



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 27th February 2026

Welcome Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another busy and exciting week at Mapplewells! It has been wonderful to see the children settle back into school life so quickly following the half-term break. Their positive attitudes, enthusiasm for learning, and excellent behaviour have really shone through—it's been a fantastic start to the new half-term.

A huge well done to our pupils who took part in the swimming gala this week. Their performance was absolutely brilliant, demonstrating fantastic teamwork, determination, and school spirit. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. We would also like to share a big thank you to our EYFS families who joined us for Stay and Play. It was lovely to welcome so many of you into school and see the children so engaged, confident, and excited to share their learning.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 21 weeks is 96.77%. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 96%

Elder 95%

Elm 98%

Hawthorn 97%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 97%

Oak 97%

Pine 96%

Rowan 95%

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%.



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 - Amina

Birch - Arthur

Elder - Ivy

Elm - Chester

Hawthorn - Ella

Juniper - Diamond

Maple - Stanley

Oak - Parker

Pine - Tristan

Rowan - Grace

Willow - Alfie



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:

- **Freddie** – *For achieving full marks in his phonics assessment. What an incredible achievement! Freddie's hard work and focus have really paid off—well done!*
- **George** – *For making fantastic progress in his reading. George's confidence and fluency are growing every week, and we are so proud of his dedication.*
- **Niall** – *For working exceptionally hard to improve his beautiful handwriting, remembering his finger spaces, and taking real pride in his presentation. Keep it up, Niall!*

- **Olive** – *For her amazing independent work in RE. Olive has shown a fantastic understanding of Judaism and has approached her learning with real curiosity and enthusiasm. Brilliant work, Olive*
- **Kaison** – *For demonstrating a wonderful understanding of adding and subtracting fractions. His confidence in maths is really shining through—well done, Kaison!*

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

Spring 2026 Parents' Evenings

We will be holding our Spring Parents' Evenings on 17th & 18th March 2026.

Appointments will be allocated for 10 minutes per child and give you the valuable opportunity to discuss all aspects of your child's progress, to ask any questions that you may have and for the teachers to explain how you can support your child with their learning at home.

You can book a meeting on Arbor under 'Guardian Consultations'. Meetings are available to book now.

Should you have any queries please contact the Office.



World Book Day 2026

World Book Day takes place on **Thursday 5th March 2026** and we hope you'll join us as we come together to celebrate our World Book Day in school which is all about around the theme "Go all in together" for the National Year of Reading. This year is all about reading for pleasure and offering children a chance to enjoy books.

We will have lots of fun activities taking place throughout the day including:

- Children story share
- DEAR time- (Drop everything and READ)
- Visiting Mapplewells book shop to get a new book with their World Book Day Token.
- A virtual author visit with Matt

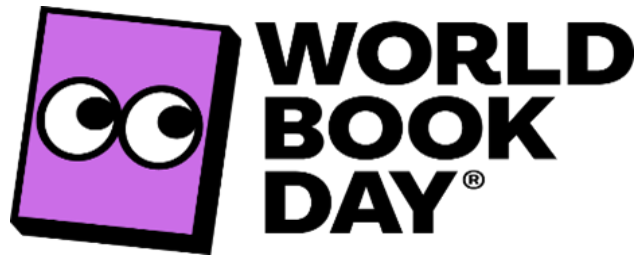
As a way to celebrate our favorite books, we would also like to invite children to **dress up** to represent something linked to reading. This could be as their favorite character from a story, an author whose books they love to read or even their cosiest PJ's that they love to read in.

We would love for child to make recommendation to each other about their favorite book so it is key that the book they choose to bring in is one they know and love.

We'd love to include you in our celebrations by:

- Creating a **character spoon** which will be displayed and used in the reading corner. These will be judged and prizes for top 3. Please send these into school on or before World Book Day and then the winner will be revealed during our WBD assembly.
- Sending your child's chosen book in with them on the day so we can read it to them and their friends.
- Please send in any pictures of children reading in their favorite way. The crazier the better. These can be sent to your class teacher or Mrs Higgins via Dojo.

