



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 10th October 2025

[Welcome Message](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another exciting and enriching week across the school, filled with memorable experiences and meaningful learning. Our F2 children had a fantastic adventure at Sherwood Forest, exploring nature and enjoying exploring beneath the trees—bringing their learning to life in a magical setting.

Meanwhile, our Year 6 pupils took part in a special visit to Mansfield Town Football Club as part of World Mental Health Day. The day focused on wellbeing, resilience, and the importance of talking about mental health, and the children engaged brilliantly throughout.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 6 weeks is 97.43%! Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 96%

Elder 93%

Elm 98%

Hawthorn 98%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 97%

Oak 97%

Pine 98%

Rowan 96%

Willow 97%

Well done to Elm, Hawthorn & Pine 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 - Evelyn

Hawthorn - Bertie

Hazel - Zara

Juniper - Joshua

Maple - Maggie

Oak - Emmy

Pine - Olivia

Rowan - Grace

Willow - Chloe



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:

🌟 **Jasmine, Iris, and Maggie** – A huge congratulations for your outstanding work and impressive depth of knowledge about the Stone Age. Your curiosity and dedication truly brought history to life!

📝 **Finley, Ralph, Harold, Savannah, and Eden** – Exceptional creativity in crafting and refining powerful Stone Age-themed poems. Your words captured the spirit of the era beautifully!

📖 **Alice** – A fantastic achievement for reading every single day at home! Your commitment has paid off, and you've now moved up a reading band – well done and keep it up!

Goodbye Mrs Binch

After nearly 11 years of service, Mrs Binch will be leaving Mapplewells today. While we are sad to see her go, we are grateful for all that Mrs Binch has contributed to our school community. Mrs Binch has dedicated herself to supporting and nurturing children throughout the school including teaching, 1:1 support and as one of our ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant). She has made a wonderful contribution success of the school.

She will be greatly missed by pupils, families, and colleagues alike. On behalf of everyone at Mapplewells, I wish her every success in her new role.

Autumn Parents' Evenings

We are pleased to invite you to our Autumn Parents' Evenings, which will take place on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th November. Appointments will be available between 3:30pm and 6pm on both days.

Each appointment will last 10 minutes per child, providing a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress, ask any questions, and hear how you can support their learning at home.

We're pleased to announce that bookings for upcoming appointments will be managed through Arbor, giving you the flexibility to choose a time slot that works best for you. Booking opens at 6:00 PM on Wednesday 15th October 2025 via the Arbor app or parent portal. To ensure a smooth booking process, please make sure your child's registration is fully completed before this time.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the Office.



Parents' Evenings

Spanish Day - 17th October



¡Hola Mapplewellians! Spanish Day is Coming!

We're thrilled to announce that on **Friday 17th October** (our last day before the October half-term), we'll be celebrating a special **Spanish Day** at Mapplewells!

What's happening?

Throughout the day, each key stage will be 'travelling' to a different Spanish-speaking country, exploring its language, culture, music and traditions. It's going to be a fantastic opportunity for everyone to learn, experience and enjoy a taste of the Spanish-speaking world!

To join in the celebration, children are invited to come to school dressed in **red and yellow** (the colours of the Spanish flag) or in a **Spanish-themed outfit**. However, please don't worry if you don't have anything in these colours (the red piece of clothing I own is a Forest shirt!) – any non-uniform will be absolutely fine. The most important thing is that the children enjoy their learning and the experience.

Why Spanish?

Spanish is the **fourth most spoken language in the world**, and many of our families enjoy visiting Spanish-speaking countries on holiday. At Mapplewells, we begin teaching Spanish in Key Stage 1 – earlier than the National Curriculum recommends – because research shows that the earlier children are exposed to a new language, the more likely they are to develop strong language skills.

This special day will also give our children the chance to discover the incredible diversity of Spanish-speaking countries around the world and their rich, varied cultures. We want every child to take away new knowledge and understanding about Spain, the Spanish language, and different cultures across the globe.

A huge thank you to **Miss Freeman** for all her hard work and effort in organising what I'm sure will be a fantastic day for your children!

We can't wait to see the children's enthusiasm and curiosity on the day.

Vacancies

Do you wish that you worked in a school like ours? One that aims to develop happy children, all working together to achieve their personal best. We have vacancies for Midday Supervisor roles and Personal Care Assistant. Please visit <https://www.flyinghighpartnership.co.uk/careers/> for more details.



