



14 February 2025

Contents:

- Headteacher's insight - sports and curriculum overviews
- News from our classrooms
- School trips
- Celebration corner
- Upcoming events
- Reminders



Headteacher's insight

Sports

Physical activity plays such an important role in the development of both physical and mental wellbeing, and we are committed to providing a variety of experiences that allow every child to discover their passion for sport.

At **Marleigh Primary Academy**, we are pleased to offer an increasing range of sporting opportunities to our children. We are thrilled to have added after school sports clubs to offer the children, which are a fantastic way for children to stay active, build confidence, and develop new skills:

- **Morning Yoga** – A great way to start the day with relaxation and flexibility.
- **Badminton** – Fun and fast-paced sessions to improve agility and hand-eye coordination.
- **Netball** – Teamwork and communication are key in this popular club.
- **Football** – A chance for budding footballers to develop their skills, whether they're beginners or experienced players.

If your child isn't yet engaging in one of these then please do look to book them a space through My Child At School.

During lunchtime, we also have dedicated sports coaches who work with students in a structured and supportive way. These sessions offer purposeful opportunities for children to develop their skills in a range of sports, from football to athletics, and they're a wonderful way to encourage teamwork, sportsmanship, and friendly competition.

We are fortunate to have **Mr. Parker**, our **PE specialist**, who delivers engaging and high-quality PE lessons to all year groups. His expertise allows our students to gain a strong foundation in physical education, and he ensures that every lesson is both fun and challenging, catering to all levels of ability.

In addition to the great in-school activities, we have an **exciting programme of sports events** between Fen Ditton Primary and Marleigh Primary Academy. These events, which are scheduled half termly, give children the opportunity to compete and collaborate with their peers across both schools, building community spirit and showcasing their developing talents.



...continued

We are proud of the sporting culture we are nurturing at our school and look forward to continuing to provide our students with opportunities to grow, learn, and most importantly, have fun. Thank you for your continued support, and we can't wait to see what this year brings in terms of sporting achievements!

Curriculum for Science and Foundation Subjects

As you know, in January we introduced a new curriculum for all subjects other than English and Maths. We will be sharing more insight with you over the coming weeks and months so that you have a clear understanding of what your child is learning. As a first step, please click on the link below to our school website to see the units that will be taught over an academic year in each year group.

<https://marleighprimary.org/science-and-foundation-subjects/>

Our Commitment to School Trips and Experiences

We are delighted to share our renewed commitment to providing enriching **school trips** and experiences for all our pupils. We firmly believe that learning extends beyond the classroom, and well-planned trips offer invaluable opportunities for children to develop confidence, curiosity, and real-world understanding.

Whether it's an **outdoor adventure**, a **museum visit**, or a **hands-on workshop**,

these experiences inspire learning in exciting and memorable ways. To ensure every child benefits, we are introducing a commitment to offering at least one trip or special experience per term for all pupils. We recognise the importance of balancing cost with educational value, and we will continue to make thoughtful financial decisions to ensure these experiences are both impactful and affordable. To support this approach, we will share the cost per child for each trip and invite parents to contribute within a flexible range. Families will have the option to contribute an amount within a band, allowing those who can give more to help cover the overall cost and ensure all children can participate. We hope this approach will make trips accessible to everyone while ensuring we can continue to offer high-quality experiences. We look forward to seeing the excitement and learning these trips will bring and **thank you for your continued support** in making them possible!



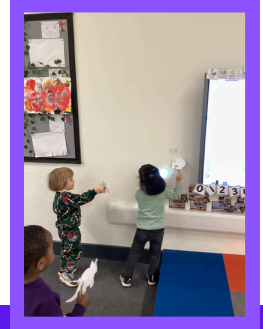
Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher





News from our classrooms

Spitfires Class



This week in Spitfires Class we have been focusing on **Shape and Position** in **Maths**. The children have been exploring different shapes and developing their positional language. It's been fantastic to see their understanding grow as they describe the position of objects using words like "**next to**," "**under**," "**behind**," and "**in front**."

