



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 24th July 2026

Welcome Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another fantastic year at Mapplewells, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been an exceptional year of learning, achievement and memorable experiences for our children.

Throughout the year, our pupils have continued to demonstrate the values that make them true Mapplewellians. They have approached new challenges with enthusiasm, shown kindness and

resilience towards others, and embraced every opportunity to learn, grow and succeed. We are incredibly proud of all that they have achieved.

This final term has been particularly special and has provided many opportunities to celebrate. We have enjoyed the Summer Fair, discos, sports events, the Parent Picnic, the Big Sing and Dance in Kirkby, outstanding musical performances from Year 5, and the wonderful Year 6 production of *Sleeping Beauty – The Ugly Truth*. We have also been treated to fantastic KS1 and Lower Key Stage 2 summer assemblies, which showcased the confidence, creativity and talents of our children and gave families a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their achievements.

It was also a pleasure to celebrate our youngest learners during the F2 Graduation Ceremony. Watching the children reflect on their journey through Foundation Stage and celebrate the progress they have made was a proud and emotional moment for families and staff alike. They leave Reception as confident, capable learners and are more than ready for the next stage of their education.

Academically, we have much to celebrate. Alongside our outstanding Year 6 SATs results, our children have achieved fantastic outcomes in the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC), Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and Good Level of Development (GLD). These achievements reflect the hard work of our children, the dedication of our staff and the invaluable support provided by our families. We are incredibly proud of these outcomes and the commitment shown by everyone involved.

As we prepare to say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils, we do so with immense pride. They leave Mapplewells as confident, caring and ambitious young people who are ready for the next chapter of their education. We know they will continue to embody our values and be excellent ambassadors for our school.

I would like to thank our fantastic staff team, who work tirelessly to provide the very best opportunities for our children every single day. I would also like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. The strong partnership between home and school is one of the many things that makes Mapplewells such a special place to be.

As another successful year comes to an end, I hope that all of our families enjoy a well-deserved summer break filled with rest, relaxation and special family moments. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning, achievement and opportunity.

Have a wonderful summer and thank you for being part of our amazing Mapplewellian community.

Read on for all things Mapplewells...

What a year it has been...

- Academically, this has been one of our strongest years yet. Children across all year groups have made exceptional progress and attained highly. Highlights include an outstanding 96% pass rate in the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, significantly above national figures, an incredible 93% of Year 4 pupils achieving full marks in the Multiplication Tables Check, and excellent outcomes for our Year 6 pupils in their KS2 assessments. These achievements are a testament to the hard work, determination and resilience of our children, supported by the dedication of our staff and families.
- Beyond the classroom, children have enjoyed a wealth of memorable experiences. Our residential visits for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 provided opportunities for adventure, challenge, teamwork and personal growth, creating memories that will last a lifetime.
- We have been proud to represent both our school and our community through a range of wider opportunities, including participation in the Sutton-in-Ashfield Remembrance Day Service, performances by members of Glee Club at the Trust Awards and The Big Sing, and the valuable work of our Pupil Parliament and School Council, who have supported local food banks and helped make a positive difference within our community.
- Mapplewells has once again been a hive of activity throughout the year. Special events have included our own Remembrance Service, Christingle Celebration, Parent Picnic, EYFS and KS1 Nativity performances, the Year 3 and 4 Easter production, Year 5's *Musical Mash-Up*, and the unforgettable Year 6 production of *Sleeping Beauty – The Ugly Truth*. Our Foundation, KS1 and KS2 Sports Days were also wonderful celebrations of participation, teamwork and sporting achievement.
- Our fundraising efforts have been equally impressive. Through events such as Red Nose Day, The Colour Dash, our Autumn, Spring and Summer Discos, the hugely successful Christmas and Summer Fairs, and the ever-popular Year 6 Treat Night, our school community has once again demonstrated incredible generosity and support.
- Children have also represented Mapplewells with pride in a wide range of competitive sporting events, including football, tennis, boccia, swimming and cross-country. We are particularly delighted that our commitment to physical education and sport has been recognised through the achievement of Platinum School Games status, an outstanding accomplishment that reflects our dedication to providing high-quality sporting opportunities for all.

