



02 May 2025

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Headteacher's insight

As this is our first newsletter since returning from the Easter break - welcome to the Summer term! The Easter holiday feels a long time ago now but I hope you all enjoyed the break with your children. It's been a fantastic start to the term, helped along by some beautiful sunshine and lots of smiling faces returning to school, embracing the opportunities in front of them.

Our **Year 6** pupils are now in the final stretch of preparation for their **SATs**, with just over a week to go. We're incredibly proud of their focus and determination – they're working hard and showing real maturity. We know they are going to do their best and for that we are encouraged and proud of their outcomes already! **Year 5** have already had a memorable experience this term, taking part in a vibrant local **Colour Run** which they thoroughly enjoyed! School life is far more than the lessons we teach in the classroom and we are committed to ensuring our children have a range of opportunities to enjoy as well as supporting their development. This trip was certainly enjoyable and of course messy! I hope you saw our **Facebook post** for the photo evidence!

Across the school, new curriculum units have launched in each class, sparking curiosity and engagement in every corner of the building. It's been a joy to see children excited by their learning and sharing their enthusiasm with staff and peers. We are also incredibly pleased to share that our recent **Ofsted inspection report** has now been published. We are delighted with the outcome – with Good judgements across the board – a real testament to the dedication of our staff team, the support of our families, and of course, the brilliant children who make our school such a special place. [You can find the full report here](#)

We have welcomed several new families across the school at the start of this term. The children have settled well in their new classes and as always received a warm welcome from their classmates and staff. Enjoy your bank holiday weekend and we will see you all on Tuesday next week!



Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher





News from our classrooms

Vulcan Class

It has been brilliant to welcome everyone back to school for the summer term. The children have returned full of energy and enthusiasm, and we've already got stuck into some exciting new learning. In **English**, we are reading **Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl**. The children have really enjoyed getting into character—thinking about how Mr Fox moves, speaks, and feels—before using this understanding to write detailed and imaginative **character descriptions**.

In **science**, we have begun exploring our new topic on **plant growth**. We launched an enquiry to investigate how different conditions, such as being kept cold, in the dark, or without water, might affect how plants grow. Everyone has planted their own **sweet peas**, and we are all looking forward to observing how they change and develop over the coming weeks. It's been a fantastic start to the term, and we can't wait to see what the rest of the half term brings!





Comet Class



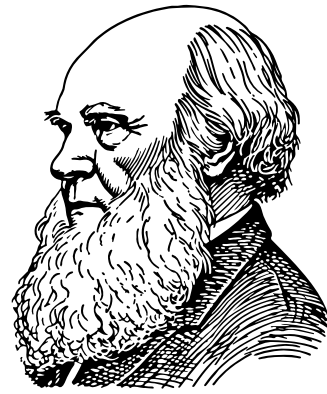
We've had such a busy and exciting week in Comet Class! The gorgeous weather has made outdoor learning even more enjoyable, and we've loved playing, socialising, and exploring outside with our friends.

One of our highlights this week has been exploring **capacity** in a hands-on and engaging way. The children have been experimenting with water, pouring it into different containers that each hold one litre. They've enjoyed comparing the **shapes** and **sizes** of the containers, discovering how differently they look even though they all hold the same amount. Other children poured enough water into the tuff spot to see if the boats would float.

While some of the children chose to play outside for Busy Learning, others in Comet Class stayed cool in the classroom, where they once again engaged their senses to **roll**, **pat**, and **mould clay**, creating a range of flat tiles and drawing **minibeasts**.

It's been a fantastic way to combine **maths**, **science**, and **sensory play**!





Hercules Class

It's been a busy and vibrant start to the term in Hercules Class. We've returned from the Easter break ready to dive into some fascinating new learning, and the sunshine has made it even better.

In **Science**, we've begun exploring **evolution** and **inheritance**. The children have been investigating variation within species, and we've introduced the work of **Charles Darwin**, sparking some great discussions about **adaptation** and **survival**.

Over in **History**, we've travelled back to the early **19th century** to learn about the **Sikh Empire**. The children are already raising thoughtful questions and making connections with what they know about other historical periods.

Year 5 pupils added a burst of colour to their week by taking part in the **Colour Run** – a fun and energetic event that left everyone smiling (and splattered with paint!). Meanwhile, our **Year 6s** have been showing real focus as they prepare for their upcoming **SATs** – we're proud of their effort and calm approach.

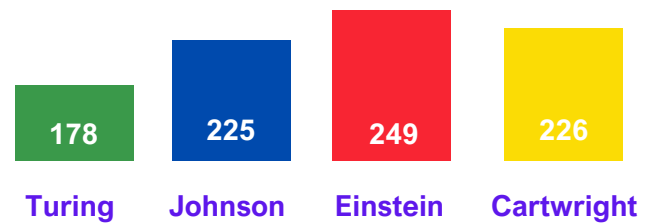
Outdoor learning has been a big part of our return, with plenty of opportunities to make the most of the spring weather while working and reflecting outside.

