



# Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 20th March 2026

## [Welcome Message](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely week it has been in school! With the **warmer weather** finally making an appearance, it has been wonderful to see the children enjoying the sunshine and bringing even more smiles to the playground.

Our pupils have also been working incredibly hard on their **assessments**, showing focus, determination and real pride in their learning. We are very proud of the effort they have put in this week.

Wishing you all a restful weekend and more sunshine ahead!

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

## 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 - Mabel

Juniper - Tahlia

Maple - Alice

Oak - Gabriel

Pine - Jack

Rowan - Alfie B

Willow - Jaxon & Isabella



## Attendance

Our current school attendance after 24 weeks is 96.95%. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 96%

Elder 96%

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%.



## 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:

- **Theo, Harry, Ronan, Layla and Ada** – For consistently demonstrating our Mapplewellian values in everything they do. A brilliant example to others!
- **Laney** – For working incredibly hard to move up to Ruby books. Fantastic effort and determination—well done!

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 Online Trends Encouraging Violence

Violent clips, online ‘wars’, and shock-value challenges can spread rapidly across social media feeds – often appearing in front of young people who weren’t actively looking for them. This guide explains how algorithms, messaging groups and viral trends can expose children to real-world violence online, sometimes normalising harmful behaviour or encouraging risky offline actions.

It also highlights the emotional, social and legal risks linked to engaging with violent content. From anxiety and community fear to the dangers of sharing or promoting violent posts, the guide offers practical advice for parents and educators on discussing online safety, understanding the law, and helping young people respond positively and responsibly.

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE TRENDS ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE**

7 out of 10 teens report seeing violent content on social media, with over half of that content featuring fights involving young people. Most don't 'seek' it but are shown it through social media feeds or messaging groups. 81% of young people involved in violence have seen violent social media content. Viral trends, challenges, or 'wars' that are spread online risk encouraging violence offline, while real-world incidents may also be recorded and promoted online.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- ALGORITHMIC EXPOSURE**  
Social media platforms are designed to keep users engaged, meaning algorithms or adtech can spread video and audio quickly. Algorithms often recommend content that caters to users' interests. As a result, young people may see more violent content if they have viewed, commented on or shared it before. Repeated exposure can make violent content appear frequently in their feeds without them fully understanding why.
- WEAPONS AND CRIMINAL RISK**  
Teens exposed to high levels of real-world violence on social media sometimes report feeling an increased need to carry a weapon for 'self-protection'. However, carrying a weapon increases the risk of misperception. There are also many reasons for sharing photos or location, carrying a weapon to a friend's party, or looking for police consent and a criminal record.
- SHARING VIOLENT CONTENT**  
Encouraging or reposting an offence is a crime in the UK, including on social media, and can lead to arrest. This means sharing, forwarding or reposting violent content carries a risk for young people too. Sharing a screenshot of content to a friend or adult is appropriate, but young people should take care not to further a post, repost content by posting it online or sharing it within large messaging groups.
- FEAR, ANXIETY, AND MARGINALISATION**  
Research shows young people's emotional wellbeing can be negatively impacted by repeated exposure to violent online content, especially when it relates to real-world violence (as opposed to fictional characters in games or films). Posts featuring weapons, tattoos, gangs, and fights – or content that appears to glorify gang activity – can increase feelings of crime or fear among young people, harmful that encourages violence for getting people because of their identity such as their ethnicity or religion, or via events, disagreements or for children belonging to those groups.
- AVOIDANCE AND ISOLATION**  
Real-world violence on social media can increase young people's belief that their own communities – or the outside world more generally – are unsafe places. This can result in avoiding or limiting behaviours, which may negatively affect their wellbeing. As well as feeling fearful of others, teens also report feeling unsafe for spending time together in large groups, which may affect their social interactions and future lives.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

- STAY INFORMED**  
Stay alert for updates from police, schools, or local authorities, and follow the advice provided. Be cautious about unofficial accounts, fake content, and misinformation, which can spread quickly across online groups. Ensure you get accurate information from trusted sources and encourage young people to do the same. Report their views to share violent content online and to speak to a trusted adult instead.
- TALK CRIME AND SAFETY**  
In most of the UK, the age of criminal responsibility is 10 (12 in Scotland). This means there can be without criminal consequences for posting a weapon, taking part in violence or filming or sharing violent content. Discuss the law with young people alongside practical safety strategies. Ask questions such as 'what could you do if you had a weapon?' work together on action plans and remind them they can contact a trusted adult or the police if they witness or experience violence.
- DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Encourage young people to talk about the content they see online and the effect it can have. This can be an opportunity to discuss topics such as misinformation, algorithmic bias, the attention economy, and algorithms, helping them understand how and why extreme content can spread online. Explain tools available to block, report, and remove harmful content, and signpost where to get support and advice, such as [reportunwanted.com](http://reportunwanted.com).
- ENCOURAGE POSITIVE ACTION**  
Focus on strengthening young people's positive experiences both online and within their social communities. Encourage strategies to reduce negative social media effects, such as time limits, unfollowing certain accounts, or taking breaks from apps. Encourage offline activities such as spending time with friends, visiting local places, and taking part in hobbies that bring them joy, purpose, and connection. Remind them they can seek support with any concerns on any time via [childline.org.uk](http://childline.org.uk).

