



School Newsletter

FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Headteacher's insight

It has been another positive week across our two schools, following a lovely community occasion last weekend. Children from both Fen Ditton and Marleigh entered some of the children's categories at the Fen Ditton Village Show, and it was wonderful to see their work displayed and celebrated. Opportunities like these matter: they connect our children with the community around them and give them another place in which to participate, contribute and feel proud.



This week, I also want to highlight something very simple that makes a significant difference to a child's school day: being on time. Teaching begins promptly at 9am, which means that any minutes after this point are minutes of learning missed. Arriving on time also gives children the best opportunity to settle into the classroom, connect with the adults and children around them and begin their learning calmly and confidently.



That sense of connection is particularly important as we continue to embed The Good Morning Club (TGMC) across our schools. TGMC is a research-backed approach to behaviour, emotional literacy, regulation and engagement. It helps us to think about what may sit behind children's behaviour and gives adults and children practical strategies for building connection, understanding emotions and regulating effectively. Two of its key principles capture this particularly well: "Connection over Correction" and "Regulate to Educate" — recognising that children are much better placed to learn when they feel connected, safe and emotionally ready to do so.





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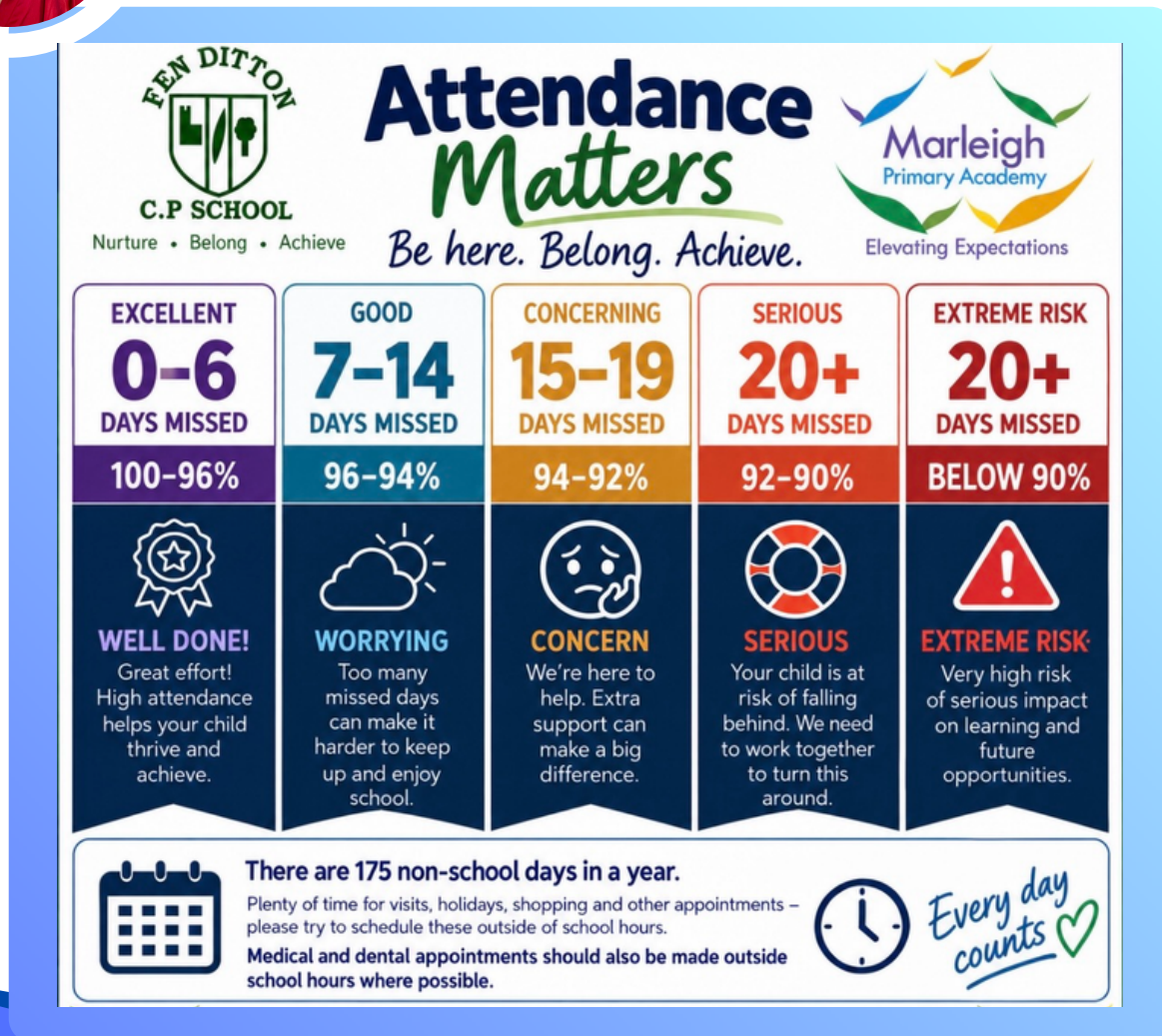
One of the TGMC routines we have introduced this term is “Say Hey Your Way”. You may have noticed children being offered different ways to greet the adult welcoming them into their classroom each morning. It is a deliberately small but important moment of connection: children have some agency over how they say hello, while every child receives the message that we have noticed you, we are pleased you are here and you belong here.