We're looking forward to building on this positive start over the coming weeks!





House Point Totals



News & Reminders

How does your sunflower grow?

Don't forget — our **Science Week Sunflower Growing Competition** is in full swing! We can't wait to see how your sunflowers are changing and growing.

How to enter:

Tallest Sunflower Prize: Measure your sunflower, take a clear photo showing the height, and send it in!

Best Poster Prize: Create an A3 poster showing the changes you observed, using drawings, photos, and descriptions.

All entries must be sent to enquiries@marleighprimary.org / office@fendittonprimary.org (subject: "Science") or handed to your class teacher by **3:30pm on Monday 19th May**. We can't wait to celebrate your amazing efforts!



Code Ninjas

They have a few more spaces in the coding club for children who bring their own laptop, signup via [this registration form](#).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Adira - Spitfires
Astis - Comets
Chigo - Hurricanes
Cia - Blackbirds
Gert - Hurricanes





School dinners

Don't forget to order your child's school dinners before midnight on Saturday, if you have any issues please email primary@impactfood.co.uk

Diabetes screening

The deadline to register (Tuesday, 13th May) is fast approaching, diabetes screening will happen at school on Thursday, 20th May.

Contact details and more information:

- Email: elsa@contacts.bham.ac.uk
- Phone: 0121 414 7814
- Website: <https://elsadiabetes.nhs.uk/>

More information:



Register here:



Stay connected

Keep up to date with our latest blog post and don't forget to visit and like our [Facebook page](#)!



2nd May 2025

We are thrilled to share the fantastic news that our recent Ofsted inspection has resulted in a fantastic [...]

[READ MORE](#)





Term Dates 2024/25

Spring term

Monday 6th January to Friday 4th April

Half term: Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February

Monday 24th February to Friday 4th April

Easter holidays: Monday 7 April – Friday 18th April

Summer term

Tuesday 22nd April to Wednesday 23rd July

Back to school Wednesday 23rd April

Bank holiday Monday 5th May (school closed)

Half term: Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May

Back to school Tuesday 3rd June

Last day of term 23rd July

INSET Days (closed to pupils)

Tuesday 22 April

Monday 2 June

Term Dates 2025/26

Autumn term 2025

Thursday 4th September to Friday 24th October

Half term: Monday 27th October – 3rd November

Tuesday 4th November to Friday 19th December

Christmas holidays: Monday 22nd December to Tuesday 6th Jan

Spring term 2026

Tuesday 6th January to Friday 13th February

Half Term: Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February

Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th March

Easter Holidays: Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April

Summer term 2026

Monday 13th April to Friday 22nd May

Half Term: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June to Friday 17th July

Summer Holiday: Monday 20th July onwards

INSET Days (closed to pupils)

Monday 1st September

Tuesday 2nd September

Wednesday 3rd September

Monday 3rd November

Monday 5th January

Monday 20th July



JOIN US FOR A COFFEE

AT MARLEIGH PRIMARY ACADEMY

~~THURSDAY 1ST MAY 2.30-3.15~~
THURSDAY 15TH MAY 8.45-9.45

COME AND MEET OTHER
MARLEIGH PARENTS/CARERS
RAN BY VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTED BY
MPA STAFF

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Traffic-related incidents are a significant risk for young pedestrians and cyclists, so understanding road safety is crucial for children's wellbeing. While all road users share responsibility for keeping one another safe, this guide offers strategies for empowering young people to navigate the roads confidently and responsibly.

1 TAKE PRACTICE JOURNEYS

Making 'practice' journeys with children is a great way to help them stay safe, thereby modelling responsible behaviours and having road safety conversations as they prepare to travel independently. Add hazard perception activities like spotting electric vehicles – which may have a green number plate – and point out how quiet they are. Children learn by watching others; remind them that their peers might not always be the best role models.

2 BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

Visibility is lower during darker winter days, and drivers need to take extra care to look out for pedestrians. Wearing bright and reflective clothing can help make children more visible to drivers near roads. In poor daylight conditions, encourage children to wear light, bright or fluorescent clothing. When it's dark, wear reflective clothing or materials such as a reflective armband or jacket.

3 EYES UP

Encourage children to look up and keep their eyes on the road. Teach them to constantly watch for traffic and practise double-checking the road before crossing – looking right, left and then right again.

4 LIMIT DISTRACTIONS

Where possible, devices like phones should be kept away from children while out and about near roads. If they're carrying devices, these should be put away until they've reached their destination. Children must also avoid playing with toys or being distracted by friends. If a friend wants to show them something funny on their phone, there'll be time for that once they've safely arrived.