We're very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day, which could not happen without the support of parents and careers - thank you



Online Safety

What Parents and Carers Need to know About Adult Animated Content

Adult animated content is increasingly visible on platforms such as YouTube, TikTok and streaming services. While the bright visuals and cartoon style may seem harmless at first glance, many of these shows and clips are created specifically for mature audiences, featuring strong language, sexual references, graphic violence and unsettling themes.

This #WakeUpWednesday guide helps parents and educators understand the risks, from misleading visuals and algorithm-driven recommendations to desensitisation and edgy humour. It also offers practical advice on platform settings, open conversations and building children's critical thinking, so young people can navigate online animation safely and confidently.

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 Centre for Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ADULT ANIMATED CONTENT

Bright, bold, and widely shared, adult animated content is more popular than ever, but not always what it seems. These videos, which may appear cartoonish and harmless, often contain strong language, explicit themes, graphic violence, or dark humour. Many are accessible through platforms like YouTube, TikTok or streaming services, where filters may not catch them in time.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISLEADING VISUAL STYLE
Many adult animations mimic the colourful, exaggerated look of children's cartoons. This can easily mislead and put children at ease, creating the illusion they're suitable for younger viewers. Without watching the content fully, parents or educators might approve a show or video that contains explicit jokes, graphic imagery or highly inappropriate language, all disguised beneath a playful and fun visual style.

EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL THEMES
A number of adult animated shows and online videos explore mature or disturbing themes, such as addiction, racism, abuse, self-harm, or violence, and often do so in a stylised or humorous way. Younger viewers may lack the emotional maturity to process this content, leading to confusion, distress, or the normalisation of very serious issues that should be discussed in a supportive context.

RISK OF DISTRESS AND FEAR
Some adult animations, especially horror-themed content or 'insensitive' style shows, include disturbing imagery, unsettling music, and sudden violence. These elements may be further amplified by the inclusion of well-known children's characters, such as the Hedgehog or Peppa Pig, or highly recognisable settings, leading to confusion, fear, or distress. Children who have existing worries or sensitive experiences, or who are particularly fearful, may be especially affected.

INFLUENCE OF EDGY HUMOUR
Dark, edgy humour is common in adult animation and often includes jokes about topics like sexuality, mental illness, or abuse. When children hear these jokes, they may repeat them without fully understanding their meaning. This can lead to inappropriate behaviour in school or online spaces, and in some cases, it can reinforce harmful stereotypes or desensitise children to real-world violence and discrimination.

ALGORITHMIC RECOMMENDATIONS
Video platforms are designed to keep users watching by suggesting similar content to what a child watches or mature animation. They may quickly be shown more, including suggestions for more extreme videos. These recommendations are based on viewing patterns, not age-appropriateness. Without strict settings in place, this can lead to a rapid spiral into unsuitable, upsetting, or even harmful content online.

DESENSITISATION TO VIOLENCE
Stylised violence in animation is often exaggerated and cartoonish. Repeated exposure to it can reduce a child's emotional response to harm, making aggression or cruelty appear entertaining or normalised. Over time, children may become less empathetic or more tolerant of harmful behaviours in real life, especially if they see others online reacting with humour, memes, or praise to violent characters or scenes.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN WHAT CHILDREN ARE WATCHING
Take time to ask children what they're watching and who their favourite creators are. Sit down and watch a few videos to get a full understanding. This helps you spot inappropriate content even you approve of. Ask them to show you what they're watching and engaged in their online world, not just posting to it.

TALK ABOUT WHAT'S APPROPRIATE
Keep conversations open and non-judgemental. Talk about why certain themes or jokes are not appropriate for children, even if they appear in animated form. Help children understand that just because something is popular or funny doesn't mean it's suitable or safe. If they've seen something upsetting, respond calmly, offer reassurance, and explore things in an age-appropriate way.

USE PLATFORM SETTINGS WISELY
Make use of built-in safety tools like content filters, restricted mode, and age settings on platforms such as YouTube, Netflix or TikTok. Turn off auto-play where possible and regularly review what children are being recommended. Although these settings aren't foolproof, they add an important layer of protection and help reduce the risk of children encountering disturbing or adult content accidentally.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING
Help children think carefully about what they watch. Talk about the difference between fictional exaggeration and reality, while helping them question why certain content is popular. Is it informative, entertaining, or meant to shock? This builds digital resilience and encourages them to make safer choices in future, rather than simply following peer trends or peer pressure to watch mature content.

