



## School Newsletter Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Headteacher's insight

It has been a **lovely start to Spring 2**, with the sun making a welcome appearance this week and offering a small but uplifting reminder that spring is on its way. I hope everyone managed to enjoy the half term break, despite the rather wet weather we experienced.

This week has been a busy and positive return to school. Our **Reception children thoroughly enjoyed their recent sports event**, demonstrating fantastic enthusiasm and teamwork, while **assessment activities** have begun across the school and will continue into next week. Alongside this, staff have been preparing for **upcoming learner reviews**, and there is already growing excitement around our virtual duck race.

Looking ahead, next week promises to be another full and exciting one, including **World Book Day celebrations, the virtual duck race, a swimming gala, a Year 6 visit to a careers fair, and a girls' football fixture**. With so much to look forward to, we are hopeful that the sunshine will continue to join us as we move through the weeks ahead.



*Mrs Thompson*

Mrs Emily Thompson  
Executive Headteacher



## Governors Update

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a great half term and your children have settled back into school. As we reach the halfway point of this academic year we would like to take a moment to reflect on the successes and achievements across our school community.

With Mrs Thompson joining our schools as the Executive Headteacher last academic year we were already seeing many benefits for both Fen Ditton Primary and Marleigh Primary Academy from having a shared leadership team. This year it's great to see the relationship between the two schools growing even stronger, not just within the staff but also with more joint events held where the children from both schools can all get involved.

We'd like to extend our appreciation to all the staff at both schools for the work they do day-to-day in order to provide the best educational setting for our children. In addition it's important to also recognise the role our parents and carers play in making our schools as successful as possible. Thank you for your continued support.

I (Ben) would also like to take a moment to introduce myself as I take the reins from Xav to Co-Chair the governing body alongside Dom. I am a parent at Marleigh and having studied Computer Science at university I now work as a software developer, and have a particular passion for supporting the schools in the STEM space. Moreover, I'd like to continue working with other Governors, Mrs Thompson and the Executive Team to build on the strong foundations already fostered between Fen Ditton Primary and Marleigh Primary Academy and see this partnership flourish to give the best possible experience for the children. As the saying goes, "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts", and this is already evident between our two schools. We would like to thank Xav for his time as Co-Chair of the governing body, and we are pleased that he has agreed to continue on as a governor. On a personal note, it has been great working alongside him and I am thankful he will still be a member of the governing body.

On a final note, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all governors for their dedication and sustained support. Their work is invaluable and is fundamental to the success of our schools, and we deeply appreciate the considerable time and energy they dedicate to maintaining a safe and inspiring environment for our students.

We are always keen to talk about our work as well as hear from our parents. If you have any specific issues or questions please feel free to reach out to us.

Best wishes,  
Ben + Dom

Co-chairs of the Local Governing Body  
Marleigh Primary Academy and Fen Ditton Primary

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**BOOK  
NOW**

## Learner Review Meetings: Next Week

Teachers are very much looking forward to meeting with you during the Learner Review meetings, where we can share successes, discuss progress in more detail and continue working together to support every child to thrive. Please refer to the table below to see what day your child's class reviews are taking place.

Please log into your MCAS account and navigate to the Parents Evening section to book your slot. All slots are allocated 10 minutes. If you have any issues, please contact the school office.

Date	Class	Times
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Dragonflies Badgers	8.15am - 4.40pm
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Butterflies	8.15am - 4.40pm
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Squirrels Owls	8.15am - 4.40pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Hedgehogs	8.15am - 4.40pm

**Parents/Carers: For in person meetings - please sign in at the office 5 minutes before your appointment, where you will then be collected by the class teacher. You can also opt for an online appointment if preferred, please contact the office staff to arrange this. Thank you.**



## The Duck race starts next week!

Enter for a chance to win a **£50 Amazon voucher** plus runner-up prizes!

- Race runs: **Monday 2 March – Friday 6 March**. Ducks to be purchased by **Sunday 1 March**.
- Ducks move randomly every hour – it really is anyone's race!
- Track your duck all the way to the finish line!

