



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 17th October 2025

Welcome Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this week's newsletter as we reach the end of a busy and successful half-term at Mapplewells!

It's been wonderful to see the children fully immersed in their learning and making such positive progress. A special mention must go to our youngest pupils in Nursery and Reception, who have settled brilliantly and are already showing a fantastic enthusiasm for learning.

This week has been filled with exciting events that have brought our school community together. Our **Autumn Discos** were a huge hit—thank you to everyone who helped make them such a fun and memorable experience for the children. We also celebrated **Spanish Day**, which was a great success! The children enjoyed exploring Spanish culture, language, and food, and it was lovely to see such high levels of engagement and enjoyment across the school.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 7 weeks is 96.96%! Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 95%

Elder 93%

Elm 97%

Hawthorn 98%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 97%

Oak 96%

Pine 97%

Rowan 95%

Willow 96%

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 - Thyme

Birch - Olivia

Elder - Emilia

Elm - Ada

Hawthorn - Riley

Hazel - Jesse

Juniper - Emmeline

Maple - Thomas

Oak - Archie

Pine - Desmond

Rowan - Crystal

Willow - Eleanor



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 week's recipients of a Headteacher's Award are:

Arthur – For writing a powerful and dramatic poem that vividly captures the experience of life in the trenches during World War I. Arthur's use of language, emotion, and imagery brought history to life in a truly engaging and thought-provoking way. A fantastic piece of work that shows both creativity and maturity.

Maggie – For demonstrating excellent mathematical thinking during subtraction work, particularly when using exchanging and solving complex problems. Maggie showed great

perseverance and confidence, applying her skills with accuracy and independence. A brilliant example of focused learning and problem-solving!

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. Bookings are open now.

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



Spanish Day

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.

Our children discovered the incredible diversity of Spanish-speaking countries around the world and their rich, varied cultures. One of our aims for today was that every child to take away new knowledge and understanding about Spain, the Spanish language, and different cultures across the globe.

It's been a fantastic opportunity for everyone to learn, experience and enjoy a taste of the Spanish-speaking world!













Online Safety

What Parents and Carers Need to Know About Memes

Memes are everywhere - quick, witty, and wildly shareable. For many young people they are more than jokes, they're a way to connect, express themselves and interpret the world. But behind the humour, there can be risks. This guide helps adults understand how memes work and why they matter to young people today.

From misinformation to insensitive jokes and permanent digital footprints, this guide highlights the potential pitfalls of meme culture. With practical tips on digital literacy, empathy and open conversations, it empowers parents and educators to help children navigate online humour in a thoughtful, safe, and respectful way.

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 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 MEMES

Memes may look like simple jokes but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- SPREADING MISINFORMATION**
While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes that sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared widely, young people may not question their accuracy.
- EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
Memes are widely circulated and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter digital language, sexual content, or graphic imagery even without searching for it. Content shared on platforms like Instagram, TikTok or WhatsApp, is nearly impossible to filter them completely.
- MASKED MESSAGES**
Some memes are designed to be confusing or several with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes present offensive, harmful, or misleading content.
- HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY**
When satire topics like the violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become desensitised to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or spread personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.
- PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT**
Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a track. Content or shared images can be taken down and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once shared, images may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control. Digital content can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS**
Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world. Discuss what they find funny about the memes and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and young people think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.
- TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY**
Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Show them how memes can sometimes be manipulated or misinterpreted. Encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.
- MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES**
Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risk of online. By modeling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.
- FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE**
Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of creating a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Christina Memon-Armellos is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.

WakeUpWednesday The National College

Twitter: @wake_up_weds Facebook: www.thenationalcollege Instagram: @wake.up.wednesday TikTok: @wake.up.weds

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Safeguarding Tip of the Week

This week's safeguarding focus is mental health, following our school celebration last week. Mental health is about our moods, feelings and emotions. Recognising the signs that a child may be struggling with their mental health can be hard and it is important that we talk about mental health with our children.

Below are some tips to support you with these conversations:

- Make conversations about mental health a normal part of life
- Give it your full attention - be an active listener
- Take it seriously and explore the feelings together
- Offer empathy rather than solutions

For more information see: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/mental-health-parenting/?utm_old=parenthealth

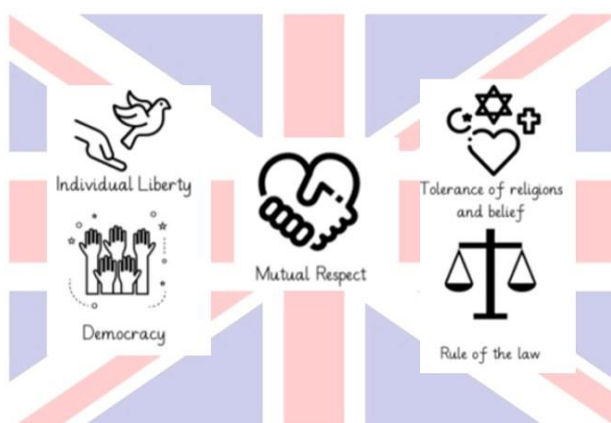
Focus on British Values

Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard at Mapplewells.

