

Mapplewells

Primary & Nursery School



Success is in our hands.



Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers


We are delighted to welcome you to Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School.

We hope that this prospectus will give you a flavour of our school but in order to get a more personal insight into our school community you are most welcome, and indeed encouraged, to make an appointment to come and visit us. We are proud of our school and would be delighted to show you around and tell you what we are all about.

Mapplewells School is about happy children all working together to achieve their personal best in all areas of school life. We have high expectations of all pupils and so we strive to offer the best education delivered by challenging and supportive teachers and teaching assistants. As a forward thinking and friendly school, we aim to provide a wide range of learning experiences where children are engaged, enthusiastic and curious to find out more. Our goal is to instil a love of learning within our pupils which will develop them into life-long learners with high aspirations for their future.

Warm, caring and trusting relationships established between staff, pupils and parents/carers throughout the school are pivotal to our success. They give our children confidence as learners and also build a strong home/school partnership. We recognise the important role that parents and carers play in ensuring a successful time at school and so we value your contributions and endeavour to fully involve you in the life of our school. We pride ourselves on having an open and approachable ethos which is welcoming to all.

A strong sense of community is important within our school and visitors frequently comment on the 'family feel' which is evident. Our children are proud to be 'Mapplewellians' and conduct themselves accordingly by taking responsibility and caring for; themselves, each other and our environment. Our children are encouraged to take note of their moral compass and make the right choices and decisions.

A photograph of four children in school uniforms (blue sweaters and white collared shirts) looking intently at a plant in a garden. The children are of various ages, and the garden is filled with green foliage and yellow flowers. In the background, there is a wooden fence and a building with a blue roof.

We, the staff and governors, are proud of our school and the personal and academic achievements of our pupils, both whilst here and in later life. It is with a certain amount of pride that we reflect on the quality of person who leaves our school and how they make a positive contribution to society, becoming part of the wider world.

Whilst your child is here with us you will have many opportunities to share in their education and celebrate the work that they do. We would be delighted to welcome your family into our Mapplewells family and hope to see you soon.

Best Wishes
Miss C. D. Varley

'Pupils are unfailingly well mannered, and enjoy strong relationships with all adults. they feel safe and well looked after.' *Ofsted*

Pupil Voice

The children's views at Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School are very important to us. As such, they have many opportunities to share their thoughts on school issues – both formally and informally!

We have a School Forum and the aim of it is to involve all children in driving forward school improvement and provide a platform for discussion related to any aspect of school life. Topics such as Anti-Bullying are also discussed at School Forum and agreements made as to what the school will do to address such issues.

Individual pupils also have the opportunity to take on responsibility roles around school and within their own classrooms. For example, children assume the duty for distributing registers, fruit and milk; in addition to supporting midday staff in ensuring lunchtimes are enjoyable.

Pupils are encouraged to identify their own personal targets related to learning, behaviour, classroom management, attendance and interests or hobbies. These are reviewed regularly with steps to further success identified to ensure that our pupils are continually striving to be their very best.



'Our school goes from strength to strength. The pupils and staff are fantastic and I am so proud to say my children attend this school, it has a well deserved fantastic reputation and my kids love it!' Parent

Forest School

Using the outdoor environment as a classroom we offer the Forest School program which develops, encourages and inspires children through the mastery of small achievable goals. Our aim is to promote self-esteem and independence skills, teach our children about the world around them and develop a love and respect of the outdoors.

A key element of Forest School is teaching our children how to safely use tools within a structured environment. This not only teaches new skills but promotes trust, self-confidence and an understanding of risk taking.

Activities vary at Forest School, depending on the week's focus, and can be either adult led or child initiated. Whatever the weather the children will whack on their wellies and waterproofs and will be found swinging on tyres, climbing rope ladders, jumping in muddy puddles, rolling down our mud hill, getting messy in the mud kitchen, hunting for bugs or climbing trees. And after all that exploring it's time for a toasted marshmallow on our purpose built fire pit.

