



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 15th May 2026

Welcome Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week it has been across school!

We would like to begin by offering a huge well done to our Year 6 pupils, who have approached their SATs with maturity, resilience and determination. They have shown great focus throughout the week and have truly impressed us all with their positive attitudes. We are incredibly proud of the way they have conducted themselves and the effort they have put into every test.

To celebrate the end of a demanding week, Year 6 enjoyed a well-earned treat, including a McFlurry and a wonderful Forest School day together. It was fantastic to see them relaxing, smiling and enjoying time outdoors after all their hard work.

We would also like to thank the rest of our school community—both pupils and staff—who have been exceptional in adapting to changes in routines and timetables this week. Their flexibility and support have ensured that Year 6 were given the very best opportunity to succeed. This has truly reflected the caring and supportive ethos that makes Mapplewells such a special place.

As always, thank you to our families for your continued encouragement and support—it makes a real difference.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 30 weeks is 97.25%. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 99%

Elder 98%

Elm 98%

Hawthorn 98%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 97%

Oak 97%

Pine 97%

Rowan 95%

Willow 97%

Well done to Birch class on their fantastic attendance this week! Let's keep striving to improve our attendance, to exceed that figure of 97.25%.



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.

Ash - Denis

Birch - Olivia

Elder - Charlie

Elm - Theo

Hawthorn - Jack

Hazel - Jesse

Juniper - Eli

Maple - Harper

Oak - Theo

Pine - Charlie

Rowan - Stevie

Willow - Callum & Charlotte



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 week's recipients of a Headteacher's Award are:

- **Hattie and Jasmine** - They have shown fantastic commitment to improving their handwriting, and their efforts are clearly paying off. Both girls' writing is now well-sized, carefully formed, and sits beautifully on the line, making it a pleasure to read. They take real pride in their presentation, and the improvement in their handwriting is a testament to their determination and hard work—truly lovely to see.

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

Year 6 SATs

Year 6 have been simply exceptional in completing their SATs this week. In the months leading up to the assessments, the children have shown real commitment to their learning, approaching revision with focus and determination, and supporting one another every step of the way. This positive attitude carried through into the week itself, where they tackled each assessment—spelling and grammar, reading and mathematics—with remarkable maturity, resilience and quiet confidence. What has stood out just as much as their academic effort is the true “Mapplewellian spirit” that has been evident throughout. From staff arriving early each morning to prepare bacon and sausage butties to ensure everyone was well set for the day, to children encouraging one another with kind words and smiles, there has been a genuine sense of teamwork and togetherness. Even when faced with an unexpected fire alarm, the children remained calm, sensible and composed—proving just how ready they are for the next stage of their journey (and for the record, no, Mr Whittle did not burn the bacon!). We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them—not only for the effort they have put into their learning, but for the character, resilience and positivity they have shown throughout the week.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our families and staff for their unwavering support. Our parents and carers have played a vital role in preparing and encouraging the children, whether through supporting revision at home, ensuring a good night’s sleep, or simply offering reassurance and positivity each morning. Our staff team have gone above and beyond to create a calm, supportive and nurturing environment, adapting routines, giving their time generously, and ensuring every child felt confident and cared for. This collective effort truly embodies what makes Mapplewells such a special community, and we are so grateful for the part everyone has played in helping our Year 6 pupils succeed.

Online Safety

What Parents and Carers Need to Know About Online Grooming

Online grooming is a growing and deeply concerning threat, with thousands of offences recorded each year in the UK. This edition explores how offenders build trust with children through fake identities, flattery, gifts and group chats before exploiting that relationship. It also examines the rise of sextortion and how gaming platforms and social media can become gateways for harm.

