



4th April 2025

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Headteacher's insight

As we end a busy and productive Spring Term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on everything our children, staff, and the wider school community have achieved together. This term has been filled with remarkable progress, exciting learning experiences, and plenty of memorable moments.

Our children have demonstrated resilience and enthusiasm in the classroom, embracing the challenges of their studies with determination and a positive attitude. From engaging in creative projects to achieving outstanding results in assessments, I am proud of all their efforts and accomplishments.

A specific highlight for me has been the opportunities to have parents and carers in to school. Increasing these opportunities is a focus for us and from two STEM days to reading breakfasts on World Book Day and family workshops during Science week to Parents Evening for all children it has been a pleasure to experience these opportunities together.

As we move into the summer term, we look forward to further growth and progress. It will be an exciting time, with many events and opportunities for our children to showcase their talents and hard work. I am confident that, with the continued support of our dedicated staff, parents, and the local community, we will finish the academic year on a high note.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support and hard work throughout the term. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for an exciting and successful Summer Term on **Wednesday 23rd April**.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



News from our classrooms

Blackbirds Class

Blackbirds have enjoyed their **cooking unit** this half term. After learning about seasonal food and developing their peeling and chopping skills, this week they made their **vegetable tarts**. We had great fun tasting and comparing tarts and I hope some of you got a chance to taste them at home.





Reminders

With the weather getting warmer please remember to apply **sunscreen** to your child and provide them with a **sun hat**.



Spitfire Class

As we approach the end of term, we would like to take a moment to reflect on all the exciting and educational activities that our children have enjoyed this week. It's been a wonderful lead-up to the Easter holidays, filled with creativity, learning, and fun!

Easter-Themed Learning

This week, Nursery children have been immersing themselves in the spirit of Easter. In class, we've been exploring the meaning of Easter, listening to Easter stories, and singing Easter songs. The children have also been engaged in various Easter-themed activities, including:



Pom-Pom Easter Printing: Our little artists have been refining their fine motor skills by creating Easter prints using pom-poms. The children loved experimenting with different colours to make their designs unique!

Number Matching on Eggs: In Maths, the children have been matching numbers to Easter eggs. This fun, hands-on activity helped reinforce number recognition and counting skills in an engaging and festive way.

STEM Day: Flight Fun!

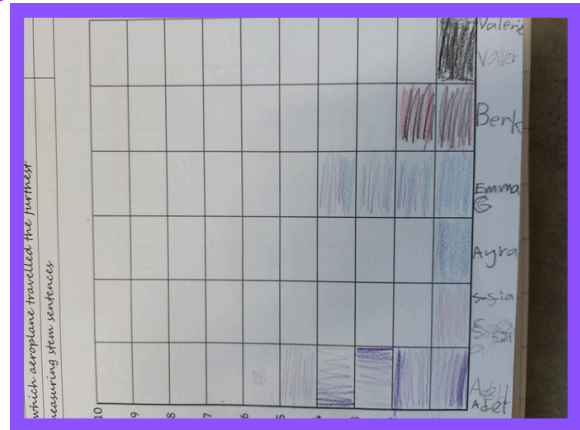
We also had a fantastic **STEM Day**, where our budding engineers and scientists explored the exciting world of flight. The children learned about the principles of flight and tested their understanding by designing and making their own **paper aeroplanes**. It was a wonderful hands-on experience that encouraged problem-solving and teamwork as they experimented with different designs to see which flew the furthest!

As we break for Easter and look time together as a family, we hope you have a wonderful and restful break, and we look forward to welcoming you back after the holidays for more exciting learning adventures.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