In **literacy**, we've been learning all about the **Gingerbread Man** story. The children thoroughly enjoyed listening to the tale, and to bring it to life, we had fun making our own gingerbread men! It was a delightful, hands-on experience that also tied into our exploration of flour, where the children got to sieve and mark-make in the flour in the tuff spot.

We've also celebrated **Valentine's Day** this week by getting creative in our mark-making and creative areas. The children had a wonderful time crafting and using their imagination to express their **love for those around them**.

On Thursday, we had our second **STEM Day**! The children teamed up with Reception for a fun-filled day **exploring light** and conducting various experiments.

Reminders:

- Thank you to all who have given permission or signed up to Tapestry. If you haven't yet, **[please complete the form here](#)**.
- If you would like your child to receive school milk, you need to sign up for this at **[Coolmilk.com](#)**
- Our children love water play. Please send in spare clothes in their bags in case they get wet.
- Remember to book your lunches for after half term.

Have a restful break.
The EYFS Team





Blackbirds Class

We have had a fantastic couple of weeks, filled with lots of excellent learning and creativity. Our **Clip and Climb trip** was an incredible experience. The children showed great courage, supporting one another as they climbed higher and higher. It was inspiring to see them push past their fears, cheer each other on, and celebrate their achievements together. Their kindness and teamwork made the day extra special!

In **Science**, we explored **sound insulation**, investigating different materials to see how they reduce noise. The children moved around the school, searching for the quietest spots to test their theories. It was a fantastic hands-on lesson that encouraged them to think like real scientists and record their results in a table.

We've been finishing our **prehistoric painting projects**, learning all about the resources early humans used, the meanings behind their artwork, and their incredible creativity. The children have explored different painting techniques, using plenty of paint (including their own hands!) to replicate **ancient handprints** on the wall and used a variety of natural resources to help emulate the experience of prehistoric humans. The children have loved this topic and have demonstrated such creativity and understanding.

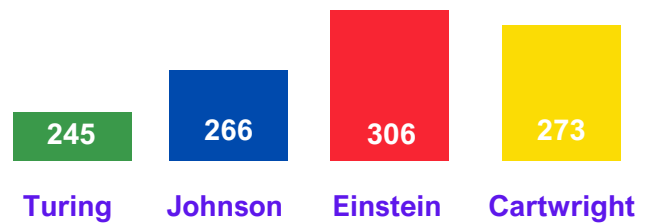
A final word from Miss Hurry.

As the half term approaches and my time in the classroom ends here, I would like to thank the support from the wonderful children and parents from year 3 and 4. It has been an absolute joy to watch the children grow in confidence, kindness, and curiosity.

To the wonderful children in Blackbirds class, keep being brilliant, brave and keep making everyone laugh! I will miss being your teacher very much and wish you all the best in the future.



House Point Totals



Can you spare some junk?

We have an upcoming **junk modelling workshop** and would appreciate your donations of any of the following clean items:

- Cardboard boxes
- Plastic bottles & caps
- Milk containers
- Egg cartons
- Yoghurt pots
- Scrap paper
- Old magazines & newspapers
- Toilet paper & kitchen towel rolls
- Fabric scraps
- Aluminium foil



Please drop your donations to the office **before 5th March**.

Thank you!

Reminders for next term

Call or email us **by 9am** if your child is absent, this saves us valuable time in the busy morning from making lots of calls.

Remember to **book your child's school dinner** or provide them with a packed lunch.

