



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

Welcome Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the final day of the Spring term, the school has been filled with excitement and creativity. The children have loved taking part in our Easter Bonnet activities and showcasing their fantastic egg decorations — there's always such a wonderful mix of imagination and effort on display. We also rounded off the week with our Easter Discos, which brought plenty of fun, dancing, and smiling faces across the school.

A huge thank-you to everyone for your support throughout the term. We wish all our children, families, and staff an enjoyable, relaxing, and very well-deserved Easter break.

Have a lovely holiday

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 25 weeks is 96.85%. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 97%

Elder 96%

Elm 97%

Hawthorn 98%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 97%

Oak 97%

Pine 96%

Rowan 95%

Willow 97%

Well done to Hawthorn 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:

- **Jasmine, Jacob and Thisini** – for writing wonderful sentences as part of their sandwich-making instructions.
- **Eva, Mia, Klara and Toby** – for producing fantastic persuasive letters to the British Red Cross.
- **Alfie** – for working incredibly hard to improve his handwriting in his non-chronological report.

- **Max** – for superb editing and up-levelling of his English writing — a job very well done.
- **Axel** – for amazing reading, confident blending, and excellent knowledge of common exception words.
- **Abigail** – for an outstanding non-chronological report on deep-sea biomes.

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

Let's Go Zero

Last week, Years 5 and 6 proudly presented their dioramas to a representative from *Let's Go Zero*. The children showcased their impressive knowledge and understanding of ocean and rainforest biomes, confidently comparing Mexico and the UK to help answer their enquiry question: **“What affects the needs of living things in different places?”** Their presentations demonstrated not only a strong grasp of the topic but also excellent communication skills.

Both pupils and staff received fantastic feedback from Jo at *Let's Go Zero*, who shared:

“Please pass my congratulations on to your pupils: their presentation skills, public speaking, vocabulary and climate knowledge were absolutely outstanding — and their design and making skills were equally awesome!”

A huge well done to everyone involved. Your hard work and enthusiasm truly shone through!

Online Safety

What Parents and Carers Need to Know about YouTube

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

In our guide, you'll find tips on avoiding potential risks such as connecting with strangers, inappropriate content and high visibility.

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 Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, look out for @wake.up.wednesday on social media.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible treasure with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via mobile devices as well as with traditional desktop or laptop computers. Some content is being uploaded to YouTube accounts with a view to being watched by children, but it can be accessed by anyone who has a YouTube account. Some content is being uploaded to YouTube accounts with a view to being watched by children, but it can be accessed by anyone who has a YouTube account. Some content is being uploaded to YouTube accounts with a view to being watched by children, but it can be accessed by anyone who has a YouTube account.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to being recommended and screen-adding – especially if 'autoplay' is active. Users without an account can browse popular videos from the last 24 hours for free, but not for more than 15 minutes.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that is getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. It can be fine for non-harmful topics, but it can lead to radicalisation. The algorithm also means that extremist theories, hate news and topical conspiracy content occasionally surface to a large, untargeted audience. It's important to be aware of this and to ensure that any recommendations are appropriate for the user.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which gives people the ability to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have posted. It is also possible to message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to cyberbullying, sexual predators, or in the worst case, real-world predators. It is important to be aware of this and to ensure that any recommendations are appropriate for the user.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these most amusing and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm, or even lead to legal action. It's important to be aware of this and to ensure that any recommendations are appropriate for the user.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content are often full of people attempting to lure users into clicking on their profiles. Scammers impersonate YouTube by adopting their names and profile pictures, often using the same channel name. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they seem to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional feature that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material. It can be turned on in the account settings. It is important to be aware of this and to ensure that any recommendations are appropriate for the user.

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos in general. Google Family also allows parents and carers to see how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only receiving appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for millions of people under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones of course. You may want to keep an eye on how engaged your child is with YouTube, and if appropriate, with certain channels. It's important to be aware of this and to ensure that any recommendations are appropriate for the user.

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It is possible to identify most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app. This app is designed for children and lets you filter content by 'preschool' (4 and under), 'kids' (5-7), and 'teen' (8-17). It is important to be aware of this and to ensure that any recommendations are appropriate for the user.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they can be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a user is subscribed to can be hidden. It is important to be aware of this and to ensure that any recommendations are appropriate for the user.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent or buy content, or purchase channel memberships. It is important to be aware of this and to ensure that any recommendations are appropriate for the user.

Meet Our Expert
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for The New Statesman, The Guardian, TechCrunch, The Evening Standard and The New York Times.

WakeUpWednesday
The National College

@wake_up_weds /www.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

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Easter celebrations

Decorated Eggs

Everyone had a *cracking* time making their eggs as *eggstravagant* as possible. All of the entries were laid out on display in school for the judges to admire before making their decisions. It was an incredibly difficult choice, and the judges spent a long time deliberating over the wonderfully creative designs. **Congratulations to all of our winners.**

Easter Bonnets

Thank you to all the children who took the time to make an Easter bonnet. The standard and creativity were extremely high, with some designs being described as truly *eggstraordinary*! Thank you to Reverend Taylor, who had the tricky task of judging the winning bonnets. Well done to all the children for taking part and helping to make it such a wonderful event.