So, our message this week is be here, be on time and be ready to connect. Those first few minutes of the morning really do matter — for relationships, routines, regulation and, ultimately, learning.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher





News from our classrooms

Butterflies Class

What an **excellent start to the year** we have had in Reception! The children have settled into school life beautifully and have already shown great enthusiasm, confidence and curiosity as they explore their new learning environments. We are so proud of how quickly they are making new friendships, learning routines and embracing new experiences. It has been wonderful to see their smiles, excitement and eagerness to learn each day. We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead filled with discovery, creativity and lots of fun learning opportunities.

The children enjoyed making magic wands using glow sticks and talking about what makes them special. As they created their wands, we discussed how everyone in Butterflies has unique talents and qualities that help them to shine. The children shared their ideas confidently and celebrated what makes each person special. This activity supported creativity, self-esteem, and a sense of belonging as we talked about how we are all going to shine brightly in Butterflies this year

We had great fun junk modelling inspired by our story 'Journey', it gave the children the opportunity to be creative and imaginative as they designed and made their own hot air balloons, boats and rockets using recycled materials. They explored different shapes, sizes and ways of joining materials together, developing their fine motor skills as they cut, stuck and constructed. They were encouraged to talk about their ideas, solve problems and make changes to improve their models.

The children enjoyed completing puzzles together, taking turns to find the correct pieces and discussing where they might fit. They showed good teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills as they supported each other to complete the puzzle. The activity helped to develop their concentration, perseverance, and spatial awareness while working collaboratively with their peers.





IMPORTANT

We have added each classes curriculum overviews for 2026-2027 to our website, they can be found [here](#)

Reminder

As the weather starts to get colder, please remember to send your child into school with a coat each day.

We make the most of outdoor learning and playtime whenever possible, so even when it feels a little chilly, the children will still be spending time outside.

Please make sure your child's coat is warm, weather-appropriate and clearly labelled with their name.

Thank you for your continued support!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Angel -Rose, Owls Class

Eddie , Owls Class

Muslimah, Butterflies Class

Sedric, Dragonflies Class





Key Dates/Events

Events - Autumn term

There are several curriculum events being held during school time that your child will be able to tell you about and we will share in the newsletter and on social media. Below are a list of only dates that we feel are most important for parents to be aware of or may require some support/action. We hope it is helpful to have these dates in advance.

SEPTEMBER

- **Friday 25th September:** Macmillan Coffee Morning - children only, more details for how to support will follow

OCTOBER

- **Thursday 8th October:** Harvest Festival (food donations encouraged for collective donation to local food bank)
- **Thursday 8th October:** Individual and sibling photos
- **Friday 9th October:** Learner Review schedule and booking information for Learner Reviews shared with parents (see below for dates of Learner Reviews)
- **Monday 19th October:** Parent and Child Workshop Reception and Year 1 - Phonics 3:30-4pm
- **Friday 23rd October:** PTFA Halloween Bake Sale
- **October half term:** 26th - 30th October

NOVEMBER

- **Monday 2nd November:** INSET Day - School not open for children
- **Monday 2nd November:** Book Advent Calendar Raffle tickets go on sale
- **Tuesday 3rd November:** Tea towel order deadline for parents and carers
- **Friday 13th November:** Non uniform day - donations welcomed to support the Christmas Fair
- **Monday 16th to Friday 20th November:** Learner Review meetings for each pupil and parent/carer from Reception to Year 6. Each family will make a 10 minute appointment and attend in person or online to review their child's learning with the class teacher.
- **Friday 27th November:** Confirmation of Spring term clubs schedule and arrangements for securing places to be shared with parents and carers
- **Sunday 29th November:** Deadline for Book Advent Calendar Raffle tickets purchasing
- **Monday 30th November:** Winners of Book Advent Calendar Raffle announced and prizes given

DECEMBER

- **Thursday 10th December:** Parent and Child Workshop Year 3 and 4 - Times Tables 3:30-4pm
- **Friday 11th December:** Christmas Fair 3:30-4:45pm
- **Friday 11th December:** Christmas Jumper Day
- **Thursday 17th December:** Last Day of Term - School closes for Christmas

Reception Open Day 2027

We invite you to visit **Fen Ditton Community Primary School**, register today for a group tour.

Group Tour Dates & Times

Monday 5 Oct, 11am - 11:45am

Monday 12 Oct, 2pm - 2:45pm

Monday 19 Oct, 4pm - 4:45pm

Monday 9 Nov, 11am - 11:45am

Monday 16 Nov, 2pm - 2:45pm



REGISTER NOW



If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 you need to apply for Reception for September 2027.

Deadline for applications is 15th January 2027





FOLLOW US



AUTUMN TERM 2026

Autumn 1 Term Starts – Friday 4 September
Autumn 1 Term Ends – Friday 23 October
Half Term - 26 October - 30 October
Inset Day – Monday 2 November
Autumn 2 Term Starts– Tuesday 3 November
Autumn 2 Term Ends – Thursday 17 December
Inset Day – Friday 18 December
21 December – 1 January – Christmas Holidays

SPRING TERM 2027

Inset Day – Monday 4 January
Spring Term 1 Starts – Tuesday 5 January
Spring Term 1 Ends – Friday 12 February
Half Term - 15 February - 19 February
Spring Term 2 Starts – Monday 22 February
Spring Term 2 Ends – Thursday 25 March
Friday 26 March – Friday 10 April – Easter Holidays

SUMMER TERM 2027

Summer Term 1 Starts – Monday 12 April
May Bank Holiday – Monday 3 May
Summer Term 1 Ends – Friday 28 May
Half Term - 31 May – 4 June
Summer Term 2 Starts – Monday 7 June
Inset Day – Friday 2 July
Summer Term 2 Ends – Wednesday 21 July

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ANGLIAN LEARNING