Beyond sexual exploitation, the guide highlights criminal grooming and radicalisation, helping adults recognise that manipulation can take many forms. With practical advice on spotting warning signs, creating open conversations and understanding the platforms children use, this

resource empowers parents and educators to intervene early and keep young people safer online.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE GROOMING

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as covertly using or financial accounts. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES
Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing profiles, share photos taken from social games, or mimic the interests of the child, by pretending to be someone their age. They may communicate in a safe and reliable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

THE RISE OF SEXTORTION
Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, from text messages to live video. Children may claim to have received a call or message, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY
To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. They use excessive compliments, attention, and flattery to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defenses. Once groomers are secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS
Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often start during gameplay and can become inappropriate over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS
Unmoderated group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This targeted monitoring is difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS
Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise children, using extremist ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often have lasting psychological and social consequences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR
Instead of having one 'big talk' about online safety, have conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online interactions and interests. Encourage them to be open and honest. Encourage them to discuss their online life and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns about something they're worried, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE
Children often keep secrets because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE
Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children use and familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or contact tech experts to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you're better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and facilitate any concerns or concerning online behaviour early.

STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS
Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased privacy or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into larger risks.

Meet Our Expert
Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and evidence response capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

Full information on our website:
@wake_up_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.03.2025

15 hours funded childcare places for 3 & 4 year olds

All three and four-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours of funded nursery education for 38 weeks of the year. Some 3 to 4-year-olds are eligible for 30 hours of free childcare a week. Check if you're eligible and find out how to apply¹.

Details about our Nursery/F1 provision can be found in our prospectus -

<https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=159&type=pdf> or

check out the posts on our dedicated instagram page @mapplewellseyfs

¹<https://www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working>

We have funded early education places available from September 2026. Registration forms are available on our school website

<https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Admissions&pid=44> or from Reception.



MTFC's last game of the season

As part of our partnership with Mansfield Town Community Trust, some children were given tickets to watch MTFC's last game of the season.

These children were nominated by staff for their dedication and hard work in PE lessons, for always trying their best and their enthusiasm during our recent Blue and Yellow Day.

The children have spoken very highly about the experience and were very lucky to watch a game with 9 goals!



Half term activities

Keep the kids active and entertained at MTFC this Half Term!

Football Club:

- ✔ Skills sessions, games & challenges
- ✔ Fun for beginners and budding pros
- ✔ Safe and friendly environment

Holiday Club:

- ✔ Multi-sport activities & team games
- ✔ Creative arts & crafts sessions
- ✔ A fun, supervised space for kids to play and make new friends

Whether your child loves football, sports, crafts, or just having fun, there's something for everyone! Spaces are limited, so don't miss out — secure your child's place today. Limited spaces available



PLAY FOOTBALL THIS MAY HALF TERM

FOOTBALL CAMPS | £20 PER DAY

AGES 5-13 | 9:00AM - 3:00PM*
TUESDAY 26TH - FRIDAY 29TH MAY

- 🏆 MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- 🏆 ALL SESSIONS COACH-LED
- 🏆 SKILL BUILDING & MATCHES



SCAN TO BOOK NOW!
www.mansfieldtownct.net/holiday-camps

Lunch is NOT provided, participants need to bring a packed lunch, suitable outdoor clothes, and a refillable water bottle.
*Early drop off & late pickup available for £5. If you have a holiday camp voucher, please get in touch via the email before booking.

For more information, contact: Stephen.Clayton@mansfieldtownct.net | 07719 203130

MAY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMPS

AGES 5-13
TUESDAY 26TH - FRIDAY 29TH MAY

HOLIDAY CLUB ★
£25 PER DAY | 8:30AM - 4:00PM

🏆 **FOOTBALL CAMPS**
£20 PER DAY | 9:00AM - 3:00PM
EARLY DROP OFF AND LATE PICKUP AVAILABLE FOR £5

GAMES & ACTIVITIES • FUN, SAFE ENVIRONMENTS • FULL SUPERVISION

BOOKINGS ARE OPEN NOW!
www.mansfieldtownct.net/holiday-camps

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**JOIN THE FUN
THIS MAY HALF TERM!**

HOLIDAY CLUBS | £25 PER DAY

AGES 5-13 | 8:30AM - 4:00PM
TUESDAY 26TH - FRIDAY 29TH MAY

- ✓ INDOOR & OUTDOOR FUN
- ✓ BREAKFAST EVERY DAY
- ✓ SAFE & FRIENDLY




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Key dates

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

Diary Dates	
2026	
May	
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
3 rd July	Summer Fair
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
16 th July	Summer disco
17 th July	Parent picnic
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