



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 26th September 2025

[Welcome Message](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As continue to navigate through our autumn term it amazes me that we already over half-way through! I am delighted to share with you the latest updates from Mapplewells. Our children have been actively engaged in a variety of learning experiences, demonstrating enthusiasm, curiosity and dedication. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff, supportive parents and carers and engaged children for making Mapplewells such a wonderful learning community.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 4 weeks is 97.31%! Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 97%

Elder 92%

Elm 97%

Hawthorn 99%

Hazel 98%

Juniper 97%

Maple 97%

Oak 96%

Pine 97%

Rowan 96%

Willow 97%

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 - Maddison

Birch - George

Elder - Flo

Elm - Molly

Hawthorn - Clay

Hazel - Autumn

Juniper - Klara

Maple - Delilah

Oak - Savannah

Pine - Arthur

Rowan - Oscar

Willow - Harriet



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:

- **Ava** – For showing fantastic focus and determination while preparing a detailed and thoughtful plan for her main writing task.
- **Finley** – For enriching his writing with a brilliant selection of synonyms, adding flair and variety to his work.
- **Ollie** – For demonstrating great perseverance and progress in understanding how to round numbers accurately.

- **Freddie** – For his impressive phonics skills and confidently recognising a wide range of sound codes.
- **Florence** – For producing beautifully presented handwriting and writing lovely, informative sentences about Queen Victoria.
- **Lottie and Erin** – For their wonderful writing and excellent use of phonics and blending skills to support their reading.
- **Thea** – For crafting a vivid and descriptive diary entry from the perspective of a WWI soldier — a powerful piece of writing.
- **Lollie** – For writing an outstanding diary entry and showcasing elegant, well-formed handwriting.
- **Poppy** – For her imaginative and heartfelt diary written from the viewpoint of a WWI soldier — truly impressive work.
- **Henry** – For using ambitious and expressive vocabulary to elevate the quality of his writing.
- **Harrison** – For working diligently to edit and improve his writing, resulting in a highly descriptive and engaging piece.
- **Finlay, Harvey, Olivia, Evie, Flora, Mabel, Autumn, Kai, Maeva, Caleb, Isaac, Hudson, Anya, Hugo & Johnny** - For their amazing phonics work
- **Jack B & Jasper P** - For writing an amazing set of instructions using extended sentences and beautiful handwriting

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 Instagram

Instagram remains a go-to app for teens, with its endless stream of photos, videos, and ‘Stories’ keeping young users constantly connected. From influencer content to live broadcasts, the platform is packed with evolving features that can feel fun and engaging – but can also raise some serious concerns around screen time, online pressures and exposure to inappropriate content.

We’ve created this guide offering parents and educators up-to-date knowledge on the risks and safety tips for this latest version of Instagram.

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 Online 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 INSTAGRAM

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME
Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling, prioritising content that generates more attention and engagement. Children can quickly lose track of time browsing away from their education, and teenagers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS
Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, offers users to chat with an 'AI friend'. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may feel or need someone that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE
The 'Go Live' feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted attention, including pressure to post in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION
Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead to conversations on other apps, and comments on public conversations with strangers. The content may not adhere to age-appropriate use or be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING
Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH
Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Not only can kids be teased or excluded, but they can also be excluded from conversations and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often leads to rumination and self-harm. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS
Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Supervised users can't post or interact with others, and parents can adjust and alter controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their mobile phone responsibly and only have these permissions.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI
Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent on the app, check keyword lists and adjust responses to sensitive content. Choose AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION
Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Assess whether they don't need to add their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS
Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the differences between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various e-safety programs and content for resources for the Australian government regarding internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

WakeUp Wednesday
The National College

[@wake_up_weds](https://www.wake_up_weds.com) www.thenationalcollege.com [@wake_up_wedsday](https://www.wake_up_weds.com) [@wake_up_weds](https://www.wake_up_weds.com)

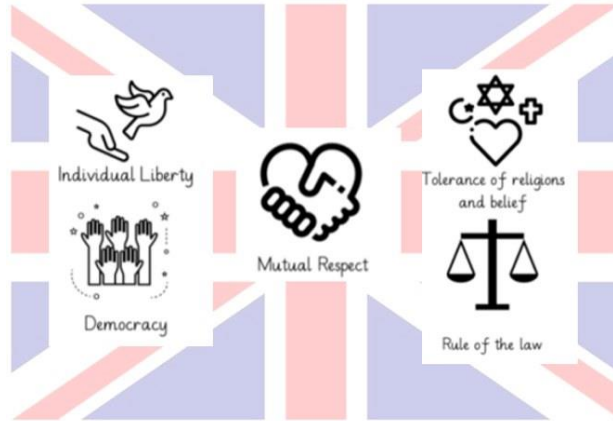
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.04.2025

Focus on British Values

Respect and Tolerance

Respect and tolerance are words that describe how we treat other people. If we respect someone, we treat them in a way that shows we value them and think they are important. If we are tolerant of something, it shows we accept the differences between people.