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. My other membership tips and packages to help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

WakeUpWednesday The National College

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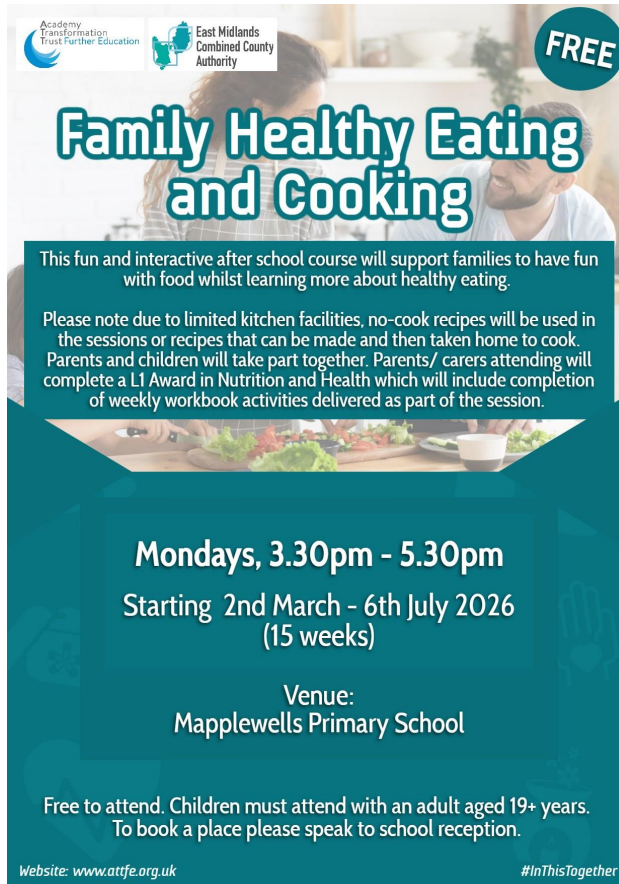
Healthy Eating and Cooking Course

This fun, free and interactive after-school course will support families to have fun with food whilst learning more about healthy eating.

Please note: due to limited kitchen facilities, no-cook recipes will be used in the sessions, or recipes that can be made and then taken home to cook. Parents and children will take part together.

Please complete this form by 27th February to sign up - Healthy Eating and Cooking Course – Fill out form¹

¹<https://forms.office.com/e/cnEQhD6hkz>



Academy Transformation Trust Further Education | East Midlands Combined County Authority

FREE

Family Healthy Eating and Cooking

This fun and interactive after school course will support families to have fun with food whilst learning more about healthy eating.

Please note due to limited kitchen facilities, no-cook recipes will be used in the sessions or recipes that can be made and then taken home to cook. Parents and children will take part together. Parents/ carers attending will complete a L1 Award in Nutrition and Health which will include completion of weekly workbook activities delivered as part of the session.

Mondays, 3.30pm - 5.30pm
Starting 2nd March - 6th July 2026
(15 weeks)

Venue:
Mapplewells Primary School

Free to attend. Children must attend with an adult aged 19+ years.
To book a place please speak to school reception.

Website: www.attfe.org.uk #InThisTogether

F2 stay and play

This week, F2 opened their doors for their spring stay and play. The children had lots of fun sharing the environment and what they are learning with their parents and carers!











Easter celebrations

Decorated Eggs

Our annual Easter Egg competition will take place on the morning of Wednesday 25th March. Please ensure your child brings a **hard-boiled egg** to school on **Tuesday 24th March**. The children will decorate their eggs that afternoon. They are welcome to bring any additional materials they would like to use.

Easter Bonnets

Our annual Easter bonnet parade will also be held on **Wednesday 25th March** during our Easter Assembly. As in previous years this is an opportunity for you and your child/ren to spend some creative time designing and making a bonnet at home. The children can then bring their bonnets to school.

Easter Disco

Look out for details of our disco which is being held at the end of term.


Please see your child's class teacher if you have any further questions regarding the Easter celebrations.



Limetree After School Club

We are pleased to share that a new Afterschool Club will be opening Monday 13th April 2026, delivered by The Lime Trees. Bookings are now open! To book, simply visit www.thelimetrees.co.uk² and select the 'Book Now' option from the top left drop-down menu.