Early Years

At Mapplewells we strongly believe in the importance of building solid foundations for all of the children who attend our school. We ensure every child participates in a wealth of high quality experiences that aim to nurture their personal, social and communication skills. Every activity planned has the child at the heart of it and whether it be an indoor or outdoor activity, it ensures that the children make progress.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage we design activities that will ignite the children's imagination, curiosities and relationships. From the day they start with us we aim to promote a love of learning and the staff are well equipped on picking up on children's interests and using them to plan meaningful and exciting lessons. By the end of their time in the Early Years Foundation Stage they will be school ready and excited to continue their learning journey.





Curriculum

At Mapplewells Primary and Nursery School children are taught in a happy, nurturing environment and are encouraged to achieve the highest standards. We provide a rich curriculum, which caters for children of all abilities, attempting to develop each child's potential to the full.

We have developed an exciting and innovative model of teaching and learning for our curriculum, where each class focus on a certain book. This approach engages children in learning whilst equipping them with a love of reading, giving them access to a rich and diverse selection of books by the time they leave Mapplewells.

The text for each year group links to a topic. This is then developed around an inquiry-based approach in which the children have ownership of the direction their learning takes. Topic lessons begin with the children completing KWL grids - children will list what they 'Know' and what they 'Want' to find out and at the end of the topic, what they have 'Learnt'. Each topic starts by giving the children the opportunity to explore related artefacts and information. This then leads to the children generating a series of questions to investigate throughout the topic. Teachers then use these questions to tailor the direction of the curriculum.

This approach to learning provides opportunities for children to be reflective, build on prior learning skills, knowledge and values, giving them the ability to draw conclusions and make connections between new ideas.

Each topic is launched with a 'WOW' starter, the purpose of which is to engage, motivate and inspire our children through a memorable learning experience. In addition, we also plan a weekly 'hook' lesson to maintain the children's enthusiasm and curiosity. These experiences ensure that the children are fully engaged in the learning process.

We believe that children should have an understanding of current affairs and events happening around the world. Each class has a display where children contribute news stories of interest, locally, nationally or internationally. The classes then select a news story to look at in more detail, which forms the basis of the curriculum for the final week of each half term.

Our curriculum is designed to offer a wide range of balanced learning opportunities to help your child to grow into a responsible and independent young person.



'Teachers have very high expectations of what pupils are capable of achieving. They challenge pupils relentlessly to do as well as they can.' *Ofsted*

Science

We believe Science at Mapplewells to be of paramount importance. We strive to ensure the excellent provision of learning opportunities in Science by planning a balance of practical and theoretical lessons. This ensures that each year group builds upon previous knowledge and understanding and can be forward thinking in ideas to maintain and develop children's interest in this core subject.

Each unit in Science begins with a series of independent child-led starter activities. This is an excellent opportunity for the children to explore and experiment with various resources, used to supplement a specific topic area. The teacher uses this opportunity as a chance to assess the children's knowledge, understanding and barriers, which they then use to plan investigations and engaging lessons.

Throughout the learning process, assessment is used to guide the direction of the lessons so that every child has the chance to achieve their maximum and develop mastery within science. We also use summative assessments, in the form of short tests, at the beginning and at the end of the units to measure the children's

English

Writing

At Mapplewells Primary and Nursery school our aim is to help pupils develop their ability to express their thoughts, ideas and communication skills through written word. We believe in the

importance of making writing relevant to the real world and encourage the children to see themselves as authors. We provide children with plentiful opportunities to write from our daily English lesson to Guided Writing sessions which focus on the grammatical mechanics of writing.

However, it's not just about the opportunities to teach English that we pride ourselves in but the focus we put on children using the skills they have in cross curricular writing. Whether it be a science report or a diary extract in the role of an Egyptian, writing is central to our day to day teaching.

