



# Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 9th January 2026

## [Welcome Message](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Welcome back and Happy New Year!**

We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to Mapplewells, full of enthusiasm and ready to learn.

As we begin the spring term, we look forward to an exciting few months ahead, filled with new opportunities, achievements, and brighter days as we move towards spring. Thank you, as always, for your continued support—we're excited for the term to come.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

## Attendance

Our current school attendance after 15 weeks is 96.61%. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 96%

Elder 96%

Elm 97%

Hawthorn 97%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 96%

Oak 97%

Pine 96%

Rowan 96%

Willow 97%

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



## New Term: New Curriculum Enquiry



### A Fresh Term and a Brand-New Curriculum Adventure!

As we head into the spring term, we're excited to begin our new curriculum enquiries across the school. This term, geography will be our driver subject, with learning in other subjects carefully planned to enrich and support the enquiry. Together, these will help the children explore key questions in depth, make meaningful links across the curriculum, and deepen their understanding through connected learning experiences.

Below, you'll find links to this term's Spring newsletters and knowledge mats, which will support and enhance your child's learning at home and in school.

F1 and F2 newsletter and knowledge mat<sup>1</sup>

KS1 newsletter and knowledge mat<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/page/?title=F2+Birch+%26amp%3B+Elder&pid=116>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Year+1%2F2+Elm%2C+Hawthorn%2C+Hazel&pid=117>

LKS2 newsletter and knowledge mat<sup>3</sup>

UKS2 newsletter and knowledge mat<sup>4</sup>

## Winter Water Safety Alert

We have been made aware of reports of children wearing school uniforms walking onto the ice of local ponds across the county. Please speak with your children about how dangerous this is. Ice can appear safe but can break without warning. What may seem like showing off to friends can have devastating consequences.

Please see the attached Winter Water Safety Poster and follow the guidance below:

### **Winter Water Safety Tips:**

- Keep back from slippery banks
- Plan your walks in daylight or along well-lit paths
- Never go onto the ice

Children and pets are particularly at risk when tempted to play on ice, and adults are at risk if they attempt to rescue them.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe this winter.

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Year+3%2F+4+Oak%2C+Juniper%2C+Maple&pid=118>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Year+5%2F+6+Rowan%2C+Pine%2C+Willow&pid=119>



## Children's Commissioner – A Guide For Parents On Managing Children's Digital Lives

Dame Rachel de Souza, The Children's Commissioner has written to all Head Teachers about a new guide - 'What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives

Parenting today can feel overwhelming — especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. This guide aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>



## 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

### **Top Tips for Parents and Carers: Essential Online Safety**

This #WakeUpWednesday edition offers clear, supportive guidance to help parents and educators feel more confident in navigating the online world with children and young people. It looks at how everyday conversations, simple boundaries, and a bit of digital awareness can make a real difference to young people's online experiences.

This guide also explores how parents and educators can create an environment where children feel comfortable asking for help when something online unsettles them. By highlighting the importance of safe and healthy internet usage, these tips provide a grounded starting point for anyone supporting young people's digital lives.

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. Formally delivered by National College Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

# ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support better and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

- 1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS**  
Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and reward their curiosity, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that unsettles or confuses them. Keeping these check-ups safe helps build trust, as children are more likely to come to you when needed.
- 2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING**  
Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be viewed and misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message and who it is safe to share with.
- 3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE**  
Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, hints or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to bail out. Talk openly about how those systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of total screen time.
- 4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS**  
When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with anger. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues. It means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.
- 5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT**  
With emerging technologies like AI, moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.
- 6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING**  
Talk to children about how to recognise unwise information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and social messages, it's hard to spot, but children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid scams, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.
- 7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES**  
Involve children in conversations about digital rules so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, app permissions, and device use in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block off that harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.
- 8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**  
Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and responsible technology use is, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you spot certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.
- 9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**  
Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others if reported to protect their identity and control personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and ensure that these features are there to help them stay safe online.
- 10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP**  
Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and COPIC can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

**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 meeting compliance. Our three memberships help set phases and types of setting, raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of engagement.

See full references list on [wakeupweds.com](http://wakeupweds.com)

**#WakeUpWednesday** The National College

Twitter: @wake\_up\_weds Facebook: www.thenationalcollege Instagram: @wake.up.wednesday TikTok: @wake.up.weds

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## What makes Britain great?

To kick start our F2 spring enquiry, 'What makes Britain great?', the children came to school wearing red, white and blue and attended a royal tea party after being invited by the King! We enjoyed jam scones, Victoria sponge cake and a cup of tea, as well as listening to the national anthem and watching some traditional Morris dancing.








## FREE Wellbeing session for families of children/ young people with SEND

Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum FREE Wellbeing session for families of children and young people with additional needs. They are keen to offer this support to families in the local area and would really appreciate your help. Taking place shortly after the busy Christmas period, it offers parents and carers the chance to pause, look after their own wellbeing, and connect and spend time with others who really understand.

**Details:**

 **15th January 2026**

 **All Saints Centre, Huthwaite, NG17 2JT**

The session is open exclusively to families of children and young people with any level of additional needs who live in Nottinghamshire or access services within Nottinghamshire.

It is totally FREE, all resources are provided, and a lovely lunch is also included.

Alongside relaxed wellbeing activities, families can also access informal support and signposting if helpful, within a safe and welcoming environment.

To request a place or ask questions please email [enquiries@nottspcf.org](mailto:enquiries@nottspcf.org)<sup>5</sup>



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<sup>5</sup><mailto:enquiries@nottspcf.org>



## Crochet Art Club

Our lunchtime Crochet Art Club has been a wonderful success, with a fantastic turnout of enthusiastic children eager to learn this creative skill. The club has been proudly run by two of our Year 6 students, Lucy and Charlie, whose passion for crochet has truly shone through as they guided and encouraged others. It has been lovely to see students developing patience, creativity and confidence while working together. We are so excited to continue the club and can't wait to see what beautiful creations come next!



## SEN Drop-in sessions - everyone welcome

As you may have read on our last SEND newsletter, we will be running SEN Drop-in sessions every term which will offer the opportunity to chat with Mrs Richards, our SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), in school about any concerns or worries you may have about your child. This is available to every parent in school and not just those with children on the SEND register. Our current proposed date for the Spring term SEND drop in session is: Tuesday 27th January from 1-4pm. You can book your 15minute slot via Arbor (Guardian Consultations section).

## 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