



School Newsletter Friday 3rd October 2025



Headteacher's insight

As October arrives, it's hard to believe we're already heading into the final three weeks of this half term. The weather has certainly kept us guessing—heavy rain one day, glorious sunshine the next, with chilly spells and even a few glimmers of summer warmth. It's been a true mix of seasons!

Across both Marleigh and Fen Ditton, our **Friday celebration assemblies** continue to be a joyful part of our week. We've loved sharing the wide range of out-of-school achievements our children have brought in—from star gymnast awards and martial arts gradings to summer camp successes. These moments of pride help us build a strong, supportive school community, and we encourage families to keep sending in these wonderful stories. They mean so much to us and to the children.

A huge thank you to all families who supported our recent **Macmillan fundraising efforts**. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to make a collective donation of **£200** to this important cause. Your support makes a real difference, and we are incredibly grateful.

Looking ahead, we're excited to be launching our first **STEM Days** of the academic year:

Marleigh – Thursday 23rd October
Fen Ditton – Friday 24th October

Children from Year 1 to Year 6 will take part in a range of engaging and challenging learning activities designed to spark curiosity and creativity. As part of these days, we're pleased to offer online safety workshops for every child, led by Eduthing, helping them navigate the digital world safely and confidently.

We're also inviting parents and carers to attend one of our **Online Safety Workshops**:

Thursday 23rd October at 4:30pm – Marleigh
Friday 24th October at 9:15am – Fen Ditton

Both sessions are **open to families from either school. There's no need to book—just come along!** These workshops are a great opportunity to learn more about the ever-changing online landscape and how we can support our children to use technology positively and safely. We are grateful to the two PTFAs for their financial support for these workshops for the children and families.

And finally from me—have you seen the chance to **order your school tea towel?** The children have worked so hard on their self-portraits, and the finished product will make a lovely keepsake or gift. The deadline for orders is Thursday 23rd October, and payments can be made via MCAS. See further details on page 5 of this Newsletter.

Wishing you all a productive and joyful start to October!



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher





Exciting Playground Update!

We are delighted to share that our playground will soon have brand-new markings installed on the newly surfaced area. This exciting development will take place from Monday 13th to Wednesday 15th October.

During this time, the front playground will be out of use. To ensure everything runs smoothly:

- Playtime and lunchtime will be organised in our other outdoor spaces
- Drop-off each morning will be through the main office entrance.
- Collection will take place from the car park, beginning at 3:15pm (instead of the usual 3:30pm) to allow for a safe, staggered dismissal process.

We are so grateful to our PTFA for their incredible donation which has made these new markings possible. This improvement will benefit all our children and create a fun, engaging space for play and learning for years to come.





News from our classrooms



Butterflies Class

We've had a couple of wonderful weeks in Butterflies, the children have been full of energy and enthusiasm, showing great curiosity in their play and learning. Each day brings new discoveries—whether it's experimenting in the creative areas, exploring outdoors, or joining in with songs and stories together. It has been a joy to watch their confidence continue to grow as they share ideas, try new activities, and develop their independence. We are so proud of how well they are engaging with new challenges and sharing their ideas with each other.



In English, we have been exploring Floella Benjamin's story *Coming to England*. The children listened carefully as we shared Floella's journey and talked about the themes of family, belonging and kindness. They enjoyed discussing how it might feel to move somewhere new and thought about things we would need to take with us on a long journey. We compared England to Trinidad and they made passports for their role-play, helping them to develop their vocabulary, storytelling skills and empathy for others.

In Maths, the children have been developing their early problem-solving skills through sorting activities. They explored a range of objects and talked about the different ways they could be grouped, such as by colour, size, shape or type. The children enjoyed working together to explain their choices and noticing when objects could belong to more than one group. These activities have helped them to build important mathematical language and reasoning skills, as well as laying strong foundations for future number work.





News from our classrooms



Butterflies Class continued....



