

14 March 2025

Contents:

- Headteacher's insight
- News from our classrooms
- Celebration corner
- Upcoming events
- Reminders

Headteacher's insight

This week has been full of exciting events here at school. We started the week by celebrating **International Women's Day** with a special assembly focused on the importance of gender equality. It was a wonderful opportunity for our children to reflect on how we can all contribute to a fairer world. It was very encouraging to hear how the children viewed gender equality but there is also ways we can all support and challenge barriers put in the way of any person joining in with something they choose to.

In addition, **Science Week** has kicked off and will continue into next week, providing a fantastic opportunity for our children to engage in hands-on learning and explore the wonders of science. They have benefited from live workshops (financially facilitated by our PTFA) and an engaging whole school assembly so far. We can't wait to share all the exciting discoveries with you and hope many of you can join us at the **after school workshops** next week on **Wednesday 19th**.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank you for your support for **Red Nose Day**. Today, we are supporting this charity a week early, and your generous donations through our **[JustGiving page](#)** will help raise funds for this important cause. Your kindness is truly appreciated! Please [visit our JustGiving page to make your donation](#).

Next Friday (21st) we are inviting the children to come in to school in **non uniform** in exchange for an **Easter egg or Easter hamper item donation**. These donations will create a collection of Easter hamper prizes that you will be able to buy tickets to be in for a chance of winning in our **Easter raffle**. You can make donations up until Friday 28th April by passing them to the office. Thank you in advance for your support. A special thank you to our wonderful PTFA for their support with this activity as well as the upcoming **Easter Hunt and Bake Sale** event on **Thursday 3rd April**.



...continued

Events such as these are important for our community building as well as fundraising for supporting investment in your children's school offer. Next we are looking at purchasing microphones for our performances in the hall with the financial support of the PTFA.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to the exciting activities and events coming up in the next few weeks.

Mrs Thompson



Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



News from our classrooms

Vulcan Class

This week, Vulcan Class have been busy exploring exciting topics in both **music** and **design** and **technology**!

In our music lessons, we have been learning about how songs are structured. The children listened to the song **Good King Arthur** and discovered how different sections of music come together to tell a story. Using untuned instruments, they practised playing rhythms and following a pattern, helping them understand how music is organised. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they clapped, tapped, and played along with the beat!

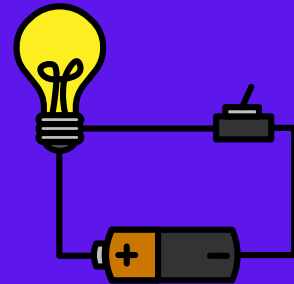
In our **DT** topic: **cooking and nutrition**, the children have been learning how to safely use different kitchen tools to prepare food. They practised **cutting**, **grating**, **snipping**, and **spreading** to create simple ingredients for a meal. Through hands-on activities, they learned which tools work best for different foods and how to handle them safely. It was fantastic to see their growing confidence and teamwork! Why not try out some food preparation skills at home!





Hercules Class

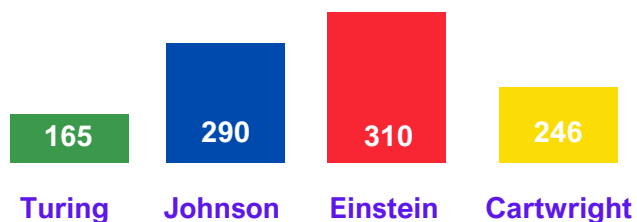
This week in Hercules class, we have been busy exploring new topics and building on our skills. In **English**, we proudly finished our setting **description writing**, showcasing our creativity and descriptive language. We also delved into **Chapter 2 of The Arrival**, discussing the story's themes and characters. In **Science**, we had an exciting time learning about **circuits, batteries, and switches**. Working in pairs, we experimented with making our own circuits using **bulbs** and **buzzers**, which brought our learning to life with some illuminating (and noisy!) results. We also took part in exciting **Science Week** activities today, including a virtual lesson and various fun tasks in class. Meanwhile, in **cookery**, we continued preparing for our spaghetti bolognese project by exploring ways to adapt the classic dish, thinking about how we can make it healthier or cater to different tastes.