Easter Disco

Friends of Mapplewells Easter discos were a big hit with the children this week!

A Heartfelt Thank-You to Reverend Taylor

As Reverend Taylor prepares to move on to pastures new, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for everything he has contributed to the Mapplewells community over the years. His kindness, enthusiasm, and unwavering support have played a special part in many of our school traditions.

From leading our **Harvest Festivals** and **Christingle services**, to joining in with **Easter Bonnet celebrations**, Reverend Taylor has helped bring these events to life for our children and families.

We are also incredibly thankful for the regular use of **St. John's Church** for our Carol Concerts — a setting that has made these occasions truly memorable.

On behalf of all pupils, staff, and families, we wish Reverend Taylor every success and happiness in his next chapter.

Thank you for everything, Reverend Taylor.

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

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.

Mapplewells in the news

Read all about it

Mansfield and Ashfield pupils join hundreds more children in sports hall athletics event

Summary

Children from schools across Mansfield and Ashfield joined young athletes from across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire taking part in indoor athletics events organised by The Flying High Partnership in collaboration with Next Level Sports Ltd.

Mansfield and Ashfield schools who sent their teams included Forest Glade Primary and Nursery School (Sutton), Greenwood Primary & Nursery School (Kirkby), Flying High Academy Ladybrook (Mansfield), Mapplewells Primary & Nursery School (Sutton), Peafield Lane Academy (Mansfield Woodhouse), Bilsthorpe Flying High Academy and Pinxton Village Academies

Scott Hardy, director at Next Level Sports Ltd, said, "It has once again been an absolute pleasure to host the Flying High Partnership athletics events, held across two fantastic venues, the David Ross Sports Village in Nottingham and Kirkby Lonsdale Centre.

"This year's events were our best attended yet, with an incredible 28 schools joining us across two days.



Pinxton Village Academies children taking part at the event held at Kirkby Lonsdale Centre.

"It was wonderful to see so many pupils taking part and representing their schools with such enthusiasm and pride."

Morning and afternoon sessions were held over the two days, so that children could compete against their own age group.

Scott continued: "What we love most about these events is the atmosphere.

"The fun, the excitement, and the determination shown by every child truly make the events special."



Children from Bilsthorpe Flying High Academy at Kirkby Lonsdale Centre.

"Schools showcased the fantastic athletic ability of their pupils, and the standard of performance this year was incredibly high.

"A huge well done to everyone involved – the pupils, staff and the helpers who ensured the events such a success.

"A big thank you to the Flying High Partnership's central team for joining us to help out on the day.

"We are already looking forward to welcoming everyone back for next year's events."



Children from The Flying High Academy, Ladybrook at the athletics event.

Pupils helping to run the event by supporting participants included Chry, a year six pupil from Kirkstead Junior Academy, part of the Pinxton Village Academies.

He said: "Children are doing lots of activities and we are helping to make sure they know what to do in each event.

"We are also setting up the events and showing younger children how to take part in them."

Winning teams in the Key stage one events were: Edwalton Primary School and Hucknall Flying High Academy, while key stage two winners were Hollingwood Primary School in Chesterfield and Edwalton Primary School.

Chris Wheatley, founder and chief executive of The Flying High Partnership, said: "The Flying High Partnership sports events are proving to be fantastic fun for our school children, who have loved the opportunity to meet one another and take part in a wide range of sports hall athletics.

"I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the events possible.

"At Flying High, we value creating collective events throughout the year which offer opportunities for pupils to learn and interact with each other, developing their experience, confidence, and communication skills in a fun and safe environment.

"The feedback from children across the trust shows just how much they have enjoyed showcasing their sporting skills on behalf of their schools."

Mansfield and Ashfield pupils join hundreds more children in sports hall athletics event

☰ Summarise

Ofsted: How might the new inspectorate system affect parents and teachers?

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Blue and Yellow Day

As part of our partnership with Mansfield Town Community Trust, we are excited to announce that we are holding our first 'Blue and Yellow Day' on Friday 17th April. On this day, the children can come to school wearing Mansfield Town football kits, or anything that is blue or yellow to celebrate the club.

We are working closely with MTFC, so that during the day, the children will get to take part in sports activities with Sammy the Stag, and also have the chance to meet and ask some of the players some questions!

Thank you for your support


Mansfield Town
COMMUNITY TRUST

Mapplewells Primary School

BLUE & YELLOW DAY

FRIDAY 17TH APRIL



WEAR YOUR COLOURS

Wear a Mansfield Town shirt or any **blue & yellow clothing!**

DONATIONS WELCOME

Optional £1 donations to support
Mansfield Town Community Trust!





MEET THE STAGS

Say hello to **Sammy the Stag** and look out for **Mansfield Town players!**



LET'S TURN MAPPLEWELLS BLUE & YELLOW!

Donations are **optional** and greatly appreciated

Key dates.

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

Diary Dates	
2026	
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
18 th June	Flying High Children’s Awards
19 th June	Year 6 Leavers Photos & Class Photographs
July	
3 rd July	F1 trip to Matlock Farm Park
6 th July	Sports Day (EYFS & KS1 morning, KS2 afternoon)
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