Enter here and buy your duck: <https://www.balloonrace.net/mpax>

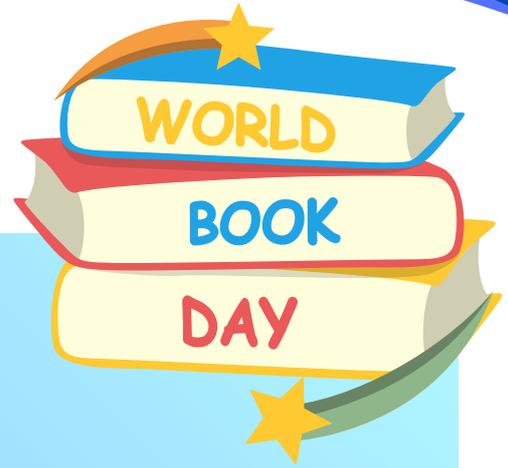
**With over 130 ducks already entered,  
we're really excited for  
our Virtual Duck Race!**

The race starts on **Monday 2nd** so all ducks must  
be purchased ahead of **Sunday 1st March!**

The race ends at midday on **Friday 6th March**.

Click here to buy your duck for £3:  
[https://www.balloonrace.net/mpax/  
/registerduck](https://www.balloonrace.net/mpax/registerduck)

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>  
March -  
NEXT WEEK!



## Words Come Alive – World Book Day!

We are thrilled to be celebrating World Book Day this year with our exciting theme: “Words Come Alive!”

Children are invited to dress up as a word of their choice – whether it’s a powerful adjective, an ambitious verb or an imaginative noun. Throughout the day, pupils will share their chosen words, explore their meanings and discover new vocabulary together, helping to develop a rich love of language across the school.

As part of our English lessons, each key stage will also take part in a live author workshop, giving children the opportunity to hear from a published writer about their creative journey, storytelling techniques and inspiration. It promises to be a truly inspiring experience.

Some ideas could be:

Athletic – dress in sports wear.

Scientist – dress in a white coat.

Detective – have a magnifying glass.

Sleepy – wear your pyjamas.

You could even make a board to wear that has your word on it!



We can't wait to see our classrooms filled with creativity, colour and vocabulary as our words come alive! 📖

# Fen Ditton: Growing Together

Referral Reward Programme, rewarding families for spreading the word

## REWARDS



### Referring Child Receives

- 20 x Breakfast Club sessions
- Logo school uniform Sweatshirt
- Logo school uniform Polo
- Logo school Showerproof Coat
- Family Cinema Gift Card

### New Pupil Receives

- 20 x Breakfast Club sessions
- Logo school uniform Sweatshirt
- Logo school uniform Polo
- Logo school Showerproof Coat
- Extreme Climbing Experience gift card for Clip 'n Climb Cambridge

## HOW IT WORKS

Refer a guardian to Fen Ditton



Pupil receives a place & guardian confirms referee



Both referrer's child and new pupil receive their rewards!



We have already welcomed 6 new children since January 2026 and our school community is stronger as a result, can you help us to grow more?



# Help us raise funds for a New Projector



Helping to bring learning and celebrations to life for everyone involved.

Every contribution helps, thank you for your support!



**DONATE**

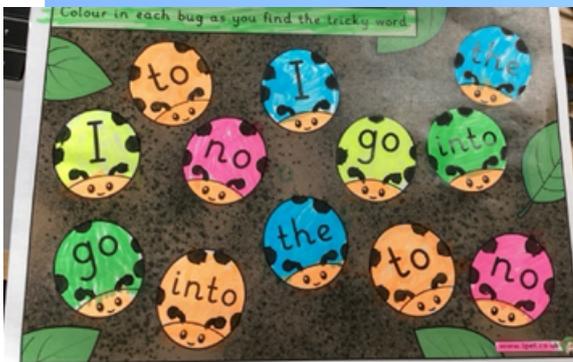


**THANK YOU!**



### Butterflies Class

As we begin the second half of our year, we are excited to welcome everyone back and look forward to a busy and inspiring half term ahead in Butterflies. The days are getting a little brighter and there are signs of spring all around us, bringing with them new opportunities for exploration, discovery and growth. This half term, our learning will continue to build on the children's interests, encouraging curiosity, independence and confidence through play-based experiences both indoors and outdoors.