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr. Wendy Powell - James's Place founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert in media law, online safety, and young people. Her PhD investigates youth understandings of criminal and legal risks in digital contexts. She works in schools to provide in-school training education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations of engaging with technology.

**WakeUp Wednesday**  
The National College

See full information on our website  
[@wake\\_up\\_weds](https://www.wake_up_weds) [www.thenationalcollege](http://www.thenationalcollege) [@wakeupwednesday](https://www.wakeupwednesday) [@wakeup.weds](https://www.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.




## 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.uk](http://www.thelimetrees.co.uk)<sup>1</sup> and select the 'Book Now' option from the top left drop-down menu.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.thelimetrees.co.uk>

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.uk](mailto:hello@thelimetrees.co.uk)<sup>2</sup>.



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](http://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](mailto: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

It was great to see the children supporting Comic Relief today.

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](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**

### Break the Rules day

We want to say a HUGE thank you for your incredible support and generosity during our very first Mapplewells Break the Rules Day. The day was a *roaring success* — the children had a fantastic time embracing their inner rule-breakers, and the whole school enjoyed the fun, laughter, and creativity that filled the day. We raised an amazing **£550.00!**

The School Council is excited to use this money to purchase brand-new playtime equipment for all children to enjoy. And yes... we will *definitely* be bringing Break the Rules Day back next year.

Thank you once again for making this event so special.

**From the Mapplewells School Council**



## Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

There are plenty of fantastic activities happening across the county as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme this spring (Easter). Children and young people can access 4 days of face-to-face activity. Please visit

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/holiday-activities-and-food> for more details.

- The HAF programme is open to children and young people aged between 5 and 16 years (age 4 if in reception class full-time). Fully funded places are offered to those receiving benefits-related free school meals. This is different from the universal infant free school meals that children receive in reception, year 1 and year 2.
- Most HAF venues also have places that can be paid for.
- If you think you are eligible for free school meals but you have not applied, you can apply for free school meals here<sup>3</sup>.
- Bookings for the Easter holidays are open now.

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk>



Would you like to work with us?

Can you help? We are looking for a reliable, enthusiastic person to join our team of Midday Supervisors to supervise children during the lunchtime break. For more details please see visit <https://www.flyinghighpartnership.co.uk/careers/>



## SEND drop in sessions for Summer term

SEND drop in sessions will take place again on Tuesday 5th May between 1pm-4pm, this is an informal opportunity for you to meet with Mrs Richards, our school SENCO, ask questions and discuss any concerns or support you need for your child. During the drop in sessions, you will be able to:

- speak to Mrs Richards about your child's progress and support in school
- ask for advice about SEND referrals or outside agencies
- share any worries or updates that may help us to support your child further
- find out about available resources and strategies we use in school

Please book a 15 minute slot on Arbor or alternatively get in touch with the school office to book. We look forward to seeing you.

## Meningitis

### **A message to all Nottinghamshire schools from Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health Team**

You may have seen news stories about the meningitis cases in Kent. We know this can be worrying but would like to reassure you that this situation is very rare, and we have not seen cases linked to the outbreak here in Nottinghamshire. Meningitis is passed on through close contact with another person and the risk of catching it is low. However, it can be very serious if not treated quickly, so we encourage all parents of children and young people and students to be aware of the signs and symptoms:

- Sudden onset of high temperature (fever)
- Severe and worsening headache
- Stiff neck
- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- Joint and muscle pain
- Dislike of bright lights
- Very cold hands and feet
- Seizures (fits)
- Confusion/delirium
- Extreme sleepiness/difficulty waking
- A rash that doesn't fade when pressed with a glass

MenB vaccines are only available on the NHS to those aged under 2 years, unless you are in the specific groups being offered it in response to the Kent outbreak. Other free vaccines also protect against diseases that can cause meningitis. We encourage families and young people to check whether they have missed any of their routine vaccinations. You can do this by contacting your GP practice online or by phone.

