



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 21st November 2025

[Welcome Message](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head towards the festive season, the excitement is building in school! The children have been working hard on their learning and are now beginning preparations for our upcoming Christmas plays—always a highlight of the year. We can't wait to share their performances with you and celebrate their creativity and confidence.

We're also looking forward to our Christmas Fair, which promises to be a wonderful community event full of fun and festive cheer. Thank you in advance for your support in making these celebrations special for everyone.

Inside this newsletter, you'll find all the key dates and details, along with other important updates from across the school.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 10 weeks is 97.09%! Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 94%

Elder 93%

Elm 98%

Hawthorn 98%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 97%

Oak 97%

Pine 97%

Rowan 95%

Willow 97%

Well done to Elm & Hawthorn 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 - Tommy

Birch - Erin

Elder - Niall

Elm - Robin

Hawthorn - Luca

Hazel - Harlow

Juniper - Amaya

Maple - Mia

Pine - Elsie

Rowan - Alex

Willow - Tilly



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:

- **Delilah** – For writing beautifully crafted sentences about life in a different time period. Amazing creativity!
- **Freddie, Phoebe, Penny & Lottie** – For showing off their fantastic handwriting during phonics lessons. What a brilliant effort!
- **Charlie** – For working exceptionally hard to create a detailed and thoughtful plan for her historical narrative. Outstanding work!

👏 Well done to all our winners – we are so proud of you! Keep up the fantastic 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.

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 Cyber Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TRACKING DEVICES

Bluetooth tracking devices like Apple's Air Tag and Samsung's SmartTags have exploded in popularity, with millions sold each year. These small tools help people locate their lost items, but their discreet design has also made them attractive for more sinister purposes. From stalking to bullying, tracking devices present unique risks that trusted adults need to understand and address.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Because of their tiny size and unassuming appearance, tracking devices can easily be hidden in bags or clothing. They've been used to monitor individuals without their knowledge, with a lawsuit in the US alleging AirTags "the weapon of choice of stalkers and harassers." In the UK, use of tracking devices in courtship and stalking cases reportedly rose by 217 percent between 2018 and 2021.

INVASION OF PRIVACY

These devices are designed to share location data with the user via other people's phones, which can unintentionally broadcast someone's movements without their consent. This makes them vulnerable to being monitored by strangers without realising.

TOOLS FOR BULLYING

Tracking devices could allow bullies to follow or locate their targets even outside of school. This makes it difficult for children to find refuge, potentially increasing the trauma of bullying. Kids deserve a safe space that should feel safe and secure.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Because tracking devices are linked to user accounts, they could be misused to "prove" ownership of someone else's possessions. Someone could, for example, plant a tracker on another person's belongings to falsely claim them as their own.

DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Many tracking devices are designed to be discreet, but that also means they're easy to hide. Without proactive checking or the right tools to detect them, children and young people might not realise they're being tracked.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS

If a child's phone always seems to know their location – whether in person or online – it could be worth checking for tracking devices. Some, like AirTags, will occasionally make a noise if registered from their owner. Listen out for a chirping sound.

USE DETECTION APPS

Apple devices running iOS 14.5 or later will notify users of unknown AirTags nearby. Android users can install Apple's "Tracker Detect" or the third-party app "TrackerDetect" to scan for tracking devices from various manufacturers.

CHECK LIKELY HIDING SPOTS

Common places where trackers may be planted include jacket linings, bag seams, pockets, or under the seats. If you find one, take a photo of the serial number before disposing of it – this could help police trace the account it's linked to.

HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Talk to your child about what tracking devices are, what signs to look out for, and how they might be misused. Emphasise the right consequences of using them to prank, harass, or monitor someone.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a seasoned technology journalist with bylines in Wired, TechCrunch, The Guardian, The Evening Standard, The Telegraph, and The New York Times. He specialises in consumer tech, online safety, and emerging risks in the digital landscape.

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Christingle celebrations

On Thursday 4th December we will be holding our annual Christingle celebrations. Reverend Taylor of St John's Church will be coming into school to host our special assemblies.

As with previous years we will be providing the decorations for the Christingles, however we would ask if you could send your child to school with an orange to decorate on **Monday 1st December**.

Many thanks in advance - the Christingle celebrations are always very much enjoyed by the children and make a fabulous start to our school festivities.



Christmas Fair – We Need Your Help!

The festive season is fast approaching, and we're excited to be planning our Christmas Fair, which will take place on Friday 5th December from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. To make this event a success, we're kindly asking for donations for the following stalls:

- Bottle in a Bag Stall – any bottled items (e.g. drinks, sauces, toiletries)
- Bottle Bags – gift bags suitable for bottles
- Teddy Bears – clean and gently used
- Raffle Prizes – new or unused items
- Tombola Prizes – small gifts, toys, or treats
- Jumble & Books – no clothes or electrical items, please
- Cakes – homemade or shop-bought (to be brought in on the day of the fair)

Please bring donations to school by Monday 1st December.

This year's fair will feature lots of exciting activities and treats, including cones of chips and hot dogs served fresh from the kitchen – yum!

Following the great feedback from previous years, we'll once again be using the Foundation and Key Stage 2 classrooms to help ease congestion in the hall and give everyone more space to enjoy the fun.

If you're able to help with preparations or setting up on the afternoon of the fair, please speak to me directly or send a message via Dojo. Any support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support – we look forward to seeing you there and kicking off the festive season together!



U11's Utilita Cup

Yesterday, boys from Year 5 and 6, played for Mapplewells at the Utilita Cup. This is an event run by Mansfield Town Community Trust, where schools from across Nottinghamshire compete to be in with a chance of playing for the cup finals in London!

The boys played brilliantly, with some amazing goals scored and should be very proud of themselves! Coming 3rd in our heat of schools. Well done!



Key dates

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

Our term dates are on the school notice board and our website -

<https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Useful+Information&pid=86>

Diary Dates	
2025	
November	
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
4 th 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
15 th December	Y5 carol concert
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

Mr Whittle

Head Teacher

Mr Latkowski

Deputy Headteacher