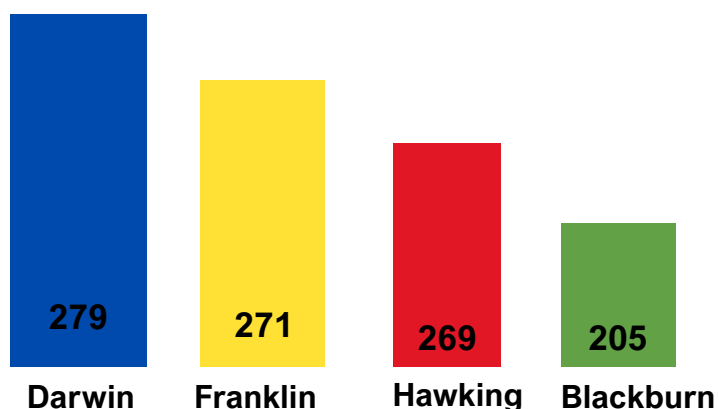
In Understanding the World, the children took part in an exciting bug hunt around our forest school area. Armed with magnifying glasses and lots of curiosity, they searched carefully under logs, in the grass and amongst the leaves to see what minibeasts they could find. The children were fascinated by the different creatures they discovered, from wiggly worms to speedy beetles, and enjoyed talking about where the bugs live and how they move. This activity helped them to build their observation skills, ask questions, and think about the importance of caring for living things in our environment. !

REMEMBER!

Finally, please remember to continue to **send your child's book bag and reading book into school every day**. This ensures they can take part in reading activities with their group, supporting your child's progress and enjoyment of reading. Also, **please take a few minutes to look at the phonics sheet in the red folders** – we will update them each week with our newly learned sounds.

Thank you for your continued support and here's to the next couple of weeks!

House Points





Squirrels Class

Squirrel Class are enjoying exploring different techniques in Art.

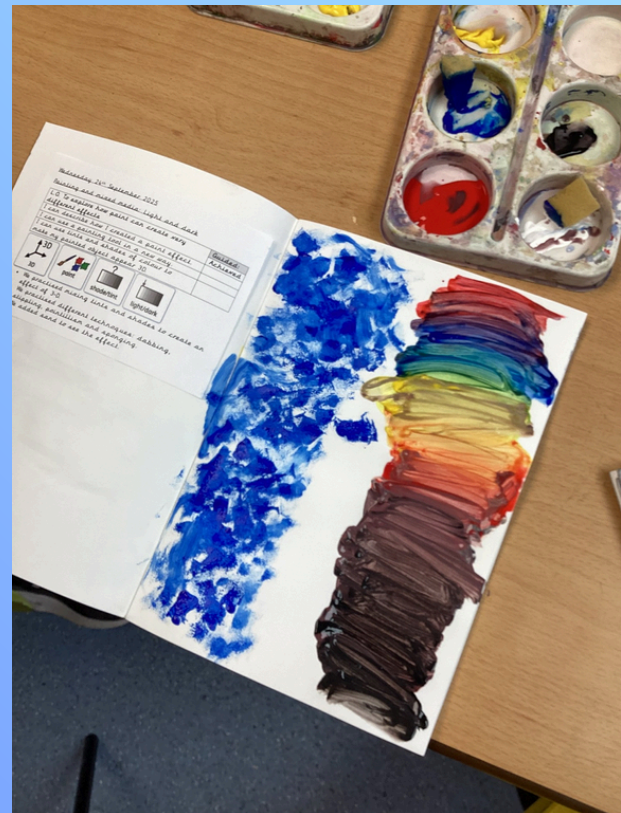
So far, we have used paint brushes, cotton buds and sponges to fill shapes with paint.

We are hoping these will create the effect of 3 dimensions.

In Humanities, we have looked back in time to compare life in the Stone Age and Bronze age.

When we investigated how shadows are formed in our Science lesson we learned new vocabulary through our exciting experiment.

We continue to use our class book 'The Squirrels who Squabbled' in our English lessons. We now know how to write diary entries and are now working on including persuasive language by writing letters from Cyril to Bruce explaining why he should share the last pinecone!