Online Safety

What Parents and Carers Need to Know About FC 26

With new kits, updated squads and refined gameplay, EA FC 26 brings the thrill of top-tier football to living rooms once again. While it continues to offer family-friendly fun in modes like Kick-Off and Career, the ongoing popularity of Ultimate Team – where players spend money to build fantasy squads – brings a mix of excitement and risks.

Children can encounter issues such as gambling-like mechanics, voice chat with strangers, and potential exposure to scams. This guide breaks down the game's most important features, highlights the key risks to be aware of, and shares practical advice for helping young players stay safe while gaming and interacting online.

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 digital citizenship. Formally delivered by National Crime Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26

RESTRICTION PEGI 3

Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE
As with the rest of the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise will once a year with updated squads and new features. This can mean it's expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT
Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to their friends and other players. While it can be useful, it can also be used to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter unfiltered speech from other players, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviour.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM
Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can use to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not easy to come by, and new, improved versions of packs will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could be prone to the spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM
Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to take players out of money and to game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is not working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION
While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its both-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world set and game of football, Ultimate Team has an added layer of excitement. Limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and financial problems for some.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR
The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are enjoying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT
As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to do so, away from any online chat of strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING
If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't use a payment card to their account. The company can be helpful in cancelling a card, and the discipline of spending money on packs with limitations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth setting a prepaid card or you of greater than to make their own choice with their budget.

BE VIGILANT
As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game or on social media with financial messages, and does not report suspicious items. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites, as this can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coleman is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published or cited including The Telegraph and many more.

Source: <https://www.nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>

WakeUpWednesday The National College

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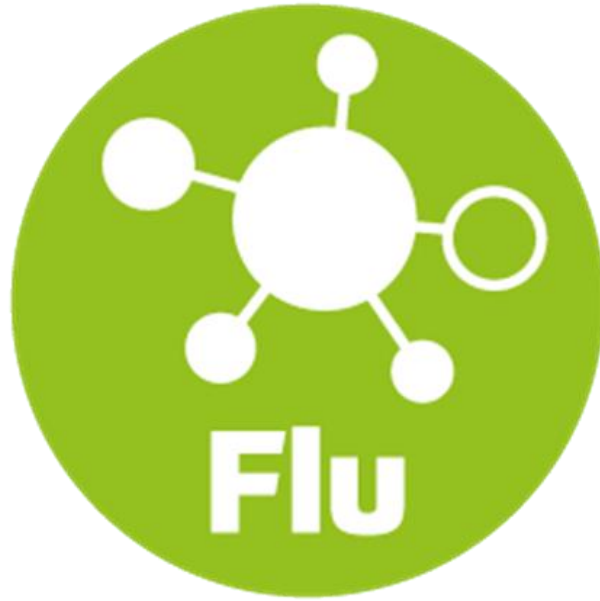
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.10.2025

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.



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 flyer features a circular logo at the top left with the text 'Mapplewell Primary & Nursery School' and 'SUCCESS is in our hands'. Below the logo is a yellow box with the question 'Is your child approaching nursery or school age?'. The main text is in a white box with a blue border, containing an invitation to an 'Early Years Foundation stage' event. It states that no booking is needed and that the event will be held at the school office at Henning Lane. It also mentions that parents are welcome to bring their children to explore the setting. At the bottom left, there is contact information: 'Tel: 01623 455949' and 'office@mapplewells.notts.sch.uk'. At the bottom right, there is a blue box with the text 'Monday 17th November from 3.45 – 5.30 pm'. The background of the flyer is a photograph of five children in blue school uniforms jumping joyfully in a grassy area with a wooden building in the background.

Foundation Open Evening

Is your child approaching nursery or school age?

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.

Tel: 01623 455949
office@mapplewells.notts.sch.uk

Monday 17th November from 3.45 – 5.30 pm

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.



School Admissions Consultation 2027-28- Early Years

Nottinghamshire's annual consultation on admission arrangements is now open. The County Council, as the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools, is required by the School Admissions Code to determine admission arrangements annually. Any changes have to be consulted upon prior to determination.

This year, the consultation for the admission arrangements for 2027-2028 for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire will be open between 6 October 2025 and 23 November 2025.

A summary of the consultation has been sent to parents/carers by email and the full proposed arrangements are available on our public website.¹

¹<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/school-admissions-consultation-2027-to-2028>


It is important that all consultees have an opportunity to comment on the proposed arrangements if they wish to do so, comments can be made up to 23 November 2025 by:


- completing the online response form² or
- emailing admissionsconsultations@nottsc.gov.uk³

Thank you

Arbor

As you will be aware, our School Management Information System (MIS) has now moved to Arbor.