In English, this week we began exploring the story *The Bad-Tempered Ladybird* by Eric Carle, using the beautiful illustrations and repeated language to support our understanding of characters, feelings and time. The story helped us think about emotions, friendship and making positive choices, as well as giving us opportunities to sequence events and retell the story in our own words.

In **phonics**, we will continue to practise reading and recognising our 'tricky words' — words that cannot always be sounded out. We will be working hard to read these words by sight, spot them in our books and use them confidently in our writing. Please continue to practise these at home to help build fluency and confidence.

In **Maths** we have been working on developing a secure understanding of counting, ordinality and cardinality. The children have been practising counting objects carefully, touching or moving each item as they count to ensure accuracy.

This week saw the **grand opening of our shoe shop!**

The children have taken on different roles such as shopkeepers, customers and cashiers, helping to develop their communication and language skills through real-life scenarios. They have been trying on shoes, measuring feet, comparing sizes and using mathematical language such as bigger, smaller, longer and shorter, and creating receipts.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support – we can't wait to share another wonderful half term with you!



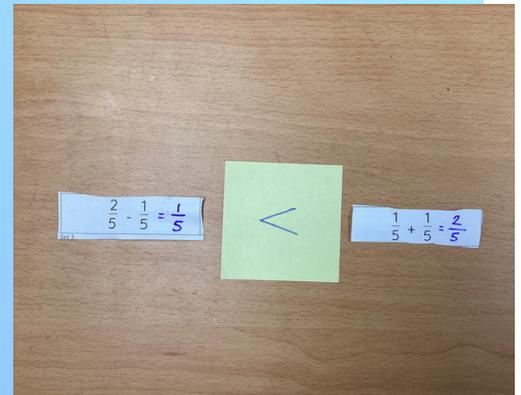


## Squirrels Class

Squirrel Class have had a busy start to the new half term!

In **English**, we have begun reading our new book 'Nim's Island'. We have been focusing on making predictions about what we think the text will be about based on different versions of the front covers and the opening paragraphs. So far, we have met the characters of Nim and her Father, Jack.

In **Maths**, we have begun learning about Fractions. We enjoyed an Active Maths lesson adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominators so that we could order and compare them. We have also started practising our 4 times tables - please keep asking us to count in fours!



We joined in thoughtfully with a PSHE lesson learning about common hazards and what to do in an emergency situation. We were very mature and understood how everyone has the responsibility to help keep each other safe. We also took the opportunity to have a circle time to share acts of kindness that we have seen in class so far this week.

In **Geography**, we have revised the capital cities of the United Kingdom and then located some other major cities around the UK. We watched a video about villages, towns and cities, then discussed what the benefits of living in each location might be. We have been practising our speaking and listening during class discussions by agreeing with, building on or challenging someone else's points - we were super respectful doing this during our Geography discussion!



## Owls Class



We've had a brilliant start to the week! In **English**, we've dived into our new class novel, *The Witches* by Roald Dahl. The children are already captivated by the story and have enjoyed discussing the characters, making predictions, and sharing their first impressions. Their enthusiasm has really brought our English sessions to life.

In **Maths**, we've begun our unit on decimals and percentages. The class has shown real confidence with the early concepts, tackling new ideas with curiosity and determination. It's been wonderful to see them supporting one another and celebrating those "lightbulb" moments together. We have also been playing lots of Active Maths games such as 'Maths Ninja' to help us with our times tables which are such a crucial aspect of Maths.

In **Science**, we've started our topic on circulation and health. This week, we explored the lifestyle choices that help keep our bodies healthy. The children asked thoughtful questions and showed great interest in how everyday habits can make a big difference.

In **PE**, we've moved onto our hockey unit. The teamwork skills they developed during last term's gymnastics unit were immediately evident. They worked brilliantly together while practising dribbling, passing, and moving into space, showing great focus and cooperation throughout the lesson.





