



# Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 7th November 2025

## [Welcome Message](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and I hope you had a lovely half term break. We have certainly got a busy few weeks ahead as we begin to prepare for our Christmas celebrations.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

## Attendance

Our current school attendance after 8 weeks is 97.03%! Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 95%

Elder 93%

Elm 97%

Hawthorn 97%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 97%

Oak 96%

Pine 97%

Rowan 95%

Willow 96%

Well done to Elm, Hawthorn, Hazel, Maple & 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 - Bonnie

Birch - Belle

Elder - Mina

Elm - Jasper

Hawthorn - Alannah

Juniper - Vinnie

Maple - Jacob

Oak - Evin

Pine - Charlie

Rowan - Harrison

Willow - Mollie



## 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:

Maggie, Alfie, Jasmine and Iris - wonderful plans for their persuasive letter to explain why the stone age is better than the modern day!

**Claudia** – For confidently using direct speech in her writing and showing excellent punctuation skills. A brilliant example of technical accuracy and creativity!

**Max** – For showing fantastic focus and determination in his writing lessons, especially when tackling direct speech. A great effort with impressive results!

**Callum, Tyler and Elijah** – For their teamwork and perseverance in mastering equivalent fractions and mixed numbers. A superb display of mathematical thinking!

**Isaac** – For consistently outstanding maths work all week. His enthusiasm and accuracy have really stood out – a true role model in the classroom!

## School Admissions

Do you have a child due to start Primary school in September 2026?

If so, please make a note of the following dates:

**Monday 3rd November 2025** – Nottinghamshire County Council applications are open for starting school in September 2026.

**Thursday 15th January 2026** – Closing date for applications.

If your child is starting Secondary school in September 2026, the closing date for applications is **31st October 2025**

## Online Safety

What Parents and Carers Need to Know About Fortnite

Fortnite continues to reign supreme in the gaming world, drawing in millions of players with its bold graphics, fast-paced action and constant stream of new content. This guide looks at the latest developments in the game – such as themed updates, crossover characters and limited-edition cosmetics – and what they mean for young players and the adults who support them.

It also unpacks some of the key online safety risks associated with Fortnite. With in-game purchases, cross-platform communication and regular seasonal updates creating an ‘always on’ experience, it’s vital that trusted adults understand how to help children and young people enjoy the game without being exposed to unnecessary risks.

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. 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 FORTNITE

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music, artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
PEGI 12

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**ALWAYS ONLINE**  
There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite. It's one of the biggest reasons internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, single-player players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

**IN-GAME COSTS**  
Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – owned items, cosmetic skins, music tracks, 100 items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressure to spend money on 'loot' – the in-game currency – to stand out and particularly on exclusive items made frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while some Plus rewards are often 'gone when they're gone'.

**VIRTUAL VIOLENCE**  
There's no shooting that Fortnite is about whacking other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and the game uses sound effects to lighten the mood, such as 'meow' and 'pew' noises. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so it's important to be aware of references to simulated characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

**CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT**  
Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Competitive games require to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other while playing the game. This can give young gamers a lot of exposure to slang, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

**FREQUENT UPDATES**  
Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay updates to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other while playing the game. This can give young gamers a lot of exposure to slang, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

**POP CULTURE REFERENCES**  
Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from Star Wars to DC's Justice League. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may require children to watch, read, or listen to content that is not suitable for their audience.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

**DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION**  
Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play times with the child's friends to socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to make online, non-adults with strong and positive role models, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

**ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER**  
Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for sharing or for when a child's device isn't, but it does offer an opportunity for parents to do something to help their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who's taking? You might even become a team of two.

**SET SPENDING LIMITS**  
Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings via a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

**BE WARY OF SCAMS**  
The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they cannot ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.


**Meet Our Expert**  
Lloyd Coombes 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 books, 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 at sites including iD, TechAdvisor, and Penny Pinch.


[@wake\\_up\\_weds](#) [www.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake.up.wednesday](#) [@wake.up.weds](#)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.10.2025

## 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 in our hands'. Below the logo is a yellow box with the question 'Is your child approaching nursery or school age?'. The main body of text is on a white background, followed by a blue footer containing contact information and the event date. A photograph of five children in school uniforms with their arms raised is on the right side of the flyer.