In **Maths**, we've moved on to **fractions, decimals, and percentages**, sharpening our understanding of how these concepts connect. The children have shown great determination while tackling these new challenges. In **Geography**, we journeyed to the **desert**, focusing specifically on **Death Valley** and identifying the unique physical features that make deserts such fascinating environments. The children were particularly intrigued by the extreme climate and dramatic landscapes found there. We look forward to building on all of this learning next week with even more exciting activities ahead!



House Point Totals



Upcoming events and reminders

PE Days

For clarification, please find PE days for your child's class below:

Class	PE Days
Comets (Reception)	Wednesday
Hurricanes (Year 1)	Monday and Wednesday
Vulcans (Year 2)	Monday and Thursday
Blackbirds (Year 3-4)	Tuesday and Wednesday
Hercules (Year 5-6)	Monday (double PE)

Parents evening bookings

Parents evening for all children (Nursery to Year 6) is on **26th and 27th March** between **4pm-6:30pm**, bookings are live on MCAS. If you have any difficulties logging in please contact the office.

Easter raffle

Our wonderful PTFA will be holding a raffle with Easter hampers as the prizes. Please can we ask for your support with donating Easter eggs to create the hampers/bundles. If you are able to donate Easter eggs to create these prizes please pass these to the office by **Friday 28th March**. Tickets will be on sale at parents evening and at the Easter event after school on **Thursday 3rd April**. The raffle will be drawn on the last day of term. Thank you for your support.

Easter hunt and bake sale

On **Thursday 3rd April from 3:10-4pm** everyone is welcome to join us in an Easter hunt and a bake sale.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Noah G - Comets





eScooters & eBikes

The Trust has amended its H&S policy for all sites, from **1st April** eScooters and eBikes are not permitted on school grounds (including the car park) for visitors or pupils.

News

First Aid Club

Every Friday during lunchtime (term time only). Fun and educational club teaching basic first aid skills through interactive games, teamwork, and role-playing. Children will gain confidence, problem-solving skills, and a caring attitude towards others:

- ✓ The importance of staying calm in an emergency
- ✓ How to safely call for help in an emergency
- ✓ Basic first aid for minor injuries
- ✓ The importance of kindness and helping others

Starting on 14 March 2025 at the following times: KS2 - 12:10-12:30 KS1 - 12:35-12:55

Places are limited to 10 for each group. Please contact office@marleighprimary.org to sign up

Art Club coming soon Fridays after school. Watch this space!

Frog Spawn

We had an exciting arrival of some frogspawn this week! The Nursery, Reception and KS1 children were full of questions and loved hearing all about how the frogspawn will turn into frogs and how we can tell the difference between male and female frogs. Mrs Futter put the frogspawn in our school pond, so we are looking forward to visiting the pond regularly over the coming months to see them growing up!





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



Every Friday during term time

Fun and educational club teaching basic first aid skills through interactive games, teamwork, and role-playing

Children will gain confidence, problem-solving skills, and a caring attitude towards others:

- ✓ The importance of staying calm in an emergency
- ✓ How to safely call for help in an emergency
- ✓ Basic first aid for minor injuries
- ✓ The importance of kindness and helping others

Starting on 14 March 2025 at the following times:

- KS2 - 12:10-12:30
- KS1 - 12:35-12:55

Places are limited to 10 for each group. Please contact office@marleighprimary.org to sign up

Looking forward to learning and having fun together!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds



Purpose

Marleigh Primary's PTFA has two main aims:

1. **Build a thriving and supportive school community**
 - Organised events bring parents, teachers and children together
2. **Fundraise to benefit Marleigh Primary students**
 - Help decide how funds are spent on either extras or essentials

Targets for 2025

Run 1 major event per term:



Easter egg Hunt
(3rd April 2025)

Summer Fayre
(25th June 2025)



Stage



Microphones



Fund:



Classroom play equipment



Online science workshop



Free Fundraising

1. Sign up to  **easyfundraising** using this QR code:
Every time you shop online, you can raise cashback for the school.
2. Recycle used printer ink cartridges with  **Empties Please**
Simply drop them off at reception and we will do the rest.



Got ideas for fundraising, sponsorship or donations? Please get in touch!