5 SLOW DOWN

Discuss the importance of waiting instead of crossing immediately. It can be tricky to judge the speed of traffic and spot obstacles that could cause a trip or a fall. For safety, children must stop and think before they get to the kerb and should always walk – not run – when crossing the road. They should avoid crossing until they're certain they have plenty of time. Even if traffic seems a long way off, it could still be approaching very quickly.

6 STOP BEFORE THE KERB

Teach children to stop before reaching the kerb – not right at the edge of it. Halting before they get to the kerb allows them to see if anything's coming, whereas getting too close to traffic is dangerous. If there's no pavement, children should stand back from the road's edge but ensure they can still see approaching traffic.

7 CROSS SAFELY

Children should always find a safe spot to cross the road, prioritising zebra crossings or pelican crossings, footbridges and subways. Find a place where they can see traffic coming from both directions. Avoid crossing near junctions, bends in the road, or obstacles that block their view, instead moving to somewhere they can see and be seen. Remind them to use their eyes and ears together when checking the road, as sometimes they can hear traffic before they can see it. Looking and listening while crossing helps them quickly spot traffic, including cyclists and motorcyclists driving between other vehicles.

8 PARKED VEHICLES

Crossing between parked vehicles is very dangerous. Teach children to use extra caution if crossing in this way, and, ideally, avoid it altogether. They should use the outside edge of a vehicle as if it were the kerb, waiting and checking for traffic before moving. They should ensure vehicles aren't about to move, by looking for drivers in the vehicles and listening for engines running – but remember that electric vehicles may move off silently. They should always make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side, so they can reach the pavement.

9 REVERSING VEHICLES

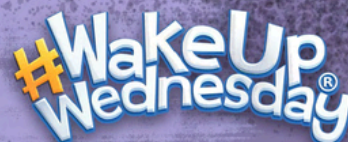
Children must never cross behind a reversing vehicle – it's extremely dangerous. Remind them to look for white reversing lights and listen out for warning sounds. Can they hear the engine sound or a radio playing inside the vehicle?

10 WAIT FOR THE BUS TO LEAVE

When getting off a bus, children must wait for it to leave before crossing so they can have a clear view of the road in both directions. This also allows them to see and be seen by other road users. Crossing near large vehicles is particularly dangerous and should be avoided.

Meet Our Expert

THINK! is a year-round national campaign that aims to encourage safe road behaviours – whether we're driving, cycling, horse riding or walking – with the aim of reducing the number of people killed and injured on the UK's roads each year. Find out more at: <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>



The National College

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sextortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

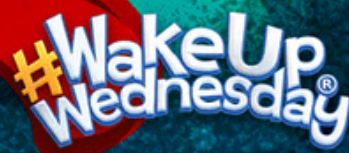
Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



The National College

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter May 2025

Hi, my name is Shelley Bari, I'm your school's link EIFA. As an EIFA I offer advice and strategies to parents and carers with a Primary School aged child that may be experiencing some challenges such as routines, sleep, sibling rivalry, challenging behaviour, worries or self-esteem. If you'd like a chance to chat about any of these topics, just contact me on the details below.

Parenting Top Tip

Internet and digital safety, as well as all things techy are a hot topic in the media and in society right now, with lots of parents worrying about keeping their children safe and mentally healthy with gadgets. We don't have to all become experts but by communicating openly with our children and knowing where to turn for up-to-date digital safety advice, we can stay on top of concerns.

1. Get curious, not combative – ask open ended questions, keep the conversation light.
2. Create a judgement free zone – be there to listen, not just lecture.
3. Decode together – ask them to explain their digital world, don't assume – just ask.
4. Teach critical thinking – help them question online content, not just follow rules.
5. Monitor without spying – make checking in on their online spaces a normal part of parenting.

Activity Idea

The summer term can be stressful, with assessments, transitions and planning for new experiences. Take time to relax and model some good stressbusters with your family.

WAYS TO RECOVER FROM STRESS by WholeHearted School Counsellors



EXERCISE
(JUST MOVE)



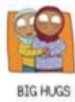
MINDFUL
BREATHING



A GOOD CRY



CREATIVE
EXPRESSION



BIG HUGS



ENOUGH SLEEP



LAUGHTER



BE IN NATURE



CONNECTION

Resources and more information

- <https://www.childnet.com/resources> - resources, including parent conversation guide.
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> - Tips for talking to children and resources for supporting technology use at all ages.
- <https://www.barnardos.ie/learning-development/training/online-safety-programme/for-parents/> - online workshops and videos.
- <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/> and <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/professionals/guidance/thinkuknow-parents-and-carers/> - Child Exploitation & Online Protection centre (CEOP). Information for young people themselves or concerned adults about keeping safe online.

