



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 22nd May 2026

Welcome Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and successful week and term at Mapplewells, it has been wonderful to see so many enriching experiences taking place across the school. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils had an invaluable safety morning during their visit to Ashfield Fire Station, while Year 3 and 4 thoroughly enjoyed developing their creativity and skills through their frame-making project in DT. We were also delighted to welcome Paul Goodman, Deputy CEO of Flying High, who was incredibly impressed with everything he saw during his visit.

As we break for half term, we wish all our families a restful and enjoyable week. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for what promises to be a jam-packed and exciting summer term. Read on for all things Mapplewells...

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 31 weeks is 97.19%. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 99%

Elder 98%

Elm 97%

Hawthorn 98%

Hazel 97%

Juniper 97%

Maple 97%

Oak 97%

Pine 97%

Rowan 95%

Willow 96%

Well done to Birch class on their fantastic attendance this week! Let's keep striving to improve our attendance, to exceed that figure of 97.19%.



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:

- **Norah, Emmy, Savannah, Jude, Henry, Jack, Stanley, Jacob, Daisy and Iris** - for their outstanding concrete poems inspired by Ancient Greece. Their writing showcased impressive detail and creativity, with fantastic use of rich language, alliteration, similes and metaphors throughout. A truly brilliant effort—well done to you all!

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

Online Safety

Updated Government Guidance: Digital Use for Children Under 5

The government has recently updated its guidance on screen use and digital exposure for children under the age of five. The guidance recognises that technology is now part of everyday life but emphasises that how and how often young children use screens is crucial to their development and wellbeing.

Key messages from the guidance include:

- Screen use for young children should be limited, purposeful, and adult-led
- Time spent talking, playing, reading, and interacting with others is far more important for early language, social, and emotional development
 - Screens should not replace sleep, physical play, or face-to-face interaction
- Where screens are used, content should be age-appropriate, and adults should engage alongside children, talking about what they are seeing

In school, our Early Years provision reflects this guidance. We prioritise active play, high-quality adult interaction, storytelling, exploration, and real-world experiences. Technology is used sparingly and intentionally, always to support learning rather than distract from it.

We encourage families to consider this guidance at home too, particularly around routines, mealtimes, and bedtime. Even small changes — such as turning screens off earlier in the evening or sharing a book instead — can have a significant positive impact.

By working together, we can help ensure that our youngest children develop strong communication skills, emotional wellbeing, and healthy habits that will support them well as they grow.

If you would like further information or practical tips, we will be sharing more guidance with parents during the summer term.

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.

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

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

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.



Lego Therapy Training for parents/carers

EPS and the Parent/Carer Forum, have joined together to run a Lego Therapy Training Session for parents/carers.

It takes place in June and the venue is in Kirkby-in Ashfield.



LEGO®-Based Therapy Workshop
for parents & carers of children and young people with additional needs

Learn about the approach used in schools.

Led by Nottinghamshire Educational Psychology Service

When & Where

Date: Wednesday 24 June

Time: 10am – 1pm

Place: Ashwood Centre
Portland St, Kirkby in Ashfield
NG17 7AB

WHAT THE WORKSHOP WILL COVER:

- ✓ What LEGO®-Based Therapy is
- ✓ How it supports communication and social skills
- ✓ Ideas to try at home with your child
- ✓ Hands-on LEGO® activities
- ✓ Time for questions and discussion