Association contacts

Email



PTFA@marleighprimary.org

Whatsapp



Marleigh PTFA
Community

In person

Reception:

Andreea Church
Megan Manley
(Chair)
Tulika Varma

Year 1:

Keith Hatton
Jenny Richens
Annabelle Roberts
Sabia Sulthana

Our **PTFA** introduces
a new recycling scheme ...

Empties Please

Recycle ink cartridges for £££



Collect recycling
bag from reception



Fill with cartridges



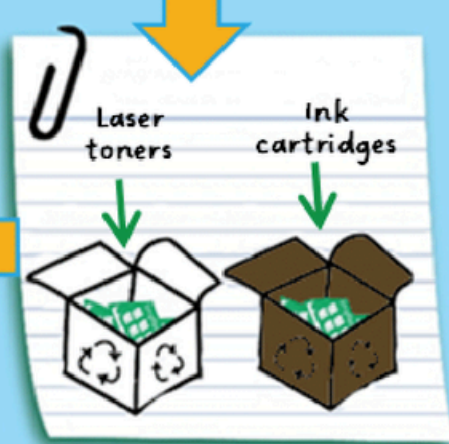
Drop off at
reception



School gets paid!



We'll do the rest!



Brown bin = ink cartridges
White bin = laser toners

See www.emptiesplease.com for accepted cartridges and toners

Extra advantage? Every £1 raised = 1 green point
Green points can be spent on bird seeds, feeders, gardening equipment etc.



Easter **RAFFLE DONATIONS**



Support the PTFA by donating prizes for our Easter Raffle. Donations (eg. nut-free foods, drinks, wellness items) will be turned into festive hampers for the raffle winners to enjoy.

Please drop off donations to the Marleigh Primary Academy office no later than 28th March.

Raffle tickets will be sold at the parents' evenings and the Easter egg hunt. Raffle winners to be announced on 4th April.





Easter

EGG HUNT AND BAKE SALE

Thursday 3 April - 3:15-4:15pm

Join the Marleigh Primary Academy PTFA for an Easter Egg Hunt!

Purchase an Easter egg hunt activity sheet for £3 to participate. Bring a pencil/pen and find hidden eggs around the school grounds. Complete the activity sheet to receive a prize.

This event will take place outside on school grounds rain or shine. Purchase your activity sheet in advance at the Parents' Evening to avoid queuing on the day. One completed activity sheet per prize.

Cash and card accepted. Cash (exact change) is preferred if purchasing the activity sheet on the day.

Cost shouldn't be a barrier to participate. Contact the school office if you need support.

Starts w/c 21st April, Finishes w/c 14th July

EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS AT YOUR SCHOOL...

Day:	Activity:	Year(s):	Time:	Price
Tuesday	Football	YR - 2	15:15 - 16:30	£5.80 per session
Thursday	Football	Y3 - 6	15:15 - 16:30	£5.80 per session



We are pleased to inform you that we will be running the above listed clubs at your school this term for boys and girls of all abilities. Full details are available on our website.

To book, please follow these simple steps:

1. visit www.premier-education.com
2. search your postcode in 'book a course'
3. select your school and click BOOK NOW
4. complete your details and receive email confirmation of your booking.

Please note booking remains open throughout the duration of the course, the price will adjust on the payment page! If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, the payment can be paid for by the school. If your family circumstances have changed since being awarded the Pupil Premium grant and you feel you could make a contribution or pay the full payment, it would be very much appreciated.

Any questions email info@premier-education.com

Premier Education is the UK's No. 1 provider of sport and physical activity to primary schools, improving children's health and wellbeing through active learning every day!



CLICK HERE TO BOOK

<https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/24339/>



nct
Nearly New



2-4 pm

Saturday 22nd March
Cambridge Regional
College

Baby & children's
clothes, toys, books &
equipment and more!



Scan me

nct
Nearly New



2-4 pm

Saturday 22nd March
Cambridge Regional
College

Baby & children's
clothes, toys, books &
equipment and more!



Scan me

Jumble Sale!



emmaus
Cambridge
working together to end homelessness



Most items under
a £1

**Saturday 15th
March
10am - 2pm**

**Barnwell Baptist
Church,
Howard Road,
Cambridge, CB5 8QS.**



Clothing, bric-a-brac & a
raffle and tombola!