



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School
Weekly Newsletter - Friday 12th
December 2025

Welcome Message



Dear Parents and Carers,

We're just **one week away from the Christmas break**, and what a festive week it's been! Our KS1 pupils wowed us with their nativities, performing "*Bethlehem Bake-Off*" and bringing our total number of nativity performances this season to **12**—an incredible achievement!

Year 6 also shone brightly with their annual **Carol Concert at St. John's Church**, filling the space with music and Christmas spirit.

Looking ahead, next week promises even more festive fun with **Christmas Dinner Day** and **Christmas Parties on the final day of term**. Let's make this last week before the holidays one to remember!

Thank you for your continued support—wishing you all a joyful lead-up to Christmas!

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 13 weeks is 96.3%. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 93%

Elder 93%

Elm 97%

Hawthorn 97%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 96%

Oak 96%

Pine 96%

Rowan 96%

Willow 97%

Well done to Elm, Hawthorn, Hazel, Juniper & Willow classes on their fantastic attendance this week! Let's keep striving to improve our attendance, to reach 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 - Olive

Birch - Jacob

Elder - Demi

Elm - Finlay

Hawthorn -Amari

Hazel - everyone in the class!

Juniper - Annika

Maple - Scarlett

Oak - Norah

Pine - Loki

Rowan - Noah

Willow - Emily

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 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



KS1 Nativities



We had an amazing week of Nativities this week as our year 1 and 2 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!









Year 6 Carol Concert

A huge well done to our Year 6 pupils, who delivered a truly memorable **Carol Concert** at St. John's Church this week. Alongside traditional carols, the children shared the poignant story of the **Christmas Day Truce during World War I**, when soldiers from both sides laid down their arms to exchange gifts and play football—a powerful reminder of peace and unity.

The concert featured much-loved classics such as *Amazing Grace* and *Stop the Cavalry*, and the children impressed everyone by singing a verse of *Silent Night* in German with perfect pronunciation. Adding a touch of fun and festivity, they also performed *Santa Bring Me a Dinosaur*, *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*, and a playful alternative version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Reverend Taylor** for once again welcoming us into the church and for his unwavering support over the years. We wish him every success as he moves on to new opportunities this summer.

Finally, a big thank you to our dedicated staff and supportive parents for helping prepare the children for this special event. Your efforts made it a truly magical occasion!.





Online Safety

What Parents and Carers Need to Know About Toy Scalping, Fakes and Scams.

Scalping has long been a frustration for fans hoping to bag concert tickets or exclusive toys, but the online world has supercharged this dishonest tactic. Scalpers use bots to buy up stock in seconds, then resell items such as consoles or collectibles at significant mark-ups. For young people, it can be disappointing and harmful to their wallets, wellbeing and worldview.

As this unethical practice becomes more visible, and, worryingly, sometimes glamourised online, it's important to talk to children about fairness, financial boundaries, and spotting scams. This guide breaks down the tricks of the trade and how to avoid them, helping young consumers stay safe, informed and scam-free.

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 Change. Formerly published by National Cyber Security, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guidance, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TOY SCALPING, FAKES & SCAMS

Online scalping is when individuals or groups use automated software (bots) to bulk-buy high-demand items – such as gaming consoles, concert tickets, limited-edition trainers, or exclusive merchandise – with the intention of reselling them at vastly inflated prices. It's a fast-moving online trend that can frustrate young consumers and expose them to misleading practices or financial harm. As this unethical tactic grows, it's important to help children and young people understand how scalping works and how to navigate it responsibly.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FINANCIAL PRESSURE AND MANIPULATION

Scalpers create artificial scarcity by buying up large quantities of stock before the public has a fair chance to purchase. This drives up demand and prices to extreme levels. Young people may feel intense pressure to spend more than they can afford for fear of missing out entirely.

NORMALISING UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR

Some influencers and online commentators present scalping as a clever money-making scheme rather than an exploitative and unfair practice. This behaviour and the line between legitimate business and opportunistic profiteering for younger audiences.

EXPLOITATION OF FANDOMS

Scalping often targets popular releases with strong fan bases. Knowing that loyal followers are emotionally invested, scammers and people may place huge value on owning certain items listed for sale. Scammers exploit these fans at games, making them more likely to accept higher prices or questionable offers.