 **Parent App & Registration** We've sent an email with details on how to register and use the Arbor Parent App. Please check your inbox and follow the instructions to complete your child's registration.

 **Need Help?** Arbor offers a wide range of free help resources to support you. You can access them here. - **Getting started - Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App**⁴

We're excited to begin using Arbor and hope you are too! If you have any questions that aren't covered in the help section, please don't hesitate to contact the school office directly.

²https://consult.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schools/schooladmissionarrangements2027-2028/?_gl=1*15m5rbc*_gcl_au*MTU3MzIzNDk2NC4xNzUzODA0Nzcx*_ga*MjA3ODAzMzc5NS4xNzUzODA0Nzcx*_ga_QHE3HKNBEC*czE3NTk1NzQ3NTIkbzg1JGcxJHQxNzU5NTc0NzY1JGo0NyRsMCRoMA..

³<mailto:Admissionsconsultations@nottsc.gov.uk>

⁴<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/360020147458-Getting-started-Log-into-the-Parent-Portal-and-the-Arbor-App>



County Cross Country League

This weekend, children from Year 5/6 represented Mapplewells at the County Cross Country League held at Berry Hill park.

The children ran brilliantly - especially to say that it was the first time that many of them had been to this event! They ran their socks off and did us all proud - well done.

A special mention goes to Emmy, who stepped up (she's only Year 4!) and saved the day so that we had a school girls team to grab the points! Thank you Emmy, you are a true Mapplewellian!



Non-uniform day Friday 21st November

Friends of Mapplewells have planned a Non-Uniform Day on Friday 21st November! This year, instead of a £1 donation, we are asking families to kindly donate chocolates and sweets for the upcoming school fair, just like last year. These treats will be used for the fair's tombola.

Thank you for your continued support in helping make our school fair a sweet success!



Geology rocks

This week in year 3/4 were thrilled to welcome a special guest — a geology expert who shared their fascinating knowledge about **rocks and minerals**. The children were captivated as they explored a range of amazing specimens, including **shimmering obsidian**, **sparkling quartz**, and **fossil-rich limestone**. They learned how different types of rocks are formed and even discovered some of the exciting **careers that involve studying and working with rocks**, such as geologists, paleontologists, and gemologists. It was a hands-on, inspiring session that truly rocked!





F2 Books & Biscuits

This week F2 had their 'Books & Biscuits' morning. The children enjoyed sharing stories and of course eating lots of yummy biscuits! Thank you to everyone who joined us!















Autumn Discos

Our Autumn discos are now live on Scopay. On their disco day the children can come to school wearing a Halloween/Autumn costume or non- uniform. This year they will be held as follows:

- KS1 and KS2 - Thursday 16th October
- EYFS - Friday 17th October

If you are able to support us in decorating our school hall ready for the disco please see Miss Christie, we will be decorating from 9:00am on Thursday.



Mapplewells community event

At Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School, we are proud to be at the heart of our community — a place where strong relationships, local pride, and shared values thrive. As part of our ongoing commitment to further enhance and embed our local links, we are excited to invite members of our community to take part in an upcoming event.

During our next Parents' Evenings on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th November, we would love to welcome local small businesses and services to join us by hosting a stall or providing entertainment. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talent and support available within our area, while enriching the experience for our families. Whether you offer handmade goods, local services, creative activities, or community initiatives, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Together, we can continue to make Mapplewells not just a school, but a hub of connection, celebration, and community spirit. Mansfield Town Football Club have already confirmed a stall and activity!

If you're interested in taking part, please complete this form -

<https://forms.office.com/e/R4zvnaHdrH> The deadline for signing up is Wednesday 15th October.



Sports leaders in training

Last week, our sports leaders had the exciting opportunity to work alongside Luke and Kyle, players from Mansfield Town Football Club. The session kicked off with the leaders splitting into two teams to design their own basketball warm-ups, each tailored to improve performance in a Small Sided Game (SSG). One team focused on shooting drills while the other developed a fast-paced dribbling routine — both aimed at sharpening their gameplay.

After warming up, the teams faced off in an exciting 4v4 match, with Kyle leading one side and Luke captaining the other. The pupils showed fantastic energy and teamwork throughout, and as you can see in the photos, they had an absolute blast!





Key dates

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	
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	Spanish Day
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
5 th November	Mapplewellian Drawathon
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
17 th November	Open evening for Foundation
18 th – 21 st November	Year 5 Bikeability
21 st November	Non-uniform day – tombola donations
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	
9 th 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
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