**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

On Wednesday 5th November 2025, we hosted our very own Drawathon — a whole day dedicated to creativity, imagination and artistic expression! Throughout the day, each class took turns adding their unique ideas and illustrations to a whole-school artwork celebrating what it truly means to be a Mapplewellian and showing inspiration from our core values we follow each and every day.

Every child took part, showing their love for all things creative and artistic. The atmosphere was full of excitement and enthusiasm, and the final artwork is a stunning reflection of the talent and teamwork seen across all year groups.

The event also served as a fundraiser, and we are delighted to share that an incredible **£423** was raised! This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the amazing support of our Mapplewellian community — thank you for your generosity and encouragement. The funds raised will go directly towards providing even more exciting opportunities within our art curriculum and extracurricular activities, inspiring creativity across the school.

The finished Drawathon artwork will be proudly displayed during Parents' Evening, and we encourage everyone to take a look. It truly shines a light on Mapplewells' commitment to art in education and the wonderful creativity of our children.



## Remembrance display

You may have noticed that Mapplewells have had a very special addition to our family. On the front lawn we have our very own 'Tommy'.

Tommy will be on display up to 11.11.2025 and we would like to invite you to add your own poppies as a mark of respect for all victims of conflict.

I am sure you will agree with us that it is a great privilege to be given this symbol of Remembrance and we would like to thank A.T.T.F.E for providing this very special addition to Mapplewells.



## 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!



## Children in Need

As you may know it is Children in Need on Friday 14th November. In true Mapplewells style we will be supporting this fantastic cause by inviting children to come into school either wearing spots, PJ's or some thing Pudsey related. If you would like to donate to Children in Need then please feel free to send money in an envelope, or alternatively you can make a direct donation - <https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

We look forward to seeing the children joining in with the day and as always, appreciate your continued support.



## Wired Differently Sensory Seekers

This week we have been very kindly donated Sensory items by Carrie Austin, founder of Wired Differently Sensory Seekers.

She will also hold a stall at our upcoming Christmas Fair and was quoted as saying:

"At Wired Differently Sensory Seekers CIC, my mission is to fill the gaps in emotional and sensory regulation support for neurodivergent pupils and their specialist needs. This small donation of sensory items is just a gesture towards a much bigger goal of creating inclusive environments that support both neurodivergent individuals and those around them. I'm really glad to be able to help local schools that are taking an interest in what I am doing. It is invaluable to build connections with such incredible educators who are open to learning and adapting their provision for every child. "



## Key dates

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

<b>Diary Dates</b>	
<b>2025</b>	
<b>November</b>	
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Whole School Remembrance Service
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Autumn parents' evening
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Autumn parents' evening
13 <sup>th</sup> November	F2 Stay and Play 2 – 3pm
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Open evening for Foundation
18 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 5 Bikeability
21 <sup>st</sup> November	Non-uniform day – tombola donations
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Whole School Pantomime F2 – Yr 6
<b>December</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> December	F2 Christmas Play 2pm & 5pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	F1 Christmas Play 10am & 4pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Christingle Assemblies
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fayre (provisional)
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Hawthorn Christmas Play
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Hazel Christmas Play
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Wear Something Christmassy Day
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day of Autumn Term 2 – non – uniform day
<b>2026</b>	
<b>January</b>	
5 <sup>th</sup> January	First Day of Spring 1
7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 3/ 4 Bikeability
<b>February</b>	
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Young Voices
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Individual Pupil Photos
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Last Day of Spring 1 – non-uniform day
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	INSET day
24 <sup>th</sup> February	First Day of Spring 2
<b>March</b>	
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Last Day of Spring 2 – non-uniform day
<b>April</b>	
13 <sup>th</sup> April	First Day of Summer 1
16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 3 residential
27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 residential
<b>May</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> May	LCH Charity Colour Dash
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – School closed
11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs week
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Last Day of Summer 1 – non-uniform day
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	INSET day
<b>June</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> June	First day of Summer 1
1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 5 residential
1 <sup>st</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplications Checks
8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Checks
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Leavers Photos & Class Photographs
<b>July</b>	
8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 residential
14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Bikeability
24 <sup>th</sup> July	Last Day of Summer 2 – non – uniform day
27 <sup>th</sup> 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