



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 13th March 2026

Welcome Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week we've had in school! **Break the Rules Day** was a huge success, bringing plenty of smiles, fun, and laughter across Mapplewells. A huge **thank you** to everyone for your generosity—your donations are truly appreciated and will support enriching opportunities for our children.

As we look ahead, we're excited to begin our **Easter celebrations!** Over the coming days we'll be enjoying a wonderful range of seasonal activities, including **egg-decorating**, our much-loved **Easter Bonnet parades**, and the always-popular **Easter Discos**. We can't wait to see the creativity and joy these events bring to our school community.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 23 weeks is 96.86%. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 96%

Elder 96%

Elm 98%

Hawthorn 98%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 97%

Oak 97%

Pine 96%

Rowan 95%

Willow 97%

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



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:

- **Jude** – Awarded for brilliant independent writing! Jude has been working incredibly hard on forming letters and numbers with great care. Super effort!

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

Online Safety

What Parents and Carers Need to Know About Streaming Services

Streaming services have become the go-to entertainment choice for many families, with children often favouring on-demand platforms over traditional television. This edition explores the realities behind these services, from rising subscription costs and advert-supported tiers to the impact of autoplay and endless content libraries on young viewers' screen time and wellbeing.

It also highlights key safeguarding concerns, including age-inappropriate material, binge watching, algorithm-driven recommendations and phishing scams. With clear, practical advice for setting profiles, PINs and time limits – alongside tips for discussing algorithms and stereotypes – this guide supports parents and educators in promoting safer, healthier streaming habits.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMING SERVICES

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies online immediately (often referred to as SVOD: streaming video on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

COSTLY
Subscription services can be costly. As the main source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming platform and each platform has its own monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for ad-free viewing, and better quality and resolution. However, there is a caveat: with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney reported a sharp increase in users subscribing to their ad-supported tier in 2023.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME
Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4- to 15-year-olds averaged 2.5 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.

BINGE WATCHING
Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers, especially young people, to consume watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting, which might result in a lack of social interaction, loss of physical exercise, and often late nights and sleep disruptions which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.

HARMFUL STEREOTYPES
Many platforms today viewing habits, time consumed, and preferences, and generate recommendations to encourage your child to keep watching. This results in your child being in a loop whereby they may like the content they would be something they would enjoy and then may think critically for themselves. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.

ILLEGAL STREAMING
Sharing passwords or using modified fire sticks to access streaming content without permission is illegal. Most streaming services have now put measures in place to detect account sharing. When account sharing is identified, platforms will offer an opportunity to pay for an additional member or will ask the user to verify who they are.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
Most streaming platforms allow users to set age profiles for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include setting a profile lock or PIN, controlling output of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nonetheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS
Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions put in place for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of PINs. Keep this private. Use the options of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.

TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS
Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and base adverts and recommended shows/movies on previous viewing. Encourage them to critically think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Discuss stereotypes with your child and challenge them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.

MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN
Discuss with your child what they are watching, look out for subtle programming and branding, and watch their content. Have a chat to their favourite characters, the content of what they are watching. Some platforms have been known to document or autoplay older or graphic content. Offer a child's mobile has been played. While some to show or movies may have suitable age ratings, your child may still find the content scary, or it may explore themes you don't want to explore with your child yet.

SET TIME RESTRICTIONS
Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as sports channels, as well as in-app purchases. This can increase the amount of time your child spends sitting in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV) allow you to set screen time restrictions. If the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator, and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written about adolescent internet use and existing behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

See full information on our website: www.wakeupwednesday.com

Follow us on social media: [@wakeup_weds](https://www.facebook.com/wakeup_weds), [@wakeup.wednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wakeup.wednesday), [@wakeup.weds](https://www.tiktok.com/@wakeup.weds)

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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.



Troy Story - Year 3/ 4

Our talented Year 3 and 4 pupils recently performed *Troy Story*, a fun and lively retelling inspired by the famous tale of the Trojan Horse. Full of humour, adventure and memorable characters, the production showcased the children's hard work, creativity and growing confidence on stage. We were incredibly proud of their efforts and hope everyone who attended enjoyed the fantastic performance.





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

Red Nose Day - 20th March

We're looking forward to supporting Comic Relief this Friday, 20th March. As we've already had plenty of dress-up days this term, from World Book Day to Break the Rules Day, we're keeping things simple this time.

