



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 6th March 2026

Welcome Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week it has been at Mapplewells! The children have been full of energy and enthusiasm, and the school has been buzzing with exciting learning opportunities.

A real highlight has been **World Book Day**, with pupils and staff celebrating their love of stories in true Mapplewells style. From creative costumes to engaging reading activities, it has been wonderful to see the joy and imagination that books bring to our school community.

Our **KS1 pupils also enjoyed a brilliant visit to Sutton** this week, exploring the local area and building on their understanding of the world around them. Their behaviour was exemplary, and they represented Mapplewells beautifully—we are incredibly proud of them.

We hope you enjoy reading about all the wonderful things that have taken place across the school this week. Wishing everyone a relaxing and enjoyable weekend!

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 22 weeks is 96.81%. 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 - Chester

Birch - Lottie H

Elder - Oakley

Juniper - Jasper

Maple - Daisy

Oak - Sam

Pine - Zack

Rowan - Amelia

Willow - Nicolas



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:

- **Rory** – For writing a truly wonderful invitation letter to his mum for the KS1 British Tea Party! Rory used beautiful handwriting, brilliant ideas, and real pride in his work. What a superstar!
- **Eve, Finley & Kiyon** – For showing amazing determination to improve their handwriting. All three have made fantastic progress, taking real care with their presentation and producing work they should be incredibly proud of. Amazing effort from this brilliant trio!

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.

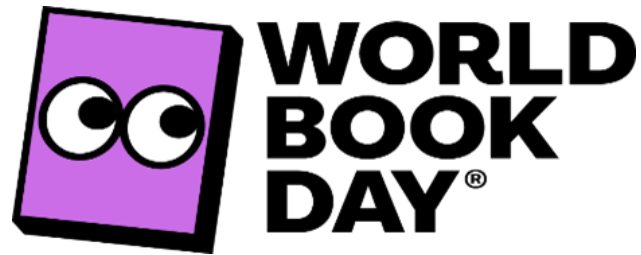
Should you have any queries please contact the Office.



World Book Day 2026

We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day yesterday! This year's theme, "*Go all in together*" for the National Year of Reading, encouraged everyone to dive into stories and enjoy reading purely for pleasure.

The children loved visiting the Mapplewells book shop to choose a new book with their World Book Day token, sharing stories with friends, and joining a virtual author visit with Matt. It was a brilliant day full of excitement, imagination, and a real love of books.



World Book Day at The City Ground

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, a group of our UKS2 children had the fantastic opportunity to visit the home of Nottingham Forest—the **world-famous City Ground**. It was a truly special experience that combined the joy of reading with the excitement of football.

The children were treated to an exclusive **behind-the-scenes stadium tour**, exploring areas usually reserved for players and staff. They also visited the **Nottingham Forest museum**, where they learned more about the club's proud history and achievements.

Following the tour, the group took part in a series of **football-themed reading activities**, designed to inspire a love of books through the world of sport. The children showed great enthusiasm throughout and represented Mapplewells brilliantly.

It was a memorable day for everyone involved—full of learning, inspiration, and a touch of Forest magic!







Swimming gala

Last week, a group of talented Key Stage 2 pupils proudly represented Mapplewells at the **Nottinghamshire County Swimming Gala**—and they were absolutely fantastic! Competing against some incredibly strong schools, our swimmers rose to the challenge with determination, teamwork, and brilliant sportsmanship.

Their hard work certainly paid off, with several **top-three finishes** across a range of events. It was a fast-paced and energetic morning, and every child gave their very best from start to finish.

We could not be prouder of how they performed and conducted themselves throughout the event. They truly represented Mapplewells with pride—**well done, team!**



Online Safety

10 Top Tips for Parents and Carers: Creative Ways to Encourage Reading

With reading for pleasure in decline, this practical guide offers ten thoughtful ways to reignite children's enthusiasm for books. From valuing all forms of reading to broadening access to diverse materials, it explores how adults can nurture positive reading habits both at home and in school. Digital tools, audiobooks and augmented reality are also considered as engaging ways to support today's readers.

It also highlights the power of social connection – recommending books, reading together and meeting authors – alongside the importance of modelling reading ourselves. With expert insight from literacy specialist Carl Pattison, this edition provides supportive, achievable ideas to help young people reconnect with reading and see it as a meaningful part of everyday life.

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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2021. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

- 1 VALUE ALL READING**
When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel. However, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand what not about books has to do with their reading story? Get down all reading and then discuss this with them. In doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.
- 2 WIDEN THE SELECTION**
Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.
- 3 GIFT A BOOK**
One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's on a special or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose their pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.
- 4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS**
Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event (in school/bookshop) or by using the wealth of online resources that are now available. Encourage young people to look for ways to connect with authors using free resources such as author live and through Children's Author Live.
- 5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE**
Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of the topic and more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.
- 6 TALK BOOKS**
There are times when we need advice to read and focus on our book, however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Try not to just open a book and read it together! Start the connection.
- 7 RECOMMENDATIONS**
As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can be done in a digital or physical way. One idea is to get the children to do a book review. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can filter your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.
- 8 GO DIGITAL**
With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negative, however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can be used and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, listen to audio books, watch their reading journey with resources like podcasts and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books are being made to the and offer a great way for engagement.
- 9 RECONNECT**
There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It can be missed in some places. It generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Trust of Reading has a list of all in chapters this well as it is there for them. An online store and change, as all their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.
- 10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Show why you enjoy it. It's not a chore, it's a world, it's something new or to be entertained! When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to read themselves.

Meet Our Expert
Carl Portman is a literacy adviser and early reading expert at the National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing, in respect to his independent work, he also works for change academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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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

Friends of Mapplewells Easter disco this year will be held on Thursday 26th March and Friday 27th March. Please see the letter on Class Dojo for details.



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.uk¹ 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.uk².

¹<https://www.thelimetrees.co.uk>

²<mailto:hello@thelimetrees.co.uk>

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-6pm
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

Film Afternoon

On Friday 13th March, we will be enjoying a movie in school. This will be a lovely opportunity for the children to relax together, share a fun experience, and celebrate their hard work so far this term. Pupils are welcome to bring a small snack to enjoy during the film.



Key dates

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

Diary Dates	
2026	
March	
13 th March	Film afternoon
17 th March	Spring Parents' Evening
18 th March	Spring Parents' Evening
25 th March	Easter Assemblies
26 th March	Easter disco KS2
27 th March	Easter disco Foundation & KS1
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