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.uk³.



Dear Parents and Carers,

Over recent months, we have been busy behind the scenes preparing for our new partnership with Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School. We are delighted to confirm that our brand-new After School Club will be opening after Easter half term 2026.

We are incredibly excited to be launching this new provision on the school site and welcoming families to The Lime Trees community.

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

We understand that flexibility and affordability are essential to modern family life. That's why our session times and booking software are designed to allow you to manage your childcare around your schedule - not the other way around.

Bookings are now open!
We provide a totally flexible service, giving you the option to book the sessions that work best for you and your family via our online booking system. To book, simply visit www.thelimetrees.co.uk and select the 'Book Now' option from the top left drop-down menu. Choose your desired location and click 'Book Now'.

You will need to register your child/children before making a booking. For full guidance on registering, booking sessions, making payments and general FAQs, please refer to the Parent Guide available on our website.


Times/Prices/Location

After School Club	
Time	3.15pm- 5pm
Cost	£10.75
Location	Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School

*Once Ofsted registration is confirmed parents will also be able to use childcare vouchers and the governments Tax Free Childcare scheme. Please refer to the Parent Guide for more information *

Keep in touch and stay up to date
If you have any immediate questions, please refer to our website for our 'Parent Guide'. Alternatively, you can contact us on 0115 9313 562 or email hello@thelimetrees.co.uk. For all the latest news and promotions follow us on Facebook and Instagram - just search for The Lime Trees.

On behalf of the whole team, welcome to The Lime Trees family, and thank you for choosing us to be a part of your child's exciting journey.

Yours Faithfully

Gareth Degenhart

The Naughty Bus visits F2

In Literacy this week, F2 began reading the story of the 'Naughty Bus'. At the start of the week, the children made predictions about what they think might happen in the story and what the bus might do that is naughty. By the end of the week, the naughty bus had made its way into school and made a lot of mess! Mr Whittle was not happy!

²<https://www.thelimetrees.co.uk>

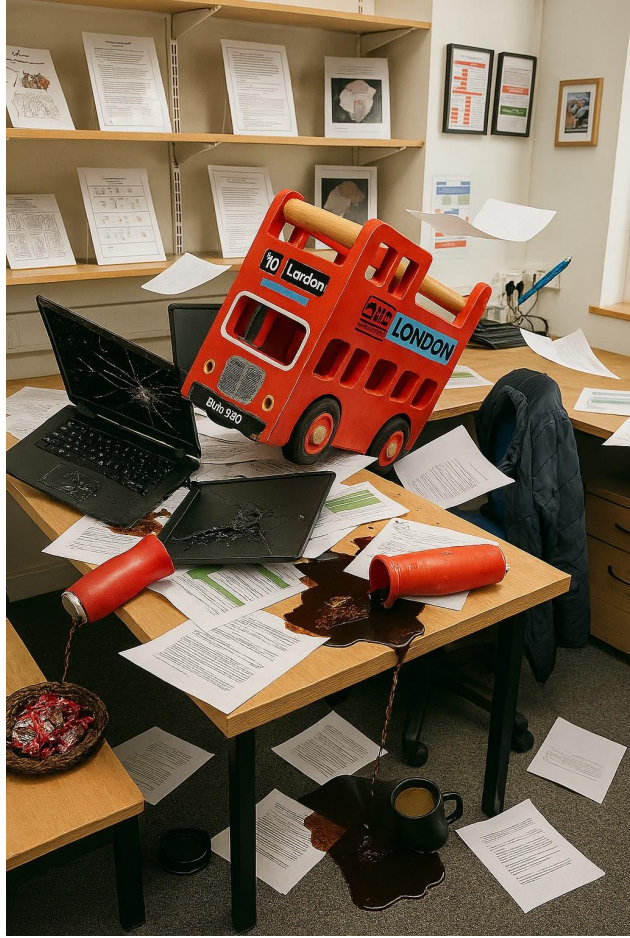
³<mailto:hello@thelimetrees.co.uk>













Key dates

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

Diary Dates	
2026	
March	
5 th March	World Book Day
17 th March	Spring Parents' Evening
18 th March	Spring Parents' Evening
25 th March	Easter Assemblies
26 th March	Easter disco
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