



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 1st May 2026

[Welcome Message](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We ended the week at Mapplewells on a real high, enjoying spells of lovely sunshine and a fantastic sense of togetherness across school. Earlier in the week, our Year 4 children returned from their PGL residential, full of stories and smiling with pride after a brilliant few days of challenge, teamwork and new experiences. This afternoon, the whole school then came together for our Colour Dash in support of the LCH Charity, filling the field with colour, laughter and excitement. The children made the most of the beautiful weather while raising money for a charity that does such important work for children and families. A huge thank you to our

families for their generosity, sponsorship and support – it truly helped make the week, and today's event, such a success.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 28 weeks is 96.98%. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 97%

Elder 96%

Elm 97%

Hawthorn 98%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 97%

Oak 97%

Pine 97%

Rowan 95%

Willow 96%

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's 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:

- **James** - Wonderful comparing numbers in maths and fantastic descriptive writing.
- **Jack** - Fantastic independent writing in english

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

Year 6 SATs

The children in Year 6 have been working hard to prepare for their SATs which take place from **Monday 11th May**. As part of their preparations, they will have breakfast, provided by school (free of charge), each morning before their tests take place. Year 6 children will need to arrive at school for 8:10am to take part in the breakfast.

Please remember them in your thoughts over the coming weeks.

Online Safety

What Parents and Carers Need to Know About Snapchat

With over 900 million monthly users, Snapchat continues to be a favourite among children and young people; however, with its ever-evolving features, the risks have evolved too. From AI-generated filters and chatbots, to disappearing messages and the Snap Map location-sharing tool, it's easy for children to stumble into unsafe territory. This guide breaks down the latest updates, including the Lens+ subscription service, and web browser access.

We've also unpacked the risks of sextortion scams, overuse, and inappropriate content that may slip through the app's moderation systems. With expert advice from online safety consultant Dr Claire Sutherland, this guide is a must-read for anyone helping young people navigate Snapchat responsibly and confidently.

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 published by National Crime Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

With over 500 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' character and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These look even more unfamiliar or incoherent responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and digital art by lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to miscommunication, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks. (Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 'streak' that prompts a streak timer. If streaks are broken, the streak timer will break the streak, the only way to restart it is by taking a photo. This encourages daily use, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXUATION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become lax in their caution. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then someone reports those images to Snapchat, the app will remove the images but the predator may have already contacted the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2023, Snapchat introduced a new set of emojis, giving subscribers access to hundreds of avatars and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make it harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of inappropriate communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images or videos, so setting boundaries can be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its app permissions for safety. It's recommended that you review the guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is not intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risk can be easier to handle if you establish an open dialogue. Talk about sexting and blackmail before setting children up. If they're used into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgmentally about sexting, emphasising the inherent risk. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger contacts with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots and then press a profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting action under the 'notify and reveal content' category in this category. Users also have the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'trickster'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Talk down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to discuss why some settings are safer than others, 'waterproofing' their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after any updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Rutherford is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

WakeUpWednesday The National College

Source: See full reference list on public page at: <https://thenationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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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.

Year 4 residential

On Monday & Tuesday, Year 4 enjoyed an unforgettable residential trip to PGL, where they truly represented the school with pride. Their exceptional behaviour was noticed and praised by many of the activity leaders, highlighting their kindness, teamwork and positive attitude throughout the visit. The children embraced every opportunity, throwing themselves into a wide range of exciting activities with enthusiasm and determination. They especially loved the experience of sharing rooms with their friends, which made the trip even more memorable, and the food was a big hit too! It was a fantastic experience for all, filled with fun, challenge and friendship.



Key dates

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

Diary Dates	
2026	
May	
4 th May	Bank Holiday – School closed
11 th – 14 th May	Year 6 SATs week
20 th May	Year 5/6 Trip to Ashfield Fire Station
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
26 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
23 rd July	F2 trip to Bluebell Dairy
24 th July	Last Day of Summer 2 – non – uniform day
27 th July	INSET day

Mr Whittle

Head Teacher

Mr Latkowski

Deputy Headteacher