RISK OF SCAMS OR COUNTERFEIT GOODS

Not every high-priced resale is legitimate. Fraudulent sellers may take payment for goods that never exist, or ship counterfeit versions of branded items. In some cases, the product may look authentic to the eye but turn out to be of poor quality or completely different from what was ordered.

ACCESSING UNSAFE WEBSITES

In the rush to secure rare items, young people might click through to unvetted sellers, online marketplaces with little consumer protection, or even sites designed to steal personal or financial data. This can expose them to fraud, malware, and identity theft.

REINFORCING INEQUALITY

Scalping makes already expensive items even less accessible, particularly for lower-income families. Children may feel excluded from trends or shared experiences with friends. It may even cause them to miss out on items, which can lead to feelings of jealousy and disappointment.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FAIRNESS

Use scalping as an opportunity to discuss fairness, consumer ethics, and how some people exploit markets for profit. Encouraging children to think critically about whether they truly need an item – and at what cost – can help them make more considered decisions.

ENCOURAGE PATIENCE OVER IMPULSE

Teach young people to wait for official restocks or future releases instead of paying over the odds. Many products come back into circulation, and patience can save significant amounts of money while reducing the likelihood of falling victim to scams.

SUPPORT INFORMED PURCHASING

Show children how to check seller credentials, read independent reviews, and verify whether a site is secure before making any payment. Encouraging them to spot red flags, such as unrealistic promises or missing contact details, can prevent costly mistakes.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Establish clear rules for online spending, including limits on prepaid cards, getting cash limits, or using budgeting apps. Discuss the real-world value of money spent on digital or collector's items so children understand the long-term impact of their purchases.

Source: www.nationalcollege.com

Meet Our Expert
Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforce and managing compliance. Our three membership tiers help phase and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

WakeUpWednesday The National College

www.nationalcollege.com www.facebook.com/nationalcollege [@wakeupwednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wakeupwednesday) [@wakeup.weds](https://www.tiktok.com/@wakeup.weds)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.12.2025

Staffing Update

As we approach the end of next week, we will be saying a fond farewell to **Miss Morris**, who has completed her maternity cover for **Miss Houston**. We want to take this opportunity to thank Miss Morris for her hard work, commitment, and the positive impact she has had on Maple Class this term. We wish her every success in her new role.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome back **Miss Houston**, who will return from maternity leave to teach Maple Class from **Tuesday to Friday**, with **Mrs Bousfield** teaching on Mondays. To ensure a smooth transition, Miss Houston has already spent time with the class today and will work alongside Miss Morris next week.

Thank you to everyone for supporting this transition—we're excited to see Maple Class continue to thrive under their guidance!

Christmas parties - Friday 19th December

We are delighted to announce that our Christmas parties will take place during the afternoon of Friday 19th December.

Children are welcome to come to school in their party clothes or non-uniform for the whole day. The cost of the parties will be covered this year, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of Mapplewells. The children can look forward to an afternoon filled with exciting games, festive treats and plenty of fun.

We would like to give a big THANK YOU to all of our Mapplewells community for supporting the events run by the Friends of Mapplewells so far this year. From the autumn discos to the Christmas fair, your contributions and donations make a huge difference. Every penny raised helps Friends of Mapplewells to fund equipment and activities that enrich the experiences of our children.

We are sure the Christmas parties will be a wonderful way to celebrate the end of term together!

Wear Something Christmassy Day

We're getting ready to sprinkle some festive fun around the school! On **Monday 15th December**, we invite all children (and staff!) to take part in Wear Something Christmassy Day.



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 Fair - Feedback



Thank you to all that visited our fair last week. We'd love to hear your feedback - please complete our survey Christmas Fair feedback – Fill out form¹

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



Glee club spreading festive cheer

This week, our talented Glee Club had the wonderful opportunity to visit Kingsmill Hospital and perform in the main entrance.

The children sang their hearts out, filling the space with festive cheer and joy. As always, they did our school proud with their enthusiasm, teamwork, and beautiful voices.

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the children and to our parent helpers, whose time and assistance made the visit possible

We are so proud of our Glee Club for sharing their music with the wider community and spreading happiness during this special season.



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	
December	
15 th December	Wear Something Christmassy Day
15 th December	Y5 carol concert
17 th December	Christmas dinner day
19 th December	Christmas parties
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	
6 th February	NSPCC Number Day
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