The school vaccination service is offering catch-up clinics for secondary school aged children over the Easter holidays. See SAIS catch-up clinics | Nottinghamshire County Council<sup>4</sup> for further information.

For more information, please see:

Meningitis - NHS<sup>5</sup>

Meningitis: Parents, young people and students urged to check vaccination status - NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB<sup>6</sup>

MenACWY vaccination information (offered to young people in Year 9 or 10, catch-up vaccination available free before 25th birthday):

MenACWY vaccine: information for young people - GOV.UK<sup>7</sup>

Meningitis and septicaemia – information for students in schools and sixth form colleges (text only) - GOV.UK<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup><https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/health-and-wellbeing/health-protection-hub/vaccinations/children/sais-clinics>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/>

<sup>6</sup><https://notts.icb.nhs.uk/2026/03/16/meningitis-parents-young-people-and-students-urged-to-check-vaccination-status/>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/menacwy-vaccine-information-for-young-people>

<sup>8</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningitis-and-septicaemia-information-for-students/meningitis-and-septicaemia-information-for-students-in-schools-and-sixth-form-colleges>

# MENINGITIS + SEPTICAEMIA

Meningitis  
now

Meningitis is a serious condition where the protective layers around the brain and spinal cord become inflamed. Septicaemia is when the bacteria enter the bloodstream to cause blood poisoning. They can happen to anyone, so it's important to know the symptoms and risks.

Early symptoms, such as fever, vomiting, aches, muscle pain, cold hands and feet and headaches, can look similar to common illnesses like colds or flu. But someone with meningitis or septicaemia will usually become seriously ill in a matter of hours. That's why it's crucial to keep checking on anyone who is unwell.

## MENINGITIS SYMPTOMS?

- fever
- a very bad headache (this alone is not a reason to get medical help)
- vomiting
- stiff neck
- dislike of bright lights
- rash (DO NOT wait for a rash to appear before seeking medical advice)
- confusion, delirium
- severe sleepiness, losing consciousness
- fits

## SEPTICAEMIA SYMPTOMS?

- fever and shivering
- severe pains and aches in limbs and joints
- vomiting
- very cold hands and feet
- pale or blotchy skin
- rapid breathing
- diarrhoea and stomach cramps
- red or purple 'bruised' or blotchy rash on skin that does not fade under pressure - do the glass test. On dark skin, check paler areas of the skin, such as the palms of the hands, soles of the feet, inside the mouth (roof), and the eyelids
- difficulty walking or standing
- severe sleepiness, losing consciousness

If you become worried about yourself, your child, or a friend, particularly if symptoms are getting worse, seek medical help urgently.

**EARLY TREATMENT CAN BE LIFE-SAVING.**

Meningitis  
now

## Meningitis

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Early symptoms, such as fever, vomiting, aches, muscle pain, cold hands and feet and headaches, can look similar to common illnesses like colds or flu. But someone with meningitis will usually become seriously ill in a matter of hours. That's why it's crucial to keep checking on anyone who is unwell.

## Symptoms

- Sudden onset of high fever
- severe and worsening headache
- stiff neck
- vomiting and diarrhoea
- joint and muscle pain
- dislike of bright lights
- very cold hands and feet
- seizures
- confusion/delirium
- extreme sleepiness/difficulty waking
- a rash that doesn't fade when pressed with a glass.

If you become worried about yourself, your child, or a friend, particularly if symptoms are getting worse, seek medical help urgently. Early treatment can be life-saving.

## Key dates

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

Diary Dates	
2026	
<b>March</b>	
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Assemblies
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter disco KS2
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter disco Foundation & KS1
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Last Day of Spring 2 – non-uniform day
<b>April</b>	
13 <sup>th</sup> April	First Day of Summer 1
16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 3 residential
27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 residential
<b>May</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> May	LCH Charity Colour Dash
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – School closed
11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs week
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Last Day of Summer 1 – non-uniform day
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	INSET day
<b>June</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> June	First day of Summer 1
1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 5 residential
1 <sup>st</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplications Checks
8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Checks
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Flying High Children’s Awards
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Leavers Photos & Class Photographs
<b>July</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	F1 trip to Matlock Farm Park
8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 residential
14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Bikeability
24 <sup>th</sup> July	Last Day of Summer 2 – non – uniform day
27 <sup>th</sup> July	INSET day

Mr Whittle

Head Teacher

Mr Latkowski

Deputy Headteacher