



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 17th April 2026

Welcome Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to everyone after the Easter holidays—we hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school so positively and ready to learn.

Things have got straight back into the swing of school life this week, with lots already happening across Mapplewells. Year 3 have enjoyed their residential visit to Walesby, KS1 kicked off their

new learning with an exciting enquiry hook day, and our F2 children set off on a visit to Sutton, sparking plenty of curiosity and enthusiasm.

We're looking forward to another busy and successful term ahead.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 26 weeks is 96.88%. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 97%

Elder 96%

Elm 97%

Hawthorn 97%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 97%

Oak 97%

Pine 97%

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%.



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 or in the classroom.

Ash - Rory

Birch - everyone

Elder - everyone

Elm - Harry

Hawthorn - Laney

Hazel - Bill

Juniper - Phoebe

Maple - Ben

Oak - Henry

Online Safety

What Parents and Carers Need to Know About App and Play Stores

With millions of apps available and children accessing them from an increasingly young age, app stores can present a range of risks. From malware and copycat apps to inappropriate content and persuasive in-app purchases, this guide highlights how easily young users can encounter issues – even when using official platforms.

It also offers clear, practical advice to help parents and educators manage these risks. From setting up parental controls and checking app credibility to having open conversations about safe usage, the guide supports adults in building children’s awareness, encouraging safer choices and promoting more balanced, responsible app use.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APP & PLAY STORES

Since the introduction of Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store, an estimated two million apps have been made available on each. Ofcom's 2023 media use and attitudes report states that more than half of children aged between 3 and 7 use apps or sites to communicate with each other, and, by the ages of 10 to 12, 45% of children are playing games on their mobile phones. This guide will help you ensure that children use the app stores and their content safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- MALICIOUS APPS WITH MALWARE**
Although Google and Apple must approve the apps on their official stores, inappropriate content sometimes slips through the net. For example, in 2023, the security company Kaspersky found that multiple iOS and Android apps contained spyware, including software, primed to look for passwords and stealing crypto-wallet recovery phrases captured in screenshots.
- UNOFFICIAL COPYCAT APPS**
Both official app stores contain copycat apps – often games – designed to look like popular ones, mimicking their branding, layout and logos. While these will usually just irritate your experience, packed with ads as a quick money-making exercise, they're also more likely to be sources for malware than the products they're counterfeiting.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
As the App Store and Play Store are top up markets, there's a lot of content available that's inappropriate for children. Examples include apps that have references to alcohol, drugs, sex, violence or gambling. In general, these are sensibly age-rated, but social media sites such as Twitter and TikTok, which both have an app store age rating of 12+, can be gateways to adult material.
- PREDATORY IN-APP PURCHASES**
App-making is a business, and most creators have found that the most effective way to make money, that means the app will be free to try but will either require the user to watch ads or rely on them making in-app purchases. Some apps can be predatory and there are plenty of examples reported where parents have reacted to a huge bill on behalf of their children's app activity.
- ADDICTIVE BY DESIGN**
Phone addiction is fast becoming recognised as a real concern, and apps are a big part of this. Entertainment apps have a real incentive to keep children checking in every day in order to generate more ad views or secure extra in-app purchases. This can interfere with schoolwork and other school activities.
- SIDeloADED BANNED APPS**
Sideloaded – the more complicated practice of installing an app on a device from outside of the official app stores – bypasses Google's and Apple's security procedures. However, it's possible for both savvy users. This opens up huge risks – not just apps that would be forbidden by Apple and Google, but private ones packed with malware.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS FOR APPS**
Both Google and Apple have apps that can give adults greater control over children's phone activity. Screen Time (iPhone) and Family Link (Android) have a range of features, such as letting you set age-restricted restrictions on the app stores, require permission to download an app, set daily time limits on specific apps, and control their overall spending.
- DO YOUR RESEARCH**
If children ask permission to download an app, do your due diligence and research it. Read the app summary and check the internet for reviews and discussions to establish its legitimacy, safety and appropriateness. If a parent's seems to be appropriate, look for some alternatives instead.
- TALK TO YOUR CHILD**
Talk to children and make sure they're aware that apps can be risky. As part of a wider talk about internet safety, ensure they don't download apps outside of the official channels, not grant apps permission to access their camera, microphone, or photos without it being essential. Make sure they understand that in-game currency costs real-world money.
- LOOK BEYOND THE REVIEWS**
App store reviews are helpful, but they are easily gamed, and some unscrupulous developers will pay for quick reviews to give their work perceived legitimacy. Take more than a cursory glance at ratings or ratings out the door – and fan-fair reviews and buying directly of the developer – for example, if they've published a lot of unrelated apps, that's a red flag.

Meet Our Expert
Alex Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New York Times.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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F2 trip into Sutton

We had a fantastic time on our trip into Sutton this week. We looked out for familiar places that we had learned about, such as Tesco and St.Johns Church. We visited Hays Travel where we shared our knowledge about Great Britain and we finished off with a trip to the Library.

A huge thank you again to our parent helpers, without you it wouldn't have been possible!









Limetree After School Club

We are pleased to share that a new Afterschool Club opened on Monday, delivered by The Lime Trees. 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.

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/>



¹<https://www.thelimetrees.co.uk>

²<mailto:hello@thelimetrees.co.uk>

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.

Blue and Yellow Day

As part of our partnership with Mansfield Town Community Trust, we held our first 'Blue and Yellow Day' on Friday. It was great to see everyone dressed in Mansfield Town football kits and blue or yellow to celebrate the club.

During the afternoon, the children took part in sports activities with Sammy the Stag and met some of the players for a Q&A session.

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

Your Notts Directory

Your Notts Directory is now the new joint information and advice website for Nottinghamshire, this has replaced NottsHelpYourself to show the Local Offer and bring a wide range of information, support services, community groups and local activities together in one easy to use platform. Your Notts Directory³

Year 3 residential visit to Walesby

The Year 3 children have had a fabulous time on their residential at Walesby this week.

The children showed excellent independence skills during their activities and represented Mapplewells brilliantly.

We took part in archery, den building and animal shelters at Sherwood Forest, before laser tag, cave maze, zip lines and low ropes at Walesby! They're definitely ready for sleep now!

³<https://www.yournottsdirectory.org.uk/>



Key dates

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

Diary Dates	
2026	
April	
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