Drop off and collect your child **on time**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mr Bennett
Site Manager





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 24th 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

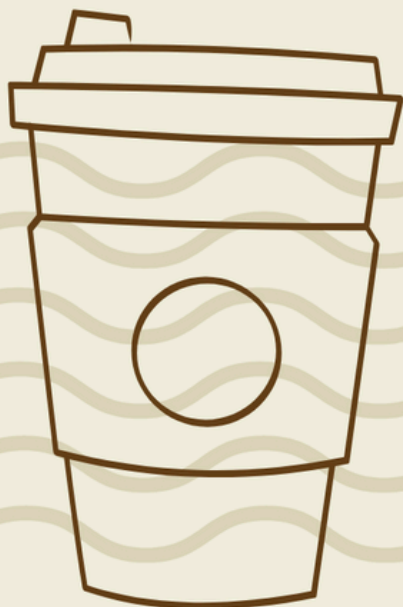
Tuesday 2nd September

Wednesday 3rd September

Monday 3rd November

Monday 5th January

Monday 20th July



COFFEE MORNING

AT MARLEIGH PRIMARY ACADEMY

9-10 AM

~~6th February~~
27th February









COME AND MEET OTHER
MARLEIGH FAMILIES
RAN BY VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTED BY
MPA STAFF

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Countywide Online Workshop Offer

The EIFA team would like to present our newly updated workshops on a variety of parenting and family issues.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry	Tuesday 25 February 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: https://shorturl.at/ab5bY or	
Supporting Your Child with Sleep	Thursday 27 February 2025, 18:00-19:00	Book onto this workshop at: https://shorturl.at/AVGr9 or	
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Anger	Tuesday 4 March 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: https://shorturl.at/aQqLk or	
Digital Safety	Thursday 13 March 2025, 18:00-19:00	Book onto this workshop at: https://shorturl.at/fY6Ch or	
Sibling Rivalry	Tuesday 18 March 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: https://shorturl.at/9PY5I or	
Understanding and Responding to Behaviours that Challenge	Thursday 27 March 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: https://shorturl.at/1wMZA or	
Family Wellbeing	Tuesday 1 April 2025, 12:00-13:00	Book onto this workshop at: https://shorturl.at/08np3 or	

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter

February 2025

Message From Me

Some wonderful signs of Spring can be seen on the way to school at the moment, including buds on trees, some early daffodils peeking through, and even the infamous snow drop! I wonder what you and your child can spot on the way to school? 😊

Activity Idea – Fizzy Lava Lamp

While we're stuck indoors due to the poor weather, this is a fun science-based activity you can try.

You will need:

-An empty jar, sunflower oil, water, food colouring, bicarbonate of soda & a torch.

Instructions:

1. Add the sunflower oil to the halfway point of the jar.
2. Add some drops of food colouring too.
3. Top up the rest of the jar with water.
4. Switch on your torch & rest it so it is shining through the jar.
5. Put in a spoonful of bicarbonate of soda and quickly screw on the lid.
6. Watch the 'lava' fizz and bubble around inside the jar.
7. Next you can try using different jar & bottle shapes as well as different food colours to create a whole set.



Parenting Top Tip - **Anxiety**

Anxiety is an unpleasant feeling of fear, panic or worry. So how can you help your child with managing their anxiety?

Worry time – Having specific time set aside to worry can help with clearing thoughts.

Worry box/monster – Use a box or toy monster to add any worries to. This is especially helpful if your child is a nighttime worrier.

Worry balloon – Blow a balloon up, put all your worries in and let it go.

Find positives – If a child worries about something try to think and find the positives.

Problem solving – Think about all the solutions to the worry and then break down the steps.

Feelings diary - Record or draw things that have worried you during the day and add at the end: "How I managed it" & "What helped me."

If you'd like more information about these ideas, keep an eye out for our Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry online workshop we run regularly.



Another Resource

Have a look at this NHS webpage which looks into understanding anxiety in further detail:

[Anxiety - Every Mind Matters - NHS](#)

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? Pinpoint (www.pinpoint-cams.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



Cambridgeshire
County Council

✉ saffron.woodbridge-pearson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Contact me directly on: