



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School  
Weekly Newsletter - Friday 5th  
December 2025

## Welcome Message



Dear Parents and Carers,

### **The Christmas countdown is in full swing!**

What a wonderful week it has been in school as we've embraced the festive spirit together. We've enjoyed beautiful **Christingle assemblies**, celebrated the magic of Christmas with our **F1 and F2 Nativity performances**, and had a fantastic time at the **Christmas Fair** – thank you to everyone who supported these events!

We'd like to extend a huge **thank-you to all parents and staff** for your incredible effort, support, and enthusiasm in making these occasions so special for our children.

As we look ahead, we're excited for our **KS1 Nativity plays** and the joy of our **Carol Concerts**, which promise to be real highlights of the season. It's such a special time of year, and we can't wait to share more memorable moments with you all.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

## Attendance

Our current school attendance after 12 weeks is 96.56%. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 94%

Elder 94%

Elm 97%

Hawthorn 97%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 97%

Oak 96%

Pine 96%

Rowan 95%

Willow 97%

Well done to Elm, Hawthorn, Hazel, Juniper, Maple & Willow classes on their fantastic attendance this week! Let's keep striving to improve our attendance, to reach that figure of 97%.




## 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:

- **Belle** – Fantastic fluency in reading! She’s confidently reading without needing to sound out or blend – truly impressive progress.
- **Hattie, Axel S, Axel J, Olly, Anna, Bella A, Niall, Emilia, Keziah, Lottie H, Ione, Ivy, Jacob, Albie** – Superb effort with handwriting! Each of them has shown brilliant focus and accuracy when forming ‘b’ and ‘d’ – such neat and careful work.
- **Willow** – Outstanding achievement in her phonics practice assessment! She’s showing great understanding and determination – a wonderful step forward.
- **Finley** – Incredible perseverance with his writing! He’s putting in so much effort and it’s really paying off – fantastic progress.

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

## Christingle celebrations



Earlier this week the children had great fun making their Christingles and learning about what they represent at this special time of year.

On Thursday, Reverend Taylor from St John's Church led a beautiful service during the school assemblies. The children gathered together to reflect on the message of hope and light at this festive time of year. As the Christingles were lit, the hall was filled with a warm glow, creating a truly magical and memorable atmosphere.

## Neurodevelopmental Support Team sessions (formerly Drop-in Groups)

If your child has SEND or is on the pathway to SEND you may benefit from engaging with the Neurodevelopmental Support Team. Support and information sessions. Details are attached below



## 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**



## Christmas Fair



Our Christmas Fair is well under way with families enjoying the games, stalls and treats! We hope you all have a fab-yule-us time. Thank you to all the volunteers to came to help us set up this afternoon - we couldn't do it without you.

We'd love to hear your feedback on the fair. Please complete our survey Christmas Fair feedback – Fill out form<sup>1</sup>



---

<sup>1</sup><https://forms.office.com/e/RUi1DNsKNc>

## Christmas is about tins not tinsel

Mapplewells School Council will be collecting tins and dry food items for the Let's All Eat Foodbank!

Collection dates - From 1st December 2025 to Monday 15th December 2025

We kindly ask families to donate whatever they can to help those in need. Every contribution makes a difference!

Thank you for your generosity



## Festive menu



A reminder that we have a special festive menu for the final week of December. With the exception of Wednesday 17th December, the second option will be a jacket potato.

Please note that orders for our Christmas dinner on Wednesday 17th December have now closed. If you have not booked a meal on this day please send your child with a packed lunch.

# Christmas

WEEK 2025!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Festive pizza Gluten Soya Milk with potato balls & crunchy vegetable sticks	Hot dog Gluten Sesame Sulphur Dioxide with tomato ketchup, jacket wedges, BBQ baked beans & sweetcorn	Turkey, chipolata sausage Gluten Sulphur Dioxide stuffing with roast or mashed potatoes, carrots, brussels sprouts, roast parsnip & gravy	Cheesy tomato pasta Gluten Milk Mustard Soya with garlic bread Gluten Milk Soya carrot & cucumber sticks	Fish finger wrap Gluten Fish with French fries, sweetcorn & peas
Iced sprinkle cookie Gluten	Honey cake Gluten Egg Milk & custard Milk	Festive ice cream tub Milk	Classic 'school' cake Gluten Egg	Chocolate flapjack Gluten



## EYFS Nativities



We had an amazing week of Nativities this week as our Foundation children showcased their talents in their nativity. The children have worked exceptionally hard to learn their lines, sing their songs and put wonderful performances. Throughout the week they have performed to packed houses and rapturous applause. Well done to all who took part and thank you to all the staff for their hard work and time putting on the performance. We are very proud of everyone!

### Ashfield Health & Wellbeing partnership

The Ashfield Health and Wellbeing partnership is a local partnership whose mission is to work collaboratively to help people improve their health and wellbeing, develop pride and aspirations in our communities and promote Ashfield in a positive manner. This groups leads on the Be Healthy, Be Happy element of Discover Ashfield.

## Online Safety

### What Parents and Carers Need to Know About Tik Tok

Now the world's go-to short video platform, Tik Tok captivates young audiences with its endless stream of engaging clips, but not without potential pitfalls. From unsettling or age-inappropriate content to harmful viral challenges, misinformation and even radicalisation, this ever-popular app can expose children to content that may not always be suitable for them.

Our #WakeUpWednesday guide explores Tik Tok's hidden hazards, including in-app spending, compulsive screen time and privacy concerns, offering clear advice for parents and educators. With expert insight and practical safety tips, it aims to help families ensure that Tik Tok use remains fun, positive and, most importantly, safe.

**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 content change. Content change is currently regulated by the National Crime Agency. These guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [thenationalcollege.com](http://thenationalcollege.com).**

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, Tik Tok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use Tik Tok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

**13+** (Content labelled as restricted to over-13s only)

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**

Tik Tok's following feed shows videos from known creators, while the 'For You' feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but harmful content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although Tik Tok has a strict age limit of 13, inappropriate content, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.
- CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**

Between 18 and 19 billion people use Tik Tok, meaning there is a high risk of unwanted contact from strangers. Accounts created by teens (or young people lying in false date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that the user's profile is visible to every page view on the app. It also suggests their video to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.
- AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on Tik Tok and spread quickly through the engagement-based algorithm. Material reported to have included the "bloodout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Friends and family or other children also linked to the trend, showing that someone in their contact can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.
- MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION**

Tik Tok's short videos may appear lightweight, but they can represent young people's harmful ideas, misinformation, extremism, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-19-year-olds use Tik Tok as a news source. This means the chance of seeing inflammatory, extremist or conspiracy material. Even well-meaning influencers can spread misinformation and shape their worldview, making discussions about content sharing, propaganda and civic literacy especially important for parents and educators.
- ADDICTIVE DESIGN**

Tik Tok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be particularly addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 27 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention spans, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.
- IN-APP SPENDING**

Tik Tok is free, but children can still spend money. Tik Tok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. Tik Tok also enables in-app purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor quality items given by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found Tik Tok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may see content that targets their personal information.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

- ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING**

Family Pairing allows parents to link their Tik Tok account to their child's to control or restrict settings. Parents can then turn on restricted mode (reducing the chance of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.
- BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING**

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive Tik Tok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on Tik Tok coins or low-quality products promoted through Tik Tok shops. If disappointing purchases occur, turn off in-app purchases and discuss the problem.
- DISCUSS THE DANGERS**

If a child wants to use Tik Tok and you hope for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to direct messages, and that they know to seek help if they're worried by disruptions on the app. With more teens using Tik Tok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.
- READ THE SIGNS**

If you've discovered that a child is spending too much time on Tik Tok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and lack of concentration are potential red flags. We're happy to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parent controls are there for a reason, and it's a good idea to introduce limits.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tech's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

**#WakeUpWednesday** The National College

@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. Release date: 26.11.2025

<sup>2</sup><https://sway.cloud.microsoft/HTMHav4sbizLmHUd?ref=email>

## Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF)

Is your child entitled to Free School Meals? If so, bookings for the winter break are now open. There are plenty of fantastic activities happening across the county as part of the Holiday Activities and Food programme during the school holidays. Please visit

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/holiday-activities-and-food/activities-and-venues> for details and to book your child's place.



## After School Club

We are delighted to announce the launch of The Lime Trees After School Club after Easter half term 2026.

As an Outstanding childcare provider, The Lime Trees' mission is rooted in helping and supporting each individual family. They recognise that every child, every family and every home is unique and their aim is to deliver a service that they, as parents, would be proud to use.

Please refer to our email with full details of costs and how to book a place.

If you have any immediate questions, please refer to their website for their 'Parent Guide'. Alternatively, you can contact them on 0115 9313 562 or email [hello@thelimetrees.co.uk](mailto:hello@thelimetrees.co.uk)<sup>3</sup>.



## Win a £50 gift voucher for the CO-OP

Our friends at **Temple Estates** have set us an exciting challenge — to design a brand-new *For Sale* board for their estate agents!

---

<sup>3</sup><mailto:hello@thelimetrees.co.uk>

- **Prize:** The winning design will receive a £50 gift voucher for the COOP.
- **Competition dates:** Open from today until Friday 12th December.
- **Judging:** Neil from Temple Estates will visit to judge the entries and award the prize.
- **How to enter:** Use A4 paper size for your design. If you need paper, it can be provided. Submit your entry to Mrs Warren in the school office. Don't forget to write your name and home class clearly on the back of your entry.

This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your creativity — you can be as imaginative as you like. We look forward to seeing your great ideas!



## 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	
<b>2025</b>	
<b>December</b>	
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Hawthorn Christmas Play
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Elm Christmas Play
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Hazel Christmas Play
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Wear Something Christmassy Day
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Y5 carol concert
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas dinner 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

Mr Whittle

Head Teacher

Mr Latkowski

Deputy Headteacher