



School Newsletter Friday 19th September 2025

Headteacher's insight

As the crisp Autumnal air begins to settle in, the leaves start to turn and the wind and rain appear more frequently, it's been wonderful to see our school community embracing the new season with energy and enthusiasm despite the drop in temperature.

This week marked the exciting start of our sporting programme, with Year 6 pupils from both Fen Ditton and Marleigh coming together for a fantastic afternoon of sport. It was a brilliant opportunity for the children to develop not only their sporting skills, but also teamwork, communication, and resilience – all key attributes we value highly. We are looking forward to a year packed of sporting opportunities for children across the school.

Year 5 also began their 12-week swimming programme this week, and we were incredibly pleased to see how enthusiastically the children embraced this exciting unit of learning from our curriculum. Swimming with your school friends adds another layer of excitement to an already unique school experience. We are keen to celebrate the progress the children make with this important life skill over the term.

When visiting classrooms this week, I have been impressed by the children's focus and determination in their lessons. They have embraced the challenges set for them with maturity and confidence, drawing on the message from Miss Dennett-Jones' assembly earlier in the week: that challenge is a vital part of the learning process and essential for progress. Facing learning challenges takes resilience and this is a skill that can be tricky to develop so it is encouraging to see our children making progress with this.

We also launched our Home Learning Task Menus this week, and we're very much looking forward to seeing the creative responses from our children. These tasks are designed to inspire curiosity and encourage children to challenge themselves in new and exciting ways.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another week of learning, growth, and shared success.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



Welcome to Our SCITT Students

This term, we are delighted to welcome our SCITT (School-Centred Initial Teacher Training) students to our school community. They will be working alongside our staff and children, gaining valuable experience as they train to become the next generation of outstanding educators.

Miss Bicheno will be working in Dragonflies with Miss Brown and Mr France in Squirrels with Miss Norman and Mrs Tabram.

We are very much looking forward to supporting them on their journey and are grateful for the enthusiasm, commitment, and care they bring to our school. Their contributions are already making a positive impact on our children's wellbeing and learning.

Thank you to each of them for choosing to train with us – we're excited to be part of your teaching journey.

The Scholastic Book Fair is Coming to Fen Ditton! 2nd -7th October 3.30pm-4pm

We are so excited to let you know that the **Scholastic Book Fair** will soon be arriving at Fen Ditton! This is a fantastic opportunity for children to explore a wide range of books and discover new authors and stories that will inspire a lifelong love of reading.

By supporting the fair, you'll be **helping every class in our school** – for every book purchased, we will receive rewards to spend on a brand-new set of reading books for each classroom's reading corner. Your support will directly benefit all our children and keep our school reading areas fresh, exciting, and full of choice.



 **Please note: the fair is completely cashless this year.**

All purchases will be made through a simple and secure QR code payment system directly to Scholastic



Home Learning



Home Learning – A Refreshed Approach

Following on from last week's newsletter piece, you will know that this half term, we are introducing a refreshed approach to home learning through a menu of tasks for each year group. The aim is to give children and families more flexibility and choice in how home learning is approached.

Over the course of the half term, children are expected to complete all of the tasks from the menu. However, the order, the depth, and when they are handed in is up to each family. Some children may choose to spend more than a week exploring one task in detail, while responding more quickly to others. Others may prefer to work steadily through one task a week. Both approaches are absolutely fine — one a week is simply a guide to help pace the learning across the half term.

Alongside these projects, there are still regular weekly expectations for all children:

- **Reading**
- **Times tables practice**
- **Spelling** (introduced from next half term)
- In some year groups, additional **Maths/English tasks**

This balance allows children to consolidate their core skills regularly while also enjoying the chance to explore a variety of creative and open-ended tasks at their own pace.



News from our classrooms



Butterflies Class

We've had such a wonderful week in Butterflies! The children have been full of curiosity, laughter, and creativity, and it's been a joy to see them grow in confidence as they explore new learning opportunities. From sharing stories and building friendships to getting hands-on with exciting activities, every day has been filled with moments of discovery and pride. We can't wait to share some of the highlights with you and celebrate all the amazing things the children have achieved this week!



