



Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 9th October 2026

Welcome Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding week, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many wonderful things that have taken place across our school. It has been a pleasure to see our pupils demonstrating such enthusiasm, kindness and commitment in all aspects of school life, both in and out of the classroom.

A particular highlight this week has been our Harvest Collection. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our families and the incredible number of donations received. The response from our school community has been truly heartwarming and reflects the values of compassion and caring that we work so hard to promote. Thank you to everyone who contributed; your donations will make a real difference to those who need support within our local community.

As always, we are extremely grateful for the continued support of our families and hope you enjoy reading about the learning, achievements and experiences that have made this week so special.

We wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend. Read on for all things Mapplewells...



Attendance

Our current school attendance after 6 weeks is 98.45%. Our current attendance by class is:

Birch 100%

Elder 98%

Elm 99%

Hawthorn 100%

Hazel 99%

Juniper 98%

Maple 99%

Oak 98%

Pine 98%

Rowan 97%

Willow 97%

Well done to Birch & Hawthorn classes on their fantastic attendance again this week!

Regular attendance plays a vital role in children's learning, progress and wellbeing. We can work together to ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to achieve their full potential.



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.

Birch - Myla

Elder - Thyme-Briar

Elm - Dixie

Hawthorn - Finlay

Juniper - Toby

Maple - Dominykas

Oak - Pristine

Pine - Maggie

Rowan - Isabelle

Willow - Sam



Headteacher Awards

Each week, I present 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:

- **Lottie** - For her fantastic commitment to reading, moving up an incredible three book bands, and for consistently producing beautifully presented handwriting.
- **Lilah, Oscar, Maddison, Erin and Darsh** - For their excellent effort and achievement in phonics, producing some superb writing and showing growing confidence in applying their phonics skills.
- **Arabella** - For creating a wonderful mini-story with beautifully formed handwriting and great attention to presentation.
- **Harriet, Emily, Oscar and Jack** - For their outstanding geography work, producing detailed and accurate graphs to illustrate Britain's biggest exports and demonstrating excellent data-handling skills.

Online Safety

What Parents and Carers Need to know About Fortnite

Fortnite continues to reign supreme in the gaming world, drawing in millions of players with its bold graphics, fast-paced action and constant stream of new content. This guide looks at the latest developments in the game – such as themed updates, crossover characters and limited-edition cosmetics – and what they mean for young players and the adults who support them.

It also unpacks some of the key online safety risks associated with Fortnite. With in-game purchases, cross-platform communication and regular seasonal updates creating an 'always on' experience, it's vital that trusted adults understand how to help children and young people enjoy the game without being exposed to unnecessary risks.



Ashfield Schools Cross Country Event

This week, children in Years 5 and 6 represented Mapplewells at the Ashfield School Games Cross Country Qualifier.

The children ran amazingly and we are so proud of them all - they showed true determination in the sunshine and resilience with the 3 laps that they had to run! A big well done to them all!

A special well done goes to Emmy and Teea, who managed to finish the girls race in positions 8 and 11, meaning that they are through to the County Championships in February!



Would you like to work with us?

Are you a friendly, hardworking, caring and positive individual who would like to work with children? We are looking to appoint a Midday Supervisor to our friendly, welcoming school.

Please visit <https://www.flyinghighpartnership.co.uk/careers/> for more information



Harvest Assembly donations

On Monday, we were delighted to welcome **Rev. Wiseman from St John's Church** into school to lead our Harvest Assembly. He spoke to the children about the importance of gratitude, generosity and supporting those in need within our community. The assembly provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to reflect on how even small acts of kindness can make a big difference to others.

We would also like to thank all of our families for their incredible support of our Harvest Collection. The generosity shown through your donations has been truly overwhelming and will help support people within our local community. Many thanks, as always, for your continued kindness, support and generosity.

Autumn Parents' Evenings

We will be holding our Autumn Parents' Evenings on 10th & 11th November. On each day the time slots will be from 3.30pm to 6pm.

Appointments will be allocated for 10 minutes per child and give you the valuable opportunity to discuss all aspects of your child's progress, to ask any questions that you may have and also for the teachers to explain how you can support your child with their learning at home.

We are using Arbor and you can choose the slot that suits you best using the app or web version. Booking is now open!

Should you have any queries please contact the Office.



Parents' Evenings

Flu vaccinations

The IntraHealth team will be in school on Wednesday 25th November.

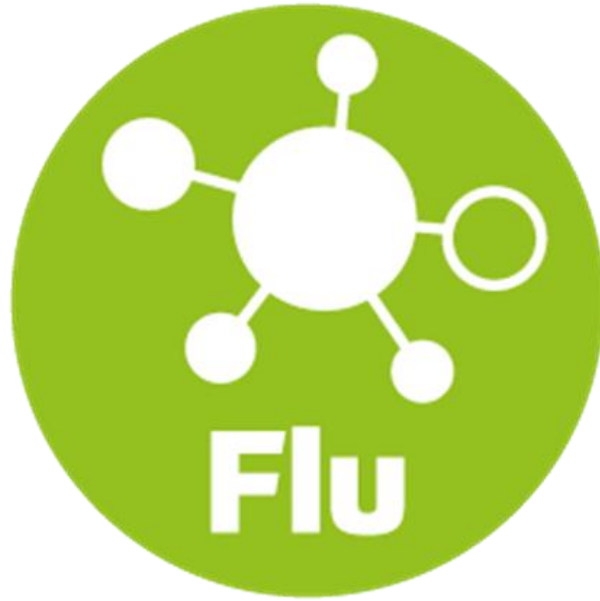
You'll receive an email or text message from the NHS with a link to an online consent form.