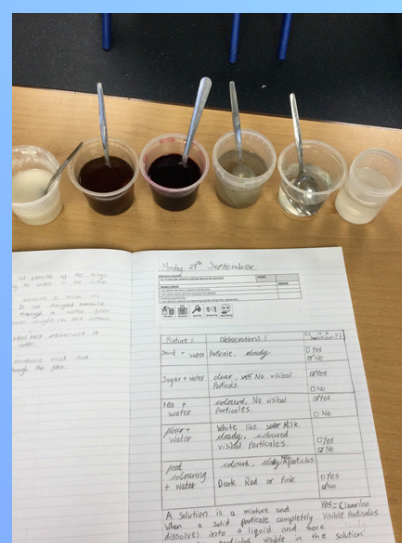


Owls Class

What an exciting week Owls have had! We were thrilled and very lucky to take part in two dance workshops with Dance Fusion on Tuesday and Wednesday morning. We dived into the emotional systems of Drive, Threat, and Soothe, discovering how to express these powerful feelings through movement. The energy and creativity from every Owl was truly inspiring.

In Science, we became real explorers as we investigated solutions, conducting hands on experiments to see exactly what solutions look like and how they behave. Meanwhile, in Art, we dived into the fascinating world of Cai Guo-Qiang's installation art. Inspired by his famous gunpowder drawings, we crafted our very own mini installations using powder paint and glitter. A delightfully messy but hugely fun creative adventure!

Meanwhile in English, we sharpened our storytelling skills by writing third-person narratives. We uncovered how a narrator can reveal so much more about characters emotions and add depth to a story. In Maths, we've kicked off our addition and subtraction unit, mastering the column method to confidently handle numbers with more than four digits.





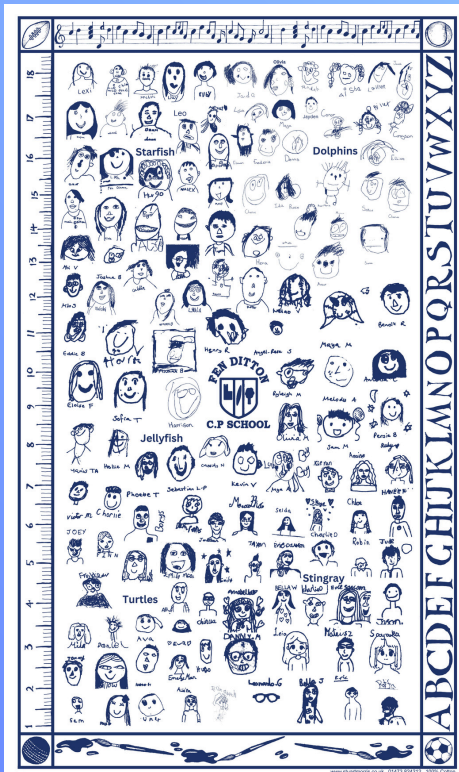
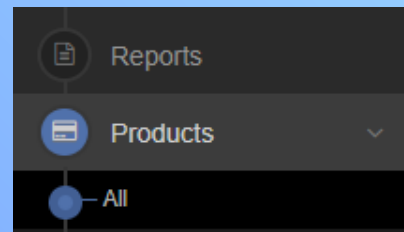
Pre-order Your 2025 Fen Ditton Tea Towel Keepsake

Following on from the success of last year's tea towels, we're pleased to announce your child will be drawing their self-portrait again for this year's edition! The tea towel will feature self-portraits from all children across every class, making it a wonderful gift and keepsake of their time at Fen Ditton.

Tea towels are available for just **£8 each**, and you can order as many as you like via **My Child At School > Products**. Orders will be delivered to the school and distributed to children before the end of the Autumn Term—*just in time for Christmas!*

How to order

- [Log into My Child At School](#)
- Find Products > Tea Towels
- Add to basket!



**Order before the 22nd
October Deadline**



Key dates for your diary



- **Thursday 2nd - Tuesday 7th October:** Book Fair
- **Wednesday 8th October:** Year 4 Visit to Stapleford Granary
- **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



Calling All STEM Enthusiasts!
We are looking for parent volunteers to share their passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, or Maths by giving a short talk during a school assembly. If you work in a STEM field or have an interesting STEM hobby, we'd love for you to inspire our pupils! Please email (enter office email) and put for the attention of Mrs McLachlan if you would like to take part or find out more.



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