Democracy is central to how we operate. An obvious example is our School Parliament. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates make speeches, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote using ballot boxes etc.

Made up of two representatives from each class, the School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes. The group has its own budget and is able to effect change within the school; in the past, the School Council has helped to provide equipment for our school playground, with the support of fundraising events.

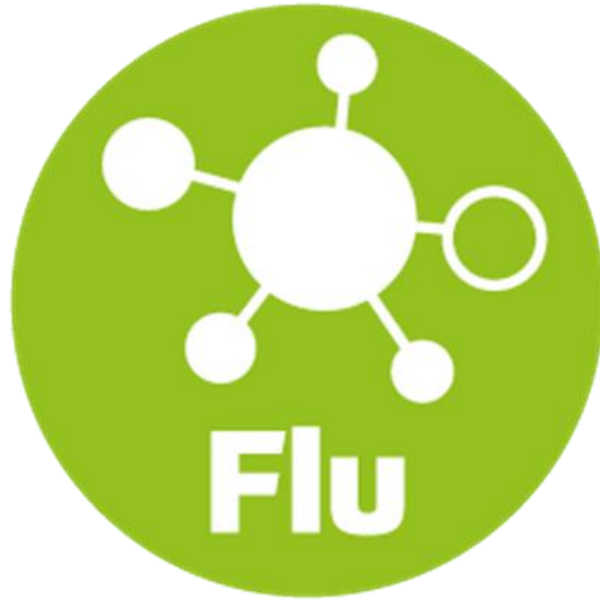


Flu vaccinations

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. Contact information is provided at the bottom left. On the right side, there is a photograph of five children in blue school uniforms jumping joyfully in a grassy area. At the bottom right, a blue box contains the event date and time: 'Monday 17th November from 3.45 – 5.30 pm'.

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.

A blue poster for a '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 for 'Mapplewells Primary & Nursery School' with the motto 'SUCCESS is in our hands'. The main text on the poster describes a drawing competition on Wednesday 5th November, where pupils will create drawings in 30-minute slots, inspired by the school's core values: Support, Understanding, Self-Confidence, Celebration, Curiosity, Excellence, and Self-Discipline. It also mentions that the event is for raising funds for the school curriculum and encourages family sponsorship.

**MAPPLEWELLS
DRAWATHON**

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!

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!



Could you give this Baby Grand Piano a home?

We have kindly been offered this beautiful Yamaha Baby Grand Piano (GC1 model) but sadly we have no space for it. The owner would love for it to go to someone who is passionate about music.

Dimensions: 151cm x 146cm **Condition:** Excellent – recently tuned, well-maintained

This piano was owned and played by his late wife, who passed away earlier this year. It holds deep sentimental value and has been lovingly cared for. It was last tuned earlier this year and is in impeccable condition, having been purchased just three years ago. Due to relocating to a smaller home it can no longer be kept. He believes his wife would have preferred it be passed on to someone who truly appreciates music rather than sold.

The piano is currently in storage with professional movers and can be delivered anywhere.

Please note: the recipient will need to cover the moving costs.

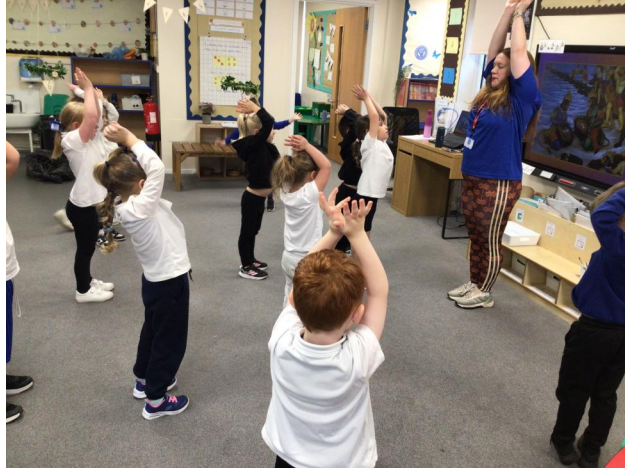
If you're interested, please contact the office and we will give you the details of the movers for a delivery quote.



Diwali dance workshop

This week, our EYFS children had the wonderful opportunity to take part in a vibrant Diwali dance workshop. Through expressive movements and storytelling, they explored the tale of Rama and Sita—bringing the characters to life through dance. It was a fantastic way to celebrate culture, build confidence, and deepen their understanding of this important festival. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience !





Key dates

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

Diary Dates	
2025	
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