This is the understanding that we are all different and have different beliefs and values. It is accepting and respecting this and involves no one person or group of people thinking they are more important, more deserving, or better than anyone else. We all have the right to live healthy, safe, and happy lives, where our different values are accepted and respected.



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.



Lost property

A number of coats and jumpers have already been left at school this term. Items with names have already been returned to their owners. If you're missing any uniform please check with Mr Barton, our site manager, at the start or end of the school day. Unnamed items will be held for a short time before being donated.


Let's help these clothes find their way home!



Early Years Open Evening Invitation

We are delighted to invite both new and current families to our **Early Years Open Evening** for children who will be starting **Nursery or Reception in September 2026**.

 **Date:** Monday 17th November

 **Time:** 3:45pm – 5:30pm

 **Location:** EYFS Classrooms

Come along to explore our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) environment, where classrooms will be set up with engaging activities for you and your child to enjoy. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet our EYFS staff, ask questions, and learn more about what to expect in the year ahead.

Whether you're a new parent considering our setting or already part of our school community, we'd love to see you there!

Please feel free to share this invitation with friends, family, and others in our community who may be interested.

We look forward to welcoming you!



The invitation card features a blue circular logo at the top left with the text 'Successful Nursery & Reception 2026' and 'Success is in our hands'. Below the logo is a yellow banner with the question 'Is your child approaching nursery or school age?'. The main text is in white on a blue background, stating: '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!'. At the bottom left, contact information is provided: 'Tel: 01623 455949' and 'office@mapplewells.notts.sch.uk'. At the bottom right, the event details are listed: 'Monday 17th November from 3.45 – 5.30 pm'. On the right side of the card is a photograph of five children in blue school uniforms jumping joyfully in a grassy area with a wooden playhouse in the background. The title 'Foundation Open Evening' is written in white at the top of the photo.

After school club

Following on from our wrap around care survey we have been in contact with some outside providers to consider whether we can offer an after school club. They would like to understand the current level of interest. Could you complete their very quick form to indicate if you would be interested in a after school place so they can gauge wider interest beyond the families that have already contacted school.

Please use the following link - <https://forms.gle/KbRFxcQomBD6TQM66>



Contact details

To help us keep your child safe and ensure we can reach you quickly in case of an emergency or to keep up to date with activities happening at school, please make sure your contact details correct. If you've recently changed your phone number, email address, or emergency contacts, kindly notify us **as soon as possible** so we can update our records. You can do this by phone, email or popping into reception.

Thank you for your cooperation.



The Mapplewellian Drawathon

We're thrilled to announce a whole-school fundraising event that promises to be a day full of creativity, community spirit, and celebration!

Date: Wednesday 5th November

Event: The Mapplewellian Drawathon

Every child will take part in a special 30-minute drawing challenge, where they'll be encouraged to unleash their imagination and create as many unique drawings as they can — each inspired by our cherished Mapplewellian values:

- ☑ Support
- ☑ Understanding
- ☑ Self-confidence
- ☑ Celebration
- ☑ Curiosity
- ☑ Excellence
- ☑ Self-discipline.





This exciting event is more than just a drawing session — it's a chance for children to reflect on what it truly means to be part of our school community, and to express those values through art.

A blue poster for the Mapplewells Drawathon. On the left, a large orange and yellow pencil is shown with a black squiggly line trailing from its tip. At the top right, the text 'MAPPLEWELLS DRAWATHON' is written in a white, arched font. Below this is a circular logo with the text 'Mapplewells Primary & Nursery School' around the perimeter and 'SUCCESS is in our hands' in the center. The main text on the poster is white and reads: 'On Wednesday 5th November, our school will be buzzing with creativity as the children take part in an exciting Drawing Competition! In 30-minute time slots, pupils will create as many drawings as they can – each one inspired by our Core Values: Support • Understanding • Self-Confidence • Celebration • Curiosity • Excellence • Self-Discipline. This fun-filled event is not only a chance to showcase talent, imagination, and teamwork, but also a way to raise funds for our amazing school curriculum. Children are encouraged to gather sponsorship from family and friends to help us reach our goal. Come join us in celebrating our values through art and help make a real difference!'

Arbor

We're excited to let you know that our school has moved to a new Management Information System: **Arbor MIS**.

This change will make things easier and more efficient for everyone. Through Arbor, you'll be able to:

-  Book Parents' Evening appointments
-  Update your contact details quickly and securely
-  Sign up and pay for school trips
-  Access key information about your child's education

We'll be sharing more details soon, including how to log in and get started. Keep an eye out for updates!



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