In maths this week, we have been enjoying lots of singing and movement as we explored number songs together. From counting down in "Five Little Speckled Frogs" to building up in "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe," the children have been practising saying numbers in order and hearing how they fit together. We also worked on recognising and ordering numbers, using games and practical activities to help the children spot which number comes next and where numbers belong in a sequence. It's been lovely to see their confidence growing as they join in with the songs and use their number knowledge in play.



In English, we have continued diving into the traditional tale of The Three Little Pigs. The children loved listening to the story and joining in with the repeated phrases, especially when the Big Bad Wolf tried to blow the houses down! We explored the characters and settings, talking about how the pigs showed resilience and problem-solving. The children also had opportunities to retell the story in their own words, using props and role play to bring it to life. Through these activities, they developed their speaking, listening, and storytelling skills while building confidence in using new vocabulary.



Butterflies Class continued...



In Understanding the World, we investigated all about ponds and the creatures that live there, linked to our favourite song Five Little Speckled Frogs. The children explored what a pond habitat looks like and discovered why it is such an important home for frogs and other wildlife. Through songs, stories, and pictures, the children began to make connections between their singing and the real world of nature.



Our Year Ones have started investigating how beans can grow without soil by placing them in clear containers with just water and paper towel. We are very excited to see the roots and shoots begin to appear, watching closely. This hands-on experiment helps with understanding that plants need water and light to grow and gave them the chance to make careful observations and predictions about what might happen next.

Reminder

Finally, please remember to send your child's book bag and reading book into school every day. This helps us to listen to the children read regularly and ensures they can take part in reading activities with their group, supporting your child's progress and enjoyment of reading. Thank you for your continued support and here's to the next couple of weeks!

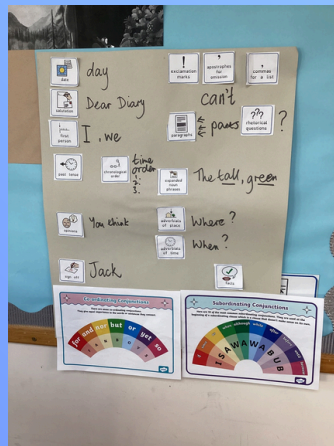


Squirrels Class

This week in Squirrel Class, we have been working very hard in Maths! We have completed lots of place value activities with numbers up to 1000 and have been enjoying practising our times tables on TT Rockstars.

In our other learning, we have been practising writing in the first person. We have also been exploring the features of diary entries in preparation for writing our own as Spontaneous Cyril from our English text, 'The Squirrels Who Squabbled'.

We have also been enjoying painting in our Art lessons and learning about Skara Brae, a Stone Age settlement, in History. We particularly enjoyed exploring an interactive map of this!





Owls Class

What an exciting week Owls class have had! This week, our brilliant Year 5 Owls began their swimming lessons and what a splash they made! With excitement, the children showed great enthusiasm as they went into the water to see how far they could swim and they supported one another throughout. These sessions are a fantastic opportunity to develop both physical ability and water safety awareness. We're so proud of how well the Owls have started and can't wait to see their progress over the coming weeks.

In science, we stepped into the role of young investigators. We conducted an experiment exploring how mixtures can be separated using sieving. We worked together to separate materials based on particle size, learning how this method is used in real- life situations. It was a brilliant hands-on session that combined curiosity, collaboration, and scientific thinking.









Facebook: Stay Connected



Stay Connected with Us on Facebook!

We love sharing the wonderful moments, achievements, and updates from across our school community—and our Facebook page is the perfect place to stay in the loop!

By following us on Facebook, you'll get:

-  Photos and highlights from school events
-  Celebrations of pupil achievements
-  Reminders about upcoming dates and activities
-  Opportunities to engage and share your thoughts

Help us spread the positivity!