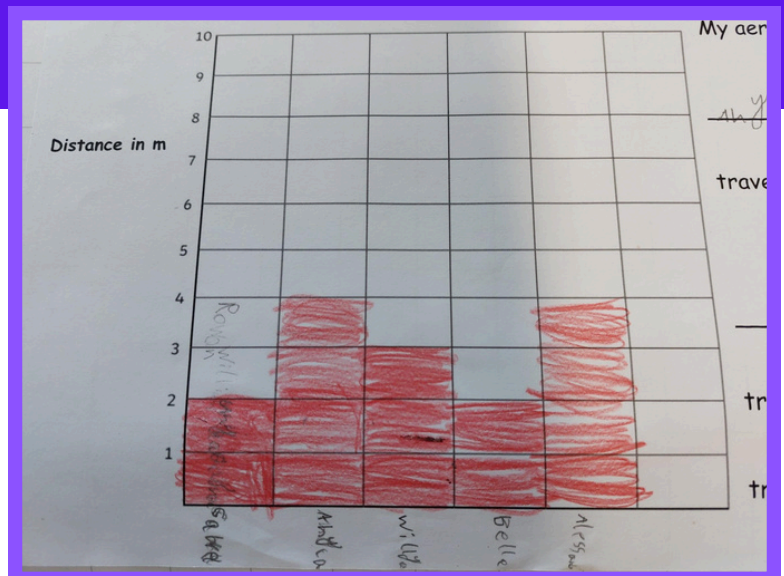


Hurricanes Class



This week, the children explored the theme of “**Similarities and Differences**” working in our **PSHE** lesson. Each child had to compare themselves with their peers, reflecting on how they are alike and different. They discussed various topics, including their hobbies, interests, and their appearance. Through this activity, the children gained a deeper understanding of how every person is **unique**, while also learning to appreciate common ground with others. They discovered that despite differences, there are always similarities to celebrate! This helped them develop **empathy**, improve their **communication** skills, and learn how to **embrace diversity**.

Our **STEM Day** on Wednesday was a huge **success**! The children had the chance to design and test their very own paper **aeroplanes**. After the initial build, they had a lot of fun flying their planes and observing how they performed, they then had the opportunity to modify their design. The children retested their designs the following day and used their maths skills to measure the distance flown in metres and create a bar graph to show the results.





House Point Totals

250

Turing

303

Johnson

304

Einstein

325

Cartwright

School Leavers Hoodies Now Available!

You can now order your **Year 6 leavers hoody**. Hoodies will be delivered to school and must be **ordered by 18th April** at the latest.



SHOP NOW



Available to Year 6 only

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sheldon - Blackbirds






Find more of her work:

 Watercolours:

<https://www.instagram.com/mp.watercolour>

 Bookbinding:

<https://www.instagram.com/theartistbookbinder>

 Website:

<https://theartistbookbinder.com/>

NEW Art Club

Art Club with the Artist Bookbinder - Creativity, Fun, and Mindfulness for kids


Starting on **Friday April 25th**, this club is a fun, creative space where children can explore their imagination and express themselves through art, using a mix of artistic techniques and eco-friendly materials.

During these art sessions, children will experiment with painting, collage, and mixed-media projects, using environmentally-friendly water-based media, and everyday materials like coffee, leaves, and paper scraps to create something truly special. No experience needed—just curiosity and a love for making!

 **Where:** MPA Primary Academy STEM Room

 **When:** 3:15-4:15pm on Fridays during term time

 **Who:** Open to primary school children of all artistic abilities

 **Price:** £115 per term (all materials provided)


◆ Spaces are limited - please contact info@theartistbookbinder.com to reserve your space

Why join this club?

 Encourages Creativity – Helps children develop original ideas and think outside the box.

 Improves Focus & Fine Motor Skills – Hands-on activities enhance coordination and patience.

 Supports Emotional Wellbeing – Art provides a safe and relaxing way to express feelings.

 Eco-Friendly Fun – We make beautiful creations using environmentally-friendly, recycled and natural materials!

Who's the Artist Bookbinder?

Mariapaola, the Artist Bookbinder, is a Cambridge-based artist and a member of the Visual Artists Association and of the Society of Bookbinders. Passionate about the healing power of creativity, she earned a certificate in Art Therapy, deepening her understanding of how artistic expression can nurture wellbeing. Her work goes beyond creating beautiful pieces—she is dedicated to providing inspiring and mindful spaces where others can explore their own creativity.



Flight STEM day

On Wednesday, we took to the skies with an exciting **STEM day** all about **Flight!** We explored the science behind aerodynamics, thrust, and air resistance through hands-on workshops designed to inspire **curiosity** and **creativity**.