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? **Pinpoint** (www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk) have lots of information, advice and tips. For **Cambridgeshire's Local Offer** go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer

Contact me directly on ☎ Tel-07721 112271 or
✉:Shelley.Bari@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



CELEBRATING

THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY
OF
VE DAY



THURSDAY 8 MAY 3:15 - 5 PM

MARLEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE,
JUBILEE SQUARE, CB5 8BX

COMPLIMENTARY FOOD,
REFRESHMENTS AND LIVE MUSIC



Greenspaces Sessions

May 2025

Everyone is welcome, all equipment is provided, and no experience needed!

Find out more and let us know you're coming at abbeypeople.org.uk/events/

Friday 2nd May

1pm - 3pm

**East Barnwell Community
Centre, CB5 8RS**

Tea Pots & Flower Pots



Wednesday 14th May

9:30am - 11:30am

Biodiversity Survey

Meet us at the end of
Rayson Way on Barnwell Road

Wednesday 7th May

9:30am - 11:30am

**Margaret Wright Community
Orchard, CB5 8LZ**

Orchard maintenance

Wednesday 21st May

9:30am - 11:30am

**East Barnwell Community
Centre, CB5 8RS**

Spring gardening



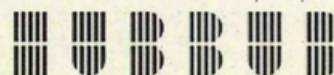
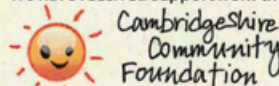
Fox Den Community Allotment Gardening

Thursdays 5pm - 7pm & Sundays 4pm - 5pm

Contact the team at
greenspaces@abbeypeople.org.uk
if you would like to get involved



We have received support from the



**RIVERCARE
BEACHCARE**

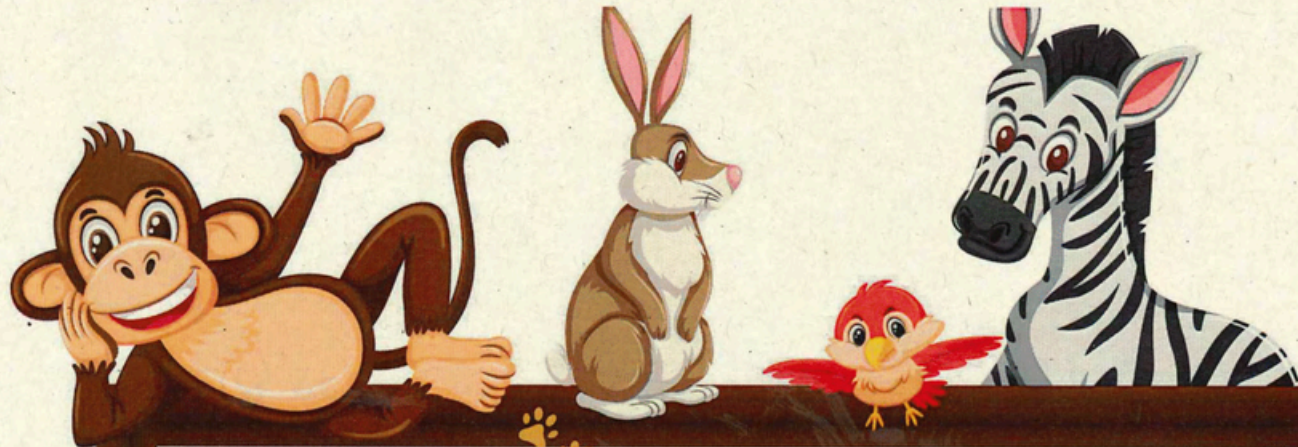


**COMMUNITY
FUND**



ABBEY PEOPLE

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY



ANIMAL MAGIC FAMILY EVENT

animal themed activities
and crafts



all children must be
accompanied by an adult

TUESDAY 27TH MAY

10.00-12.30

East Barnwell Community

Centre

Newmarket Road

CB5 8RS

booking required

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/abbey-people-cio/t-moxzrx1>



ABBHEY PEOPLE
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

 **COMMUNITY
FUND**

K H F S P
Kings Hedges Family Support Project



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Department of
Archaeology



CAMBRIDGE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

WANDLEBURY ARCHAEOLOGY OPEN DAY

Fun for all the family including:

- Excavation site tours
- Talk to archaeologists from the Department of Archaeology and the Cambridge Archaeological Unit
- Try out dressing up like an Iron Age person
- Get hands on with prehistoric pottery techniques
- And much more!



Saturday 3 May 2025

10.30am-4pm

Wandlebury Country Park

Free event, suggested
donation £3

