



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 14th November 2025

[Welcome Message](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an inspiring week it has been at Mapplewells! Our days have been filled with learning, reflection, and a wonderful sense of community. It was fantastic to welcome so many of you to our parents' evenings and celebrate the incredible progress your children are making.

This week, we also came together to mark Remembrance Day with Colonel Keith, where the children observed the two-minute silence with great respect. Alongside this, they embraced

Anti-Bullying Week, reinforcing the importance of kindness and inclusion. Today, we round off the week with Children in Need Day—a chance to unite for a worthy cause and show how even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 9 weeks is 97.13%! Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 95%

Elder 93%

Elm 98%

Hawthorn 98%

Hazel 98%

Juniper 98%

Maple 98%

Oak 96%

Pine 98%

Rowan 95%

Willow 97%

Well done to Elm, Hawthorn, Hazel, Maple, Juniper & 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 - Billy

Birch - Blanka

Elder - Lottie

Elm - Joshua

Hawthorn - Oliver

Hazel - Alice

Juniper - Toby

Maple - Daisy

Oak - Esme

Pine - Loki

Rowan - Honey

Willow - Athena



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:

Iris and Maggie – Outstanding effort in science this week! Both demonstrated an excellent understanding of the plant life cycle and contributed thoughtfully to class discussions.

Annika, Mia, Oliver, Joshua, and Eli – Fantastic creativity and reasoning in planning and writing persuasive letters arguing why the Stone Age might be better than modern times. Your ideas were imaginative and well-structured!

Harold, Noah, Jasmine, Iris, Maggie, Emmy, Jude, Gabriel, and Alfie – Superb pride and attention to detail when publishing your persuasive letters. The presentation was exceptional and really showcased your hard work.

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 Tracking Devices


Tracking devices like AirTags and SmartTags were designed to help people find lost belongings, but they've also opened the door to worrying forms of misuse. Their compact size and subtle design make them easy to hide, which can lead to the unwanted tracking of people without their knowledge. From stalking and bullying to potential misuse by peers, these gadgets bring a range of risks that trusted adults must stay aware of.


This guide examines the growing popularity of Bluetooth trackers, the most common ways they're being misused, and how to spot signs that a child may be affected. With practical tips on detecting hidden devices, using the right apps, and starting important conversations, it's a vital read for parents, carers and educators looking to stay ahead of a fast-moving issue.



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 'Mapplewells 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: 'Monday 17th November from 3.45 – 5.30 pm'. A photograph of children in school uniforms dancing in a garden is on the right side.

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

Remembrance Sunday

This Armistice Day, our community gathered in solemn remembrance to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. Some of our children attended the ceremony laying wreaths with care, carrying the message that the memory of the fallen will live on through generations to come.







Award Winning Staff

Congratulations to Our Award-Winning Staff!

We are delighted to celebrate incredible team members who received **Flying High Trust Staff Awards 2025** at school level:

Miss Christie - Special Recognition

Miss Marshall - Community Impact

Mrs Higgins - Partnership Collaboration

Mrs Holmes - Empowering Children

Miss Ryder - Children's Choice

Mrs R Taylor (Chair of Governors / Friends of Mapplewells) - Volunteer Award

A huge well done to each of you for your outstanding contributions to our school community!

We are also thrilled to announce that **Miss Christie** and **Miss Ryder** were selected for **Trust Level Awards** and received their accolades at the ceremony on Friday 7th November. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to their dedication and impact.

Thank you to each and every one of our wonderful staff members who make **Mapplewells** the exceptional place it is. Your hard-work, passion and commitment truly make a 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!



Children in Need

Today we supported Children in Need in true Mapplewells by inviting children to come into school either wearing spots, PJ's or something Pudsey related. If you would like to donate to Children in Need please make a direct donation - <https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

As always, we appreciate your continued support!





Unwrap the magic of Christmas at the Tropical Butterfly House Wildlife Conservation Park!

The brand-new festive experience has arrived spreading magic, joy and Christmas cheer every weekend in December and right up to Christmas Eve!

This year, as well as Santa himself, a whole host of much-loved and familiar faces will be stopping by to make your festive family day out merry and bright. Warmest wishes come to life with appearances from the special Meet and Greet Christmas Characters. From ice queens and grouches to furry favourites and frosty friends - can you help these mascots and mischief-makers make it onto Santa's naughty or nice list?

Holly jolly news! The new Elf's Workshop will be open for the very first time with elf and safety helpers busy decking the halls and stuffing sackfuls of festive crafts and activities. Yule be sure to have a ball with our Christmas characters - just bring the sparkle!

Tickets are available now and selling fast! For more information and to book visit:
www.butterflyhouse.co.uk

Festive menu

As part of our Christmas celebrations this year, we are delighted to share our festive menu for the final week of December (week commencing 15th December). Please note that pre-orders are required only for our Christmas dinner on Wednesday 17th December.

With the exception of Wednesday 17th December, the second option will be a jacket potato.



Parent's Evening November 2025

Thank you to everyone who joined us for parents' evenings this week. It was a real privilege to welcome so many families into school and share in the celebration of your children's achievements—both academically and socially. These moments remind us how powerful the partnership between home and school truly is, and we hope you left feeling as proud as we do of their progress.

If you weren't able to attend, please don't worry. Just contact your child's class teacher or the school office, and we'll gladly arrange a time that works for you.

A huge thank you also goes to our incredible **House Captains**, who gave up their time to support both evenings. They greeted families warmly and encouraged everyone to complete our parent survey—what a fantastic example of leadership and teamwork!

If you didn't get chance to complete the questionnaire, you'll find a digital version below, which will remain open for the next week. Your feedback is invaluable and helps us shape the future of Mapplewells together.

Thank you for being such an important part of our school community—your voice truly makes a difference!

Parent Questionnaire November 2025 – Fill out form¹

Safeguarding Tip of the Week

NSPCC

As your child gets older, it's likely they'll want a bit more independence. Going out without you is a natural step for them to take — when the time is right. The NSPCC 'Home or Out Alone' guide contains practical tips and advice for parents. It covers some of the risks parents should consider before making a decision and suggestions on who children should contact in case of an emergency.

You can visit their website here - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/home-alone/>

F2 stay and play

We had a fantastic afternoon at our stay and play session. It was so lovely to see the children exploring with their adults and showing them our environment and activities. Thank you to all parents who attended.



¹<https://forms.office.com/e/abJNP96Guj>











Key dates

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

Diary Dates	
2025	
November	
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
15 th December	Wear Something Christmassy Day
17 th December	Christmas dinner day
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