We made **paper planes**, experimenting with different wing shapes to see which would fly furthest. We also investigated how some **seeds** are dispersed by using a **helicopter** like motion and watching our paper seeds twirl was a highlight of the day.

Finally, we launched our own rockets to investigate Newton's third law. We had a lot of fun racing our balloon rockets across the room.

Throughout the day, we engaged in **scientific inquiry**, **problem-solving**, and **teamwork**, making discoveries that brought the wonders of flight to life. We can't wait for our next STEM adventure!





Easter Egg Hunt

A big thank you to the PTFA and all the parents/carers for their generous donations and participation!



Director of Primary Education

As our pupils and their families get set for the Easter break, I would like to take this opportunity to share some key highlights of the work Anglian Learning has undertaken during an empowering Spring term.

I begin with a warm welcome to Clare Community Primary School, based in Clare, Suffolk, who joined Anglian Learning alongside Stour Valley Community School on 1 March 2025. One continued focus across our primary schools has been school improvement.



At the start of the Spring term, we were pleased to appoint Laura Rawlings, Deputy Director of Primary Education, who has been supporting our ongoing primary school improvement work, driven by a clear focus on progress, attainment, and targeted support.

This term, our primary school improvement work has been driven by a clear focus on progress, attainment, and targeted support. Working closely with school leaders, we have analysed data forecasts based on progress and attainment over the Autumn term. This has allowed us to reflect on trends, celebrate successes, and identify areas for further development. Alongside this, we have reviewed the excellent work that schools have undertaken towards achieving their academy improvement plan priorities, ensuring a strong alignment between strategy and impact. In addition to Trust-wide priorities, we have also worked directly with school leaders on bespoke school improvement work, providing tailored support to meet the specific needs of individual academies.

I wish all families a restful Easter break and thank you for your continued support. For more information on our Trust's activities, please visit our website www.anglianlearning.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Rachael Johnston, Director of Primary Education



FOLLOW US



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



Thank you!

Thanks to your generous donations and support, we have raised an incredible **£650** from the Easter Egg Hunt, Bake Sale, and Raffle!

We are excited to share that we can now purchase a **microphone set** for Marleigh Primary Academy!

Your support really has made a difference to our children. Microphones will give them more opportunities to be heard, perform, and grow in confidence. Thank you for working together with us to achieve this important fundraising goal.





Easter

EGG HUNT AND BAKE SALE FEEDBACK

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Easter Egg Hunt and Bake Sale yesterday. Thank you so much for supporting the event.

If you'd like to share your anonymous feedback with the PTFA, please complete this short survey:

<https://tinyurl.com/MPAEaster2025>





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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council



Residential
Services
Part of the Land Trust

Celebrate Easter at Marleigh

- Friday April 18th: Easter Trail/ Treats & Crafts 10am-4pm at the Community Centre (suitable for families)
- Saturday April 19th: Salento Community BBQ, 4pm till late (open to anyone)
- Sunday April 20th: Easter Experience - immersive, interactive story exhibition at Marleigh Primary 3:30 - 5pm (suitable for all ages)



 **Hill**
The Hill Group



Barnwell Baptist Church at
Marleigh
Loving God • Loving People



Join our WhatsApp
community



Marleigh Primary PTFA invites you to our **Annual General Meeting**

Our PTFA Annual General Meeting is just around the corner – and we'd love to see you there! It's a great chance to find out more about what the PTFA does, hear how much we've raised over the past year, and have your say by voting for our new committee members.

You don't need any experience, and there's no pressure to take on a role or be actively involved – just turning up (even to listen) helps strengthen our school community. Every parent and carer is automatically part of the PTFA, and having you there really does make a difference.

If you would like to know more about joining the committee, or would like to nominate a person for Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, or as a general committee member, please email: ptfa@marleighprimary.org

Join us on Teams

Wed 30 April

8:30pm



<https://tinyurl.com/MarleighPTFAApr2025>

Agenda includes:

- Elect the Chair
- Elect the Treasurer
- Elect the Secretary
- Elect general committee members
- Financial Report
- Upcoming events