



School Newsletter Friday 7th November 2025

Headteacher's insight

Welcome back to the start of Autumn Term 2! I hope everyone enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half-term break. We began the week with a productive INSET day for our teaching team, where we focused on relational approaches and the powerful impact these have on learning. Strengthening relationships within our classrooms continues to unlock deeper engagement, resilience, and curiosity in our pupils. Alongside this, staff reflected on metacognition and how we can help children become more aware of their own learning processes. We also reviewed updates across our core curriculum subjects to ensure every learner continues to make strong progress as we move into the second half of the term.

Autumn 2 is always a busy and exciting half-term. It's a longer stretch, but one full of engaging learning opportunities designed to secure and deepen pupils' knowledge and understanding. We're particularly looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to our Learner Review Meetings over the next fortnight — our new approach to parents' evenings. These meetings will provide a valuable opportunity for teachers, parents, and pupils to come together to reflect on progress so far and set goals for the term ahead. P

Key dates for this half-term are included in this newsletter to help families plan, participate, and make the most of the many events and activities coming up. I'm grateful to the staff and our PTFA for their efforts and contributions that enhance our offer to stretch far beyond our timetabled lessons. Thank you, as always, for your continued support — together, we will make this a positive and inspiring half-term for every child. As always if you have any queries or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



A message from our Governors

Welcome back!

We hope everyone's had a great half-term. Now that everything is settled in for this academic year, we wanted to share some of the latest governor updates.

First and foremost, we're really excited for a year where the schools can settle into their rhythms! It was very encouraging to see how last year's changes had such a positive impact, with the re-organisation of the leadership structures and appointment of Mrs Thompson into the Executive Headteacher role. This year now feels like a springboard, with more stability, allowing us to embed all of last year's progress.

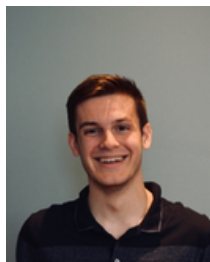
A major achievement of this last half-term has been the participation in an Ofsted pilot, to test out Ofsted's new framework. Marleigh was selected for this after it's 'Good' rating last year, and we're really grateful for the way staff have participated, giving us a headstart to be ready for Fen Ditton's Ofsted in this next year or so. Thank you to everyone involved!

We have one main governing body update, which is that at the end of this term, I (Xav) will be stepping back from the co-chair role, into a regular governing role, and Ben Roberts will be taking my place. Ben is a parent at Marleigh, and as we've chatted about the role, it's been so clear to see how passionate he is for Fen Ditton and Marleigh to be atmospheres where children can thrive and grow. On a personal note, I'd like to thank pupils, parents, staff and governors for continuing to make this the wonderful school community it is. It's an immense privilege to see how much care and effort is being put in, to give the best possible experience for the children.

That's all from us this time around! Have a brilliant second half of term. Our email addresses are below, and if you need to get in touch, whether for safeguarding, interest in being a governor, or something else, please do reach out.

Best wishes,
(Co-Chairs of Governors)

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**Please remember
to book your
appointment with
your child's class
teacher, if you have
not already done
so.**

Learner Reviews – Next Week

This term, we are introducing a new approach to parents' evenings called 'Learner Reviews'. These will take place during the week beginning Monday **10th November**.

Each class teacher will offer a **10-minute appointment for each child**, where the parent/carer and the child (where appropriate) will have the opportunity to review their learning and progress so far this academic year. For our youngest children, it may not be appropriate for them to attend, and teachers will advise accordingly.

Appointments will be available between **08:15 and 16:40**, and to offer maximum flexibility, parents can choose to attend in person or virtually. If you would like a virtual appointment, please contact us after you have made your booking. If you require more flexibility, please do contact us so we can see what we can do to support.

Bookings are now open via My Child at School (MCAS). If you experience any difficulties accessing the system or booking your slot, please contact the school office who will be happy to help.

We look forward to welcoming you to these valuable conversations about your child's learning journey.



Book Advent Calendar Prize Draw

- 3 prize book advent calendars to be won, each with 24 appropriate books wrapped ready to be opened each day in the run up to Christmas!
- **Tickets £1.50 each**
- Prizes will be drawn and distributed on **Friday 28th November**
- **Please log into your MCAS account and the tickets can be purchased under the products section. You can purchase as many tickets as you like!**





News from our classrooms

Butterflies Class

We hope you all had a lovely half-term break. The children have come back full of energy and excitement, ready for another busy half term of learning and fun! This half term, we'll be exploring the changing seasons, celebrating festivals such as Christmas, and continuing to develop our phonics, maths, and creative skills through lots of hands-on activities. It's set to be a magical and memorable time of year in EYFS!



In **English**, our learning has been inspired by the beautiful story *How to Catch a Star* by Oliver Jeffers. The children have loved exploring the themes of dreams, determination and curiosity as we followed the boy's adventure to catch his very own star. We've enjoyed hot-seating, retelling the story, creating our own starry artwork, and taking part in space-themed investigations and challenges. Through this story, the children have been developing their imagination, language skills, and understanding of the world around them.

In **maths** this week, we have been exploring the concept of one more and one less. The children have enjoyed using practical resources such as cubes, number lines, and everyday objects to find what happens when we add or take away one. We've been singing number songs, playing counting games, and solving simple problems together. The children are becoming more confident in recognising number patterns and using mathematical language to describe their thinking.



Butterflies Class continued....

We've been exploring the wonderful changes of the autumn season. The children have been noticing the different colours, shapes and textures of leaves during our outdoor learning and used their collections to create beautiful **autumn leaf necklaces**. We also looked at fireworks and created our own dazzling **firework patterns** using paint, glitter, and a range of creative materials. These activities have helped the children to develop their fine motor skills, creativity, and understanding of the world around them.



As we come to the end of a busy first week, we'd like to thank all our families for their continued support; it would be wonderful to see as many as possible of you at our **Stay and Play session (Reception children ONLY) next Monday** — the children will love sharing their learning and showing you around their classroom. We've also started rehearsals for our **Nativity play**, which promises to be a special celebration of all the children's hard work and confidence.

REMEMBER!

Please remember to send your child's book bag and reading book into school each day so they can join in with group reading sessions. Don't forget to check the phonics and letter formation sheets in the red folders — these are updated weekly with our new sounds.



Squirrels Class

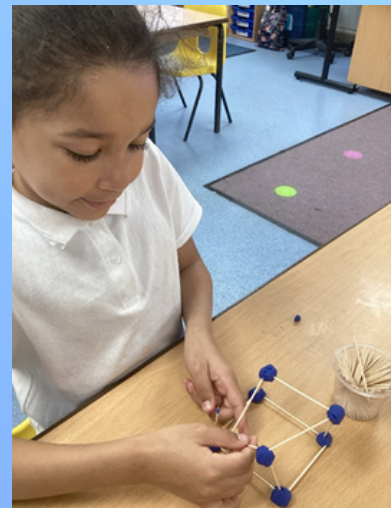
This week, Squirrel Class have enthusiastically returned to school! We've enjoyed discussing our holidays and being excited for Bonfire Night.

In **Maths**, we have been working hard to finish our unit of work about Addition and Subtraction. We have been learning how to round to the nearest ten and hundred so that we can estimate answers to questions. We have also been learning about inverse operations and how addition and subtraction are opposites.

In **English**, we have begun our new book called Cloud Busting by Malorie Blackman. We have been introduced to the characters of Sam and Davey, and how it has been written in a poetry-style. We have taken it in turns to read the verses aloud to the class.

In **Geography**, we have begun our new topic 'Who lives in Antarctica?' We used atlases to locate the equator and lines of longitude and latitude to find Antarctica on a world map.

This week in **DT**, we have begun to look at the theme of structures. We investigated different structures by attaching cocktail sticks together using playdough. You can see these in the pictures we took.

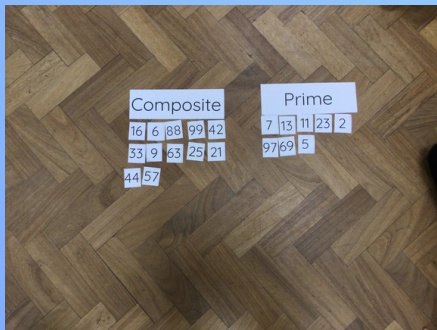


Finally, we are starting to look at databases in our **computing** lesson. We compared the data on Top Trump Cards as an introduction to the topic.



Owls Class

What a fantastic start to the new term! In **English**, we've started exploring our new text, The Big History Timeline. The children have been making thoughtful predictions about what they think the book will cover. We've also started working on Fronted Adverbials and Time Connectives which are key tools we'll be using in our upcoming biography writing next week.



In **Maths**, we've had a lively and active few days! Through hands-on activities, we've been reinforcing our understanding of composite, prime, square, and cube numbers. Everyone had a brilliant time. We've also started learning how to multiply and divide by 10, 100, and 1,000, using our place value knowledge to guide us.



Before the half-term break, we were lucky to enjoy a **STEM Day** packed with exciting challenges. From bridge building and maze navigation to launching rocket mice, the children were fully immersed in problem-solving and creativity. It was a wonderful, fun and engaging day.

Looking ahead, we're excited to dive into our new **Geography** unit focused on population and in **DT** we'll be getting crafty by making our very own sock monkeys!



Key dates for your diary



Next week!

- **Monday 10th November: Badgers & Dragonflies** Learner Review Meetings
- **Monday 10th November 9-9.40am: Butterflies** Class Stay & Play Session (**Reception children ONLY**) Parents/Carers welcome after morning drop off
- **Tuesday 11th November: Hedgehogs** Learner Review Meetings
- **Tuesday 11th November:** Remembrance Day, Children are invited to wear a poppy if they wish to
- **Wednesday 12th November: Squirrels** Learner Review Meetings
- **Thursday 13th November: Butterflies & Owls** Learner Review Meetings
- **Thursday 13th November 9.15 - 9.35am - Badgers** Class Assembly - Parents & Carers invited.

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- **Monday 17th - Friday 21st November:** Donations for advent calendars for FoodBank.
 - **Thursday 20th November 9.15 - 9.35am: Hedgehogs** Class Assembly - parents & Carers invited
 - **Thursday 20th November: Owls** Class Trip
 - **Thursday 27th November 9.15 - 9.35am: Owls** Class Assembly - Parents & Carers invited
 - **Friday 28th November:** Non Uniform Day in exchange for PTFA Fayre donations (bottles, sweets/choc for tombola)
 - **Thursday 4th December 9.15 - 9.35am: Squirrels** Class Assembly - Parents & Carers invited.
 - **Tuesday 9th December 2.30pm: EYFS & Year 1** Nativity Performance 1 - Parents & Carers invited
 - **Wednesday 10th December 9.15am: EYFS & Year 1** Nativity Performance 2 - Parents & Carers invited



Key dates continued.....

- **Friday 12th December:** Save The Children Christmas Jumper Day - Non uniform day that includes a Christmas/Winter jumper. **Families invited to make a donation through Just Giving page**
- **Tuesday 16th December 2.15pm:** KS2 (Years 3,4,5,6) Church carol Concert - Parents & carers invited
- **Tuesday 16th December 3.30 - 5pm:** PTFA Winter Fayre
- **Friday 19th December 3.15pm:** Christmas Sing Along - Parents & Carers invited
- **Friday 19th December:** Last day of Term





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

**You can now see our term dates
for 2026-2027 - click below!**

CLICK HERE