant to them.









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.



House Captains and Ambassadors

Today the children came to school dressed in their house colours as we launched our House Captains and Ambassadors during assembly.

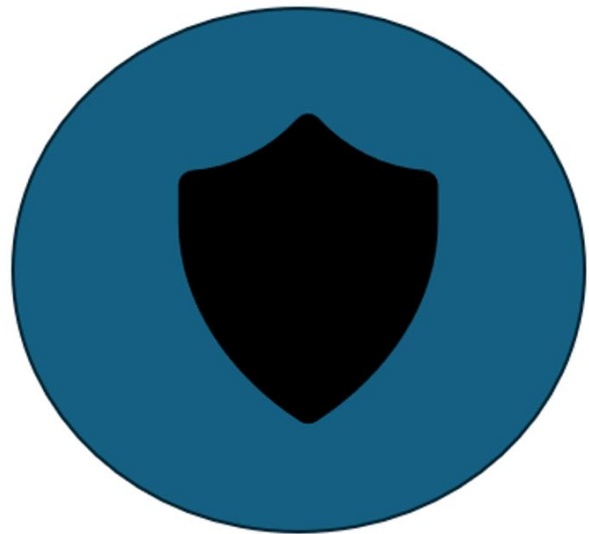
The new House Captains and Ambassadors are:-

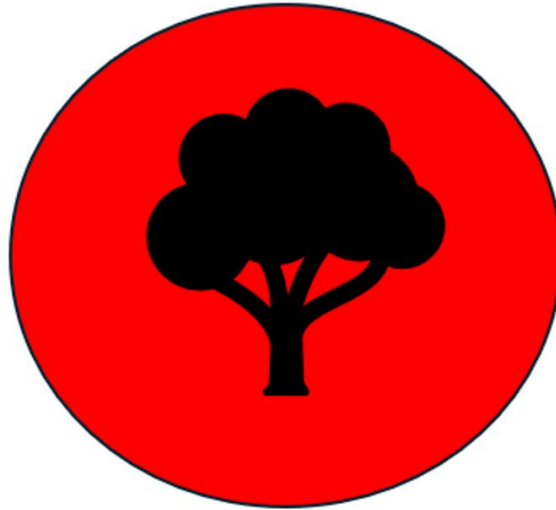
Wallaton Warriors – **Rowan, Lexi, Bertie and Isaac**

Newstead Knights – **Henry, Emmie, Jack and Alana**

Rufford Rangers – **Henry, Thea, Laney and Robin**

Hardwick Hawks – **Harley, Poppy, Lana and Riley**





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 today** - 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>



F2 at Forest School

This week, F2 had their first Forest school session. We had lots of fun in the rain, climbing on the tyres and up the ladder, making yummy treats in the mud kitchen and building dens with our friends.









Key dates

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

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	
October	
2 nd October	Harvest Festival Assemblies
10 th October	F2 trip to Sherwood Forest
16 th October	F1 & 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