- As a school, we have continued to share our expertise beyond Mapplewells, supporting schools across the Flying High Partnership and local authority by showcasing and sharing the outstanding practice that takes place here every day.

Of course, this is only a snapshot of what has been another incredibly successful year. There are simply too many achievements, experiences and moments of success to mention them all.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our parents and carers. Thank you for working in partnership with us throughout the year. Together, we have ensured that our children have thrived, grown and achieved so much.

F2 Graduation – Ready for the Next Adventure!

One of the most special events of the year was our F2 Graduation Ceremony, where we celebrated the wonderful achievements of our youngest Mapplewellians as they prepare for the exciting journey into Key Stage 1.

It was a proud and memorable occasion for children, families and staff, as we reflected on just how much the children have grown during their time in the Early Years. From those first days of learning routines, making friends and exploring their environment, to becoming confident, independent and enthusiastic learners, the progress they have made has been truly remarkable. Throughout the ceremony, the children shone with confidence as they celebrated their achievements and shared some of their favourite memories from the year.

We were incredibly proud of the resilience, curiosity, kindness and determination they have demonstrated, embodying our SUCCESS values every step of the way. Our children are now more than ready for the next stage of their learning journey. They leave EYFS with strong foundations, a love of learning and the confidence to embrace new challenges. Most importantly, they leave knowing that they are capable, valued and ready to flourish in Key Stage 1.

A huge thank you goes to our dedicated EYFS team for the care, support and learning experiences they provide every day, and to our parents and carers for their continued partnership throughout the year. To all of our graduating F2 children, we are incredibly proud of you.

We cannot wait to see all that you achieve as you begin your Key Stage 1 journey in September.

Congratulations, Class of 2026 – the future is bright, and your next adventure awaits!



Year 6 Leavers' Assembly – Ready for Their Next Chapter

One of the most emotional and memorable moments of the year was today's Year 6 Leavers' Assembly, as we celebrated a truly special group of children and marked the end of their journey at Mapplewells.

The assembly was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many memories, achievements and experiences that have shaped their time with us. Through laughter, photographs, performances and heartfelt words, we looked back on the incredible journey these children have taken—from their first days at Mapplewells to becoming the confident, capable and ambitious young people standing before us today.

Throughout their time at school, our Year 6 pupils have embodied what it means to be a Mapplewellian. They have shown resilience in the face of challenges, kindness towards others, determination in their learning and a willingness to embrace every opportunity on offer. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, through performances, residential visits, leadership roles or community events, they have represented our school with pride and have been excellent role models for our younger pupils.

This year group leaves us having achieved fantastic outcomes and, more importantly, with the knowledge, skills and character needed to thrive in the next stage of their education. While they may be leaving Mapplewells behind, they take with them friendships, memories and experiences that will last a lifetime.

As they begin their secondary school journey, we encourage them to continue demonstrating the SUCCESS values that have guided them throughout their time here. We know they will approach new opportunities with confidence, curiosity and determination, and we have no doubt that they will go on to achieve great things.

To our Year 6 leavers, thank you for everything you have brought to our school community. You have made us incredibly proud, and although we will miss you greatly, we are excited to see what the future holds for each and every one of you.

Remember, wherever life takes you next, you will always be a Mapplewellian.

Good luck, Class of 2026. Dream big, work hard, believe in yourselves and never forget that SUCCESS is in your hands. ✨🎓💙

Mrs Smith says goodbye...

As we reach the end of the school year, we also say a heartfelt farewell to a true Mapplewellian, Mrs Smith, who is retiring after more than 20 years of dedicated service to Mapplewells.

Over the past two decades, Mrs Smith has been a constant presence in the lives of countless children and families. As our Senior Midday Supervisor, she has provided care, guidance and support to generations of Mapplewellians, helping to ensure that every child felt safe, happy and valued. Alongside her lunchtime role, Mrs Smith successfully led and ran our Breakfast Club, giving many children the very best start to their school day.