If you see a post you enjoy, please give it a **like**, **leave a comment**, or **share** it with friends and family. Every interaction helps us celebrate our pupils and showcase the fantastic things happening in our school.

Follow us today and be part of our growing online community!

FOLLOW US
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Key dates for your diary



- **Friday 26th September:** Macmillan Coffee Morning: Cake sale in school - All welcome! More information below
- **Tuesday 30th September 7pm-9pm:** PTFA AGM (All welcome)
- **Thursday 2nd - Tuesday 7th October:** Book Fair
- **Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th October:** Harvest - Donations for local food hub to be bought into school
- **Tuesday 21st October:** Individual school photographs - Whole School
- **Thursday 23rd October:** Parent Workshop - Children being active online- 5pm at Marleigh - open to all Fen Ditton and Marleigh parents, carers and friends, run by an external provider Eduthing and funded by the PTFA
- **Friday 24th October:** Parent Workshop - Children being active online- 9am at Fen Ditton - open to all Fen Ditton and Marleigh parents, carers and friends, run by an external provider Eduthing and funded by the PTFA
- **Friday 24th October:** PTFA Halloween Bake Sale - children invited to buy cake to enjoy at playtime, cash only
- **Friday 24th October** - Last day of Autumn 1 half term

**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE MORNING**

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 26th September

Next Friday, we'll be taking part in the **Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning**, joining thousands of others across the country to raise funds for the vital work this charity does for people affected by cancer.

Staff will be enjoying cakes and treats together during their breaks, and children will also be included in the occasion with a special treat at playtime, handed out after our morning assembly. We'll be speaking to the children in an age-appropriate way about why we're taking part, and thanking them for their families' support.

We warmly invite you to support this event in any way you can:

- **Donate cakes or treats** for the children's playtime.
- **Make a donation via our JustGiving page:**
- <https://www.justgiving.com/page/fen-ditton-primary-and-marleigh-primary-academy-4>

If you are able to support by donating cakes please can you **drop these at the school office on the afternoon of Thursday 25th or the morning of Friday 26th**. If you baking at home, please can we ask that **no nuts** are used and that you include a list of ingredients on a note with the donation and for purchased donations please leave them in the packaging so that we can manage allergy and dietary requirements.

This is a lovely opportunity for our school community to come together around an important cause that touches many lives.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity and support.



Reception Intake 2026 Open Days



Reception Open Day 2026

We invite you to visit our sister schools—**Marleigh Primary Academy** and **Fen Ditton Community Primary**—to help you choose the best fit for your family.

Register today for a group tour:

<u>Fen Ditton</u>	<u>Marleigh Primary Academy</u>
Friday, 10 th October at 2pm	Friday, 3 rd October at 2pm
Thursday, 23 rd October at 2pm	Friday, 17 th October at 2pm

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 you need to apply for Reception for September 2026.

Deadline for applications is 15th January 2026.

REGISTER NOW 





Term Dates 2025-2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Inset Day – Monday 1 September
Inset Day – Tuesday 2 September
Inset Day – Wednesday 3 September
Autumn Term Starts – Thursday 4 September
School Ends – Friday 24 October
Half Term - 27 October - 31 October
Inset Day – Monday 3 November
School Starts – Tuesday 4 November
Autumn Term Ends – Friday 19 December

SPRING TERM 2026

Inset Day – Monday 5 January
Spring Term Starts – Tuesday 6 January
School Ends – Friday 13 February
Half Term - 16 February - 20 February
School Starts – Monday 23 February
Spring Term Ends – Friday 27 March

SUMMER TERM 2026

Summer Term Starts – Monday 13 April
May Bank Holiday – Monday 4 May
School Ends – Friday 22 May
Half Term - 25 May – 29 May
School Starts – Monday 1 June
Summer Term Ends – Friday 17 July
Inset Day – Monday 20 July



01233 292342



office@fendittonprimary.org



Fen Ditton Primary School,
Horningsea Road, Fen Ditton,
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB5 8SZ



ANGLIAN LEARNING