



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School
Weekly Newsletter - Friday 19th
December 2025

Welcome Message



Dear Parents and Carers,

The festive season is here, and what a wonderful way to end the term!

This week has been filled with joy and celebration, from our Christmas activities in school to the fantastic performance by our **Year 5 children singing at Sutton Centre**, spreading cheer to the wider community.

As we wrap up for the holidays, we want to thank you all for your support throughout the term. On behalf of everyone at school, we wish you a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**. Enjoy the festive break, and we look forward to welcoming you back in January for an exciting new term!

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 14 weeks is 96.6%. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 96%

Elder 95%

Elm 98%

Hawthorn 97%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 96%

Oak 97%

Pine 96%

Rowan 96%

Willow 97%

Well done to Elm class on their fantastic attendance this week! Let's keep striving to improve our attendance, to reach that figure of 97%.



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

On Monday, your generous donations to our School Council's "**Tins not Tinsel**" appeal were collected for the **Let's All Eat Foodbank**.

Thanks to your incredible support, we were able to deliver **six full shopping bags** of food to help families in need this Christmas.

The kindness and generosity of our Mapplewells community never fails to amaze us.

Thank you for making such a difference!

Online Safety

What Parents and Carers Need to Know

AI-driven toys are becoming increasingly common, offering children personalised interactions that can feel surprisingly lifelike. This guide unpacks how these toys listen, learn, and respond – and what that means for privacy, security, and healthy development. From data collection to the subtle influence of artificial voices, it highlights why adults may need to look more closely at the tech inside modern playthings.

It also explores how features such as constant connectivity, engagement-boosting rewards, and behaviour-shaping responses can affect children’s play habits. Alongside outlining the risks, the guide shares calm, practical advice to help parents and educators set boundaries, check permissions, and balance AI toys with offline experiences, ensuring AI remains a support for real-world interactions, not a substitute for them.

Christmas Dinner

A huge thank you to our amazing kitchen staff who served over 230 delicious festive meals on Wednesday! We also want to thank **Friends of Mapplewells** for providing the beautiful tablecloths and fun crackers that added some extra festive cheer to the occasion.





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>

Mr Whittle

Head Teacher

Mr Latkowski

Deputy Headteacher