Throughout her time at Mapplewells, Mrs Smith has also been a trusted first aider, offering comfort and care whenever it was needed. Whether it was a bumped knee, a reassuring conversation or simply a familiar smile, she was always there for our children.

Anyone who has worked at Mapplewells will also fondly remember hearing her famous radio call:

“Are you ready, ladies?”

A phrase that became part of daily life for our midday team and one that will no doubt bring a smile to many faces for years to come.

Mrs Smith embodies everything it means to be a Mapplewellian. Her kindness, commitment, care and unwavering dedication to the children and staff of our school have helped shape the culture that makes Mapplewells such a special place.

While we are delighted for Mrs Smith as she begins the next chapter of her life, she will be greatly missed by children, staff, parents and carers alike. Her contribution to our school community has been truly remarkable, and her impact will be felt for many years to come.

On behalf of everyone at Mapplewells, we would like to thank Mrs Smith for her outstanding service and wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

Once a Mapplewellian, always a Mapplewellian. Good luck, Mrs Smith – and thank you for everything. 💙💫

Mapplewells Achieves Platinum School Games Mark Award!

We are incredibly proud to announce that Mapplewells has been awarded the **Platinum School Games Mark Award**, the highest recognition available through the School Games programme.

This prestigious achievement reflects our long-standing commitment to providing high-quality physical education, school sport and opportunities for children to lead active, healthy lifestyles. The award recognises the breadth of sporting opportunities available to our pupils, participation levels across the school, the development of leadership opportunities and our continued success in competitive sport.

Throughout the year, children have represented Mapplewells with pride in a wide range of sporting events, including football, tennis, boccia, swimming and cross-country, whilst many more have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in clubs, festivals and enrichment activities. We firmly believe that sport plays a vital role in developing confidence, resilience, teamwork and determination – qualities that support children both in and beyond the classroom.

Achieving Platinum status is a testament to the enthusiasm and commitment of our pupils, the support of our families and the dedication of our staff, who work tirelessly to provide a rich and varied sporting experience for all children.

This award is a fantastic milestone for our school and one that every member of the Mapplewells community should be proud of. We look forward to continuing to build on this success and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to discover, enjoy and excel in sport.

Congratulations to all of our pupils and staff on this outstanding achievement – a truly platinum performance! 🌟🏅💙



💙 Farewell and Good Luck to Miss Swinburn and Coach Stu 💙

🌟 Miss Swinburn

We would like to thank Miss Swinburn for her contribution to the Mapplewells community. During her time with us, she has played an important role in supporting our children and helping them to grow in confidence, achieve success and enjoy their learning. Her enthusiasm, dedication and care have been greatly appreciated by both pupils and colleagues alike.

While we are sorry to see her leave, we know she is moving on to an exciting new chapter and we wish her every success for the future. We thank her for everything she has done for our school and hope she looks back on her time at Mapplewells with many happy memories.

⚽ Coach Stu

We also say farewell to Coach Stu, who will be taking on an exciting new role with Mansfield Town FC.

Over the years, Coach Stu has had a hugely positive impact on sport and physical activity at Mapplewells. His passion, enthusiasm and commitment have inspired countless children to develop their confidence, skills and enjoyment of sport. Whether leading PE lessons, running clubs, supporting competitions or encouraging children to try something new, Coach Stu has played an important part in helping us achieve the high-quality sporting provision that we are so proud of.

While we will miss having him as part of the Mapplewells team, we are delighted that he has been given this fantastic opportunity and know that he will be a tremendous success in his new role.

On behalf of everyone at Mapplewells, we would like to thank both Miss Swinburn and Coach Stu for their contributions to our school and wish them every happiness and success in the future.

Once a Mapplewellian, always a Mapplewellian. Good luck—we know you will both do amazing things!

Attendance

Our current school attendance after 39 weeks is 97.18%. 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 again this week!

We are delighted to report that attendance this year has been good and remains **above the national average of 94.6%** (to 17th July 2026). Regular attendance plays a vital role in children's learning, progress and wellbeing, and we would like to thank all families for their continued support.