Each half term the children get the chance to showcase their writing on our Big Write days. The children spend the morning engaged in talk activities and then later are asked to produce an extended piece of writing. We foster the importance of taking pride in your work and so Big Write Days are always embraced with a great deal of passion.



Reading

Our aim is not only to teach the children to be fluent and confident in reading but also to be able to understand what they have read; fostering a genuine love of reading both for pleasure and purpose. We want all of the children who walk through our doors to be enthusiastic readers who can enjoy and critically appraise texts. Our daily Guided Reading sessions give children an opportunity to practice, rehearse and refine the plethora of skills that reading involves.

In addition to this we develop a love of reading by inviting parents to our morning 'Rise and Shine' reading sessions. We also have parent volunteers who come into school to listen to individual readers on a weekly basis. Children take books home to practice and reinforce the skills covered in both class and those covered with the parent volunteers. Guidance is given to the parents on how to teach and support reading at home through our annual parent workshops. Reading at Mapplewells is just a way of life!



Phonics

At Mapplewells the children follow a comprehensive phonics programme, running alongside other strategies to help develop vital reading and writing skills. Our aim is for children to become fluent readers by the age seven.

The teaching of phonics starts in Foundation One, for 20 minutes daily, and this progresses through Foundation and Key Stage One in 'Phases of Learning'. There are 6 phases within the programme and children are expected to complete phase 6 by the end of Year 2. Phonics sessions are varied, fast paced, multi-sensory and provide engaging opportunities to develop decoding skills and essential phonic knowledge.

Mathematics

Here at Mapplewells, mathematics is at the forefront of everyday learning. We believe that a high-quality mathematics education provides children with a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject.

It is our aim to develop children who are fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics and apply knowledge accurately and rapidly to a range of problems. This is achieved through the delivery of daily mathematics lessons, daily count sessions, cross curricular links and Problem of the Week sessions. These well planned lessons ensure that all pupils can: follow lines of enquiry, reason mathematically, make generalisations, spot patterns, justify and prove theories right or wrong.

Through the teaching of discrete skills and consistent methods, children are able to progress throughout the different year groups with a firm grasp of the four operations and apply these to more complex situations. The fundamentals of maths are instilled in our children right from the Foundation Stage and provide them with a 'toolkit' of methods to use when attempting sophisticated problems.

Computing

New technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people in today's society, both within school and in their lives outside of school. Being confident with such technology is necessary if children are to be ready for the workplace in the future, and equally as important, is teaching them how to use this technology safely.

At Mapplewells all pupils have access to ICT to enhance their work and learning opportunities in all areas of the curriculum. In each year group interactive whiteboards, netbooks and I-pads are available in classrooms and we also have a computer suite with PC's which supports the delivery of the computing curriculum.

We teach children the fundamentals of keeping safe on the internet and ensure that they have an entitlement to safe internet use whilst at school. An understanding of the effects and use of computers is developed alongside an awareness of the importance of their safe use in our digital world.



Extra Curricular Activities at Mapplewells

Throughout their time at Mapplewells pupils have the opportunity to explore their physical, creative and academic interests through the wide variety of extra curricular activities on offer.

Groups can be made up of pupils from the same class or other children from different year groups.

We offer a range of after-school clubs that include academic, sports and creative aspects.

At Mapplewells every year group take part in a range of trips to support teaching and learning, including regular visits to our local library. Other class trips have included: Twycross Zoo, The Holocaust Centre, Conkers, Magna, Butterfly House, Ferry Farm, our local fire station and regular visits to places of worship.

Every class in Key Stage 2 also has an annual residential trip. Some of the places visited are Sherwood Forest, Skegness, Hagg Farm, Kingswood, Wellow Activity Centre, York, Conwy and Ironbridge.

Finally, no Christmas would be complete without the Mapplewells School outing to the pantomime at Mansfield Palace Theatre.





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