Children are invited to come to school wearing red or something that makes them happy

If you would like to contribute please visit https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnd26-mapplewells-primary-and-nursery-school-18db3bb1-9042-4222-a935-bb1a736635c0?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=020



FRIDAY 20 MARCH

Science week

As part of our Science week learning, this week F2 have had a delivery of caterpillars! We thought carefully about the questions that we wanted to find out about them, with the children asking questions like 'what do they eat?' And 'how do they turn into butterflies?' We can't wait to look after them and watch them grow!







KS2 Healthy Tuck Trolley Going Strong

Our KS2 Healthy Tuck Trolley is now up and running, proudly managed by our Year 6 children each morning break. Everything on the trolley is 50p or less, and there's a great selection of fresh, healthy snacks for the children to choose from.

The Year 6 team are doing a fantastic job, and it's wonderful to see so many pupils enjoying healthier options at break time.





World Book Day 2026

World Book Day last was a huge success, filled with excitement, creativity, and a shared love of reading. Pupils and staff came dressed as their favourite book characters, bringing colour and imagination to every classroom and corridor. Throughout the day, students enjoyed storytelling sessions, fun activities, and opportunities to explore new books. The atmosphere was buzzing with enthusiasm, and it was wonderful to see everyone celebrating the joy of reading together.

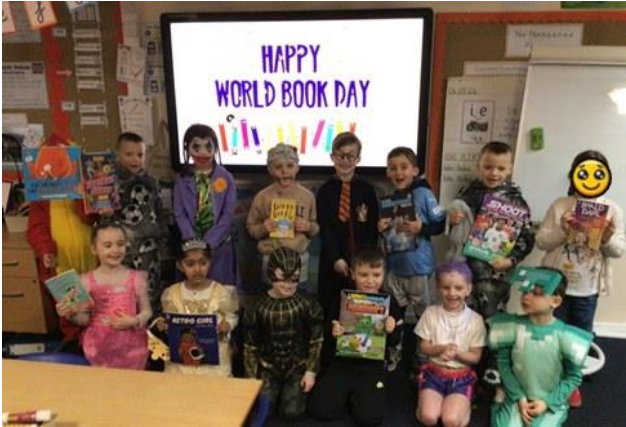
Winner of the character competition (judged by Mr Whittle):

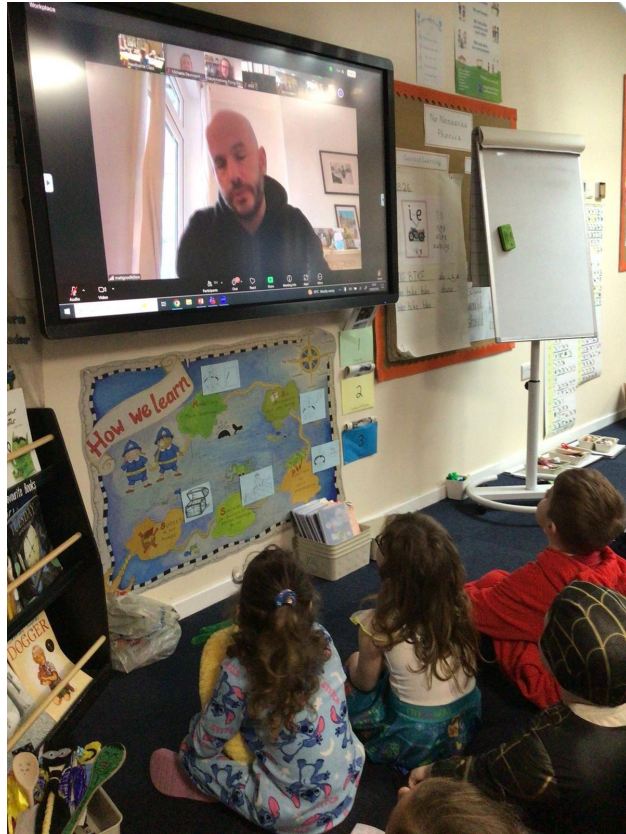
FS- Olive Percival

KS1- Ezra Brown

LKS2- Thomas Beastall

UKS2- Athena Biggs









Key dates

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

Diary Dates	
2026	
March	
17 th March	Spring Parents' Evening
18 th March	Spring Parents' Evening
20 th March	Red Nose Day
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