We look forward to building on this success next year and working together to ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to achieve their full potential.



Sports Days Results

Our annual Sports Days were a wonderful celebration of teamwork, determination, resilience and sporting achievement. It was fantastic to see children from Foundation Stage through to Year 6 demonstrating the values that make our Mapplewellians so special, supporting one another, trying their very best and showing excellent sportsmanship throughout every event.

A huge thank you to all of the parents, carers and family members who joined us to cheer on the children. Your encouragement and support helped create a fantastic atmosphere and made the events even more special for our pupils.

Children competed enthusiastically in a range of track and field events, earning points for their house teams through their effort, determination and teamwork. Every child should be proud of their contribution and the positive attitude they showed throughout the day.

We are delighted to announce that the **KS1 Sports Day Champions for 2026 were Newstead Knights**, who demonstrated excellent teamwork and determination to secure the title.

In KS2, congratulations go to **Rufford Rangers**, who were crowned **KS2 Sports Day Champions 2026** after a fantastic performance across the day's events.

Sports Day Champions 2026

KS1 Winners: Newstead Knights

KS2 Winners: Rufford Rangers

Well done to all of our children for embodying our SUCCESS values and making this year's Sports Days such a memorable occasion. Whether winning points for your house, encouraging teammates or simply giving your very best effort, every child played their part in making the events a tremendous success. We are incredibly proud of you all!      

Class Swap Day

One of the highlights of the final week of term was our annual Class Swap Day, which gave all children the opportunity to spend time in their new classroom, meet their teacher and begin to build excitement for the year ahead.

Throughout the day, children experienced a range of activities with their new class and had the chance to become familiar with new routines, expectations and learning environments. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm, confidence and curiosity shown by the children as they embraced this important step in their school journey.

Class Swap Day plays a vital role in supporting successful transitions and helps to ensure that all children feel happy, confident and ready for September. It also provides an opportunity for children to ask questions, meet new classmates and begin developing positive relationships with the adults who will support them next year.

We were incredibly proud of how maturely and positively our children approached the day. Their willingness to embrace change and show our SUCCESS values was evident throughout.

A special welcome is also extended to the children who will be joining new year groups and phases of the school in September. We know they will rise to the challenge and make the most of the exciting opportunities that await them.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September and beginning another fantastic year of learning, growth and SUCCESS together. 

Trust Awards Assembly

This week we had a whole school outdoor assembly where we celebrated lots of different achievements. We celebrated the children who won trust awards this year, well done to Lana, Thea, Emmie, Callum and Jasmine, we celebrated sports day and congratulated Newstead

Knights for winning the EYFS & KS1 sports day and Rufford Rangers for KS2. We heard Glee Club sing lots of the songs they have been learning over the year and finally we congratulated staff members for their trust awards this year, well done to Mr Latkowski, Miss Marshall, Mrs Higgins and Mrs Holmes.









Thank You, Tesco Express Sutton-in-Ashfield

We would like to say thank you to our friends at Tesco Express Sutton-in-Ashfield for their generous donation of complimentary tea and coffee through the Tesco Community Fund. This kind contribution is greatly appreciated and will be enjoyed by both our staff and visitors.



Key dates

Please keep updated with our key dates as we add to this. Our term dates are published on the website - <https://www.mapplewellsprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Useful+Information&pid=86>

Diary Dates	
2026	
September	
1 st September	INSET day
2 nd September	INSET day
3 rd September	1 st day of Autumn 1 term
14 th September	Year 5 and 6 trip to National Holocaust Museum
October	
16 th October	Last day of Autumn 1 term
November	
2 nd November	1 st day of Autumn 2 term
12 th November	Foundation Diwali Dance Workshop
December	
1 st December	School trip to the Panto
18 th December	Last day of Autumn 2 term
2027	
January	
4 th January	1 st day of Spring 1 term
April	
26 th April	Year 4 residential
July	
23 rd July	Last day of Summer 2 term
26 th July	INSET day
27 th July	INSET day
28 th July	INSET day

Mr Whittle

Head Teacher

Mr Latkowski

Deputy Headteacher