## New look for the Year 6 and Year 4 Block!

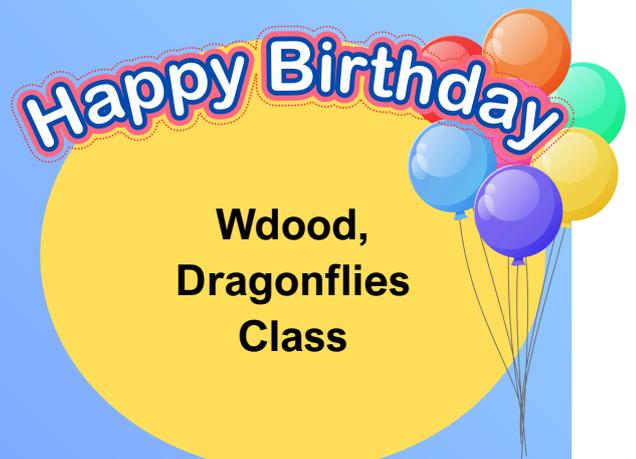
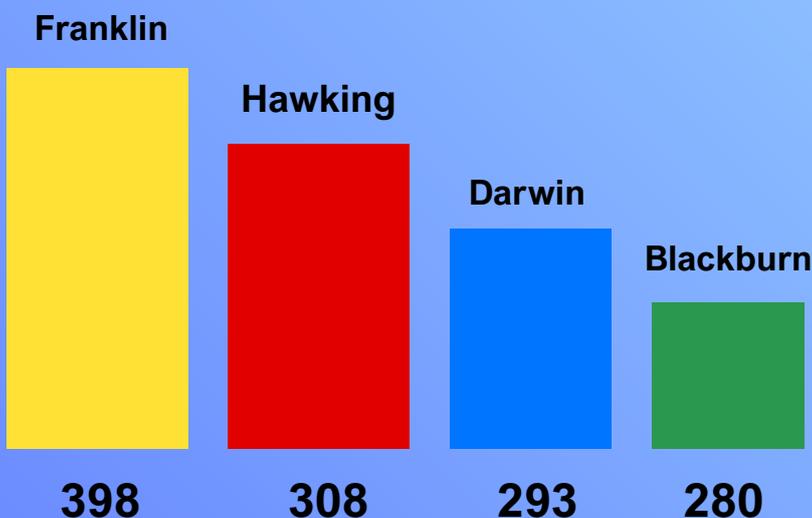
Over the half-term break, we were pleased to complete a number of site improvements within the Year 6 and Year 4 classroom block. This work included the installation of new flooring in the toilets and entrance area, alongside redecoration to refresh the space and the addition of new pegs to support the organised storage of pupils' belongings.

These enhancements help create a cleaner, brighter and more practical environment for our children and staff, and we are delighted with the positive impact already being felt.



A special thank you goes to our site supervisor superheroes, Mr Bennett and Mr Govier, whose hard work and dedication ensured the project ran smoothly and was completed in time for children's return.

## House Points





## Key dates for your diary.



- **Week beginning Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March:** Learner Review Meetings
- **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March:** Anglian Learning Swimming Gala at Bottisham Village College.
- **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day - Children will be invited to dress as a word for our '**Words Come Alive**' theme this year. They can literally dress as any word so it can be as simple or creative as they want to make it!
- **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March:** Squirrels & Hedgehogs class trip to The Sedgwick Museum.
- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March:** **Non Uniform Day** - Children are invited to attend school in non-uniform in exchange for an Easter egg!
- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 3:30pm:** Easter egg hunt
- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March:** Easter Egg Raffle Draw
- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March:** Last Day of Spring Term
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April:** Summer Term Begins



Presents

# Primary Platform Exhibition 26

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an exhibition of artwork from Anglian Learning  
Primary Schools

**7 & 8 March 2026**  
**10 am to 3 pm**

The Marven Centre, New  
Road, Sawston Village College

**All welcome**





## Term Dates 2025-2026

### 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**

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