You can use the online form to:

- give consent for your child to be vaccinated
- say you do not want your child to be vaccinated
- update your contact details if needed

Filling in the form will be quick and easy. It's important to respond, even if you do not want your child to be vaccinated. If you have questions about vaccinations or the consent form, please contact the immunisation team at: immunisations.Nottinghamshire@intrahealth.co.uk¹

¹<mailto:immunisations.Nottinghamshire@intrahealth.co.uk>



Mapplewellian Drawathon

During our Mapplewellian Drawathon every child will take part in a special 30-minute drawing challenge, where they'll be encouraged to unleash their imagination and create a unique self-portrait inspired by our cherished Mapplewellian values.

We'd be incredibly grateful if you could support your child in collecting sponsorships.

We encourage children to start practising their drawing skills at home and to think about what it means to be a true Mapplewellian. Let's make this a day to remember!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We can't wait to see the children's creativity and enthusiasm shine.



Sensory Chew Toys in School

We are aware that sensory chew toys and chewable jewellery are becoming increasingly popular. While these can be a helpful sensory regulation tool for some children, they are not appropriate for all pupils.

To ensure that sensory support is provided consistently and safely, **children should not bring chew toys, chewable jewellery or similar sensory aids into school unless their use has been agreed as part of an identified ongoing need and discussed with Mrs Richards (SENCO).**

Where a chew aid forms part of a child's sensory regulation plan, its use will be carefully considered, monitored and reviewed in partnership with parents, school staff and, where appropriate, external professionals.

We appreciate your support in helping us ensure that all sensory resources are used appropriately to meet individual pupil needs. If you have any questions or feel that your child may benefit from sensory support, please contact **Mrs Richards, SENCO**, to discuss this further.

October Wellbeing Day – Kirkby-in-Ashfield

This event is specifically for parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs and/or disabilities in Nottinghamshire. **They are not sessions for children to attend.**

To book a place please email enquiries@nottspcf.org²

They have a few places remaining for our next Wellbeing Day. This is completely free and all resources are provided. Parent/carers can enjoy a relaxed day of mindfulness, relaxation, massage and Reiki, along with refreshments and a great buffet lunch, in a calm and welcoming space.

 Wednesday 14th October, 10am–2pm

 Ashwood Centre, Portland Street, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, NG17 7AB

 Free to attend, with all resources provided



²<mailto:enquiries@nottspcf.org>

School Admission Arrangements 2028-2029

Nottinghamshire's annual consultation on admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools is now open. The County Council, as the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools, is required by the School Admissions Code to determine admission arrangements annually. Any changes have to be consulted upon prior to determination.

This year, the consultation for the admission arrangements for 2028-2029 for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire will be open between **5 October 2026 and 22 November 2026**.

Full details were emailed to parents/carers on 6th October. Please do get in touch if you haven't received this information.

Non-uniform day - Friday 20th November

Friends of Mapplewells have planned a Non-Uniform Day on **Friday 20th November**! This year, instead of a £1 donation, we are asking families to kindly donate chocolates and sweets for the upcoming school fair, just like last year. These treats will be used for the fair's tombola.

Thank you for your continued support in helping make our school fair a sweet success!



Raise money for school with Asda Groceries online shopping

How does easyfundraising work?

1. Sign up with easyfundraising (for free) and choose which charity you want your donation to go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause> and choose Friends
2. Visit Asda online via their website and shop with them just as you normally would.
3. Part of what you spend with Asda Groceries will be donated to your charity on your behalf.

Does using easyfundraising cost me anything?

No, it's free to sign up with Asda and all the money donated on your behalf will come out of what you usually spend. There are no hidden fees, and you won't pay higher prices.



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	
October	
14 th October	Autumn disco – Foundation & KS1
15 th October	Autumn disco – KS2
16 th October	Last day of Autumn 1 term
November	
2 nd November	1 st day of Autumn 2 term
6 th November	Drawathon
10 th November	Autumn parents' evening
11 th November	Autumn parents' evening
12 th November	Foundation Diwali Dance Workshop
13 th November	Children in Need
16 th November	ETFS open evening
December	
1 st December	School trip to the Panto
3 rd December	Hazel Christmas Performance
4 th December	Christmas Fair
7 th December	Elm Christmas Performance
8 th December	F2 Christmas Performance
9 th December	Hawthorn Christmas Performance
9 th December	Christingle assembly
10 th December	Christmas jumper day
10 th December	F1 Christmas Performance
18 th December	Christmas parties
18 th December	Last day of Autumn 2 term
2027	
January	
4 th January	1 st day of Spring 1 term
February	
9 th February	Valentine disco – Foundation & KS1
11 th February	Valentine disco – KS2
March	
23 rd March	Easter disco – Foundation & KS1
24 th March	Easter disco – KS2
April	
15 th April	Year 3 residential
26 th April	Year 4 residential
May	
27 th May	Year 5 residential
June	
30 th June	Year 6 residential
July	
9 th July	Summer Fair
14 th July	Summer disco – Foundation & KS1
15 th July	Summer disco – KS2
16 th July	Parent picnic
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