FREE to attend • All resources provided

Book your place: enquiries@nottspcf.org

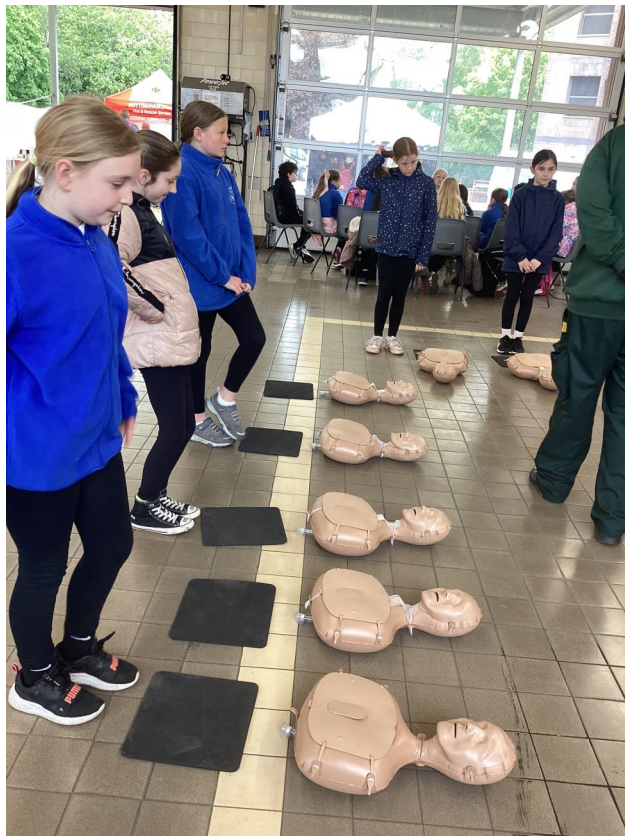
Trip to the Fire Station

Year 5 and 6 children had a fantastic and enjoyable morning at Sutton-in-Ashfield Fire Station on Wednesday! Throughout the morning, the children took part in a variety of exciting and practical workshops, including first aid, online safety, water safety and travel safety.

The sessions were interactive, engaging and full of valuable information, helping the children to learn important life skills and ways to keep themselves and others safe. The children represented the school brilliantly, showing enthusiasm, excellent listening skills and maturity throughout the day.

A huge thank you to all of the staff at the fire station for providing such an informative and memorable experience for our pupils!











Summer Water Safety

It looks like we are due some beautiful weather over the bank holiday weekend and half term break. The Schools Swimming Service supports the RLSS campaigns – Splash Safely at home, and the Drowning Prevention week.

The links below have some useful information:-

Royal Life Saving Society UK's Drowning Prevention Week²

Splash Safely at Home | Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK)³



²<https://www.rlss.org.uk/Listing/Category/drowning-prevention-week-campaign>

³<https://www.rlss.org.uk/Listing/Category/splash-safely-at-home>



SPLASH SAFELY
in the garden **Top Tips for Enjoying Water Safely**

ROYAL LIFE SOCIETY

1. STAY TOGETHER
Young children should always be kept within arm's reach. Never leave your child unattended or under the supervision of child siblings.

2. SECURE
Almost 90% of parents of under 5s told us they had at least one potential water hazard in their outdoor space at home, whether this is a pond, paddling pool, water table, or even a bucket.
Don't forget to keep this space secure! Lock doors and gates to outdoor spaces to prevent unsupervised access.

3. PREPARE
Get any towels, toys, nappies and dry clothing ready to go before your children start their water play. This will ensure you won't need to leave their side at any point.

4. AVOID DISTRACTIONS...
...such as using a mobile phone when children are playing in or around water. In a group of adults, appoint a 'water watcher' to ensure children are supervised at all times.

5. EMPTY IT OUT, COVER IT UP
After your children have enjoyed splashing about in their paddling pool, empty the water out straight away to avoid accidents.
In the case of larger pools and hot tubs, ensure that the cover is securely replaced immediately after use to prevent children from accidentally falling in.

6. KEEP YOUR GARDEN TIDY!
When you've finished playing, it's best to totally clear up your space. Turn off the hosepipe at the tap to block access. Clear away or turn over paddling pools and other water containers like buckets, as these can unexpectedly fill up with water if it rains.

Don't let your child get into harm!
For more helpful advice and Splash Safely at Home tips, please visit www.riss.org.uk/splash-safely-at-home or scan here.

Spread the word     @RLSSUK #SplashSafely

Enjoy Water Safely | Free From Drowning



Sutton Young People's Centre

The NCC Young Peoples Centre deliver a wide range of social and recreational activities. They provide music, dance arts, sports and adventure activities as well as usual youth club activities such as pool, table tennis, games & coffee bar.

Times and availability - Tuesday - 6.30pm - 9.00pm for years 6, 7 & 8

Location - Eastbourne Site Station Road, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire NG17 5FF



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUTH SERVICE
Safe, trusted, engaging

Providing safe spaces. trusted youth workers. fun and engaging things to do

Sutton Young People's Centre

Opening Schedule

Cost £1 per session
FREE for all new young people.

A safe, welcoming space where young people can be themselves. Our friendly, supportive staff create a positive environment, with a programme shaped by the wants/needs of young people. From chilled social time to fun and engaging activities.

There's something for everyone!!

Tuesday
Open to all year groups (aged 10-19)

Wednesday
New session
School Years 6, 7 & 8 (inc ages 10)

Thursday
School Years 6 & 7 (inc ages 10)

Friday
School Years 8+

All sessions are 6-8.15

Please contact Joanne Jackson if you have any questions:
07929 393578
Email joanne.jackson@nottscc.gov.uk

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/youthservice

Find us on Facebook

Address: **Station Road, Sutton in Ashfield,**
NG17 5FW Access via the main road across from Aldi car park.
<https://www.facebook.com/SuttonYPC>

Nottinghamshire County Council

Key dates

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

Diary Dates	
2026	
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