



21st November 2024

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Headteacher's insight

One of the greatest joys I experience as a headteacher is guiding, observing and celebrating children's development as readers. I try to carve out time in my week to hear children read whenever I can. Whether it's the confident fluency of an older student or the proud first attempts of a younger child, there is something magical in the way words unlock entire worlds for them.

Hearing a child read is a reminder of the journey they're on—the growth in confidence, curiosity, and comprehension. It is not just about mastering words on a page, but about nurturing a lifelong love for learning and discovery. The sparkle in their eyes as they understand a new word or finish a book they've worked hard on is truly heart-warming.

As a school, we are committed to fostering this love of reading, and it is a partnership that extends into your homes. I encourage you to take a few moments each day to sit with your children as they read, share in their progress, and celebrate their achievements—no matter how small. These shared moments create lasting memories and inspire a deep connection to the joy of reading. Our significant investment this academic year in a new phonics scheme (Rocket Phonics) is having a positive impact on our youngest readers and I am very encouraged by the impact this financial investment and effort from the staff is having on our children's reading experience.

Please read the information on 'No Pens Day' at the end of this newsletter so that your child is prepared for our activities to mark this important initiative.

Thank you for your continued support in making reading an enriching part of your child's life.

Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



News from our classrooms

Spitfires



Spitfires get very excited whenever they see or hear an aeroplane flying overhead...which happens quite often here at Marleigh! This has led to the children playing with toy aeroplanes and making their own airports and runways.

We have looked at planes in non-fiction books and watched a video of real aeroplanes taking off and landing, including a Spitfire! The children have been exploring light and dark using torches, and the addition of a large white screen inspired the children to experiment with making shadows. The shadows looked really striking on the screen and we even learnt how to make the shadows bigger and smaller.

Peter the Parrot has come to visit us again and this week he has taught us the 'n' sound! The children get so excited when Peter comes out and we learn to say and hear sounds together. At story time we read a brilliant book called 'Circle' by Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen, which is about a naughty triangle that hides behind a dark waterfall, even though circle warned him not too. There has been a lot of love for this book, and it has inspired lots of discussion about shapes.





Hercules

This half term in Science Hercules class have been looking at forces, including gravity and the drag forces; air and water resistance. Last week we explored gravity and tested how objects fall to the earth with mini experiments, from practising cartwheels and handstands and observing what happens to our hair to making parachutes and testing how quickly objects fall with different weights.

This week we made paper aeroplanes and paper boats and tested them out on the playground together. We hypothesised and predicted what would happen when the aeroplane or paper plate is a different size or shape and how air or water resistance is present. We really enjoyed being hands-on and practical in our Science learning.





Vulcans

Last week in Vulcan Class was buzzing with activity! We celebrated **Michael Rosen Day**, participated in **Children in Need**, and had a delightful visit from author Keith Hatton. Keith shared his book about **Purple Panda**, which was brilliant—thank you, Keith!



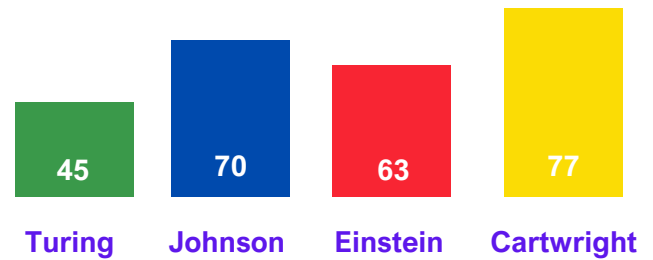
During Michael Rosen Day, we took inspiration from his wonderful book, "I Am Happy!" and had a fantastic time writing our own poems about different feelings. For instance, someone wrote, "I am so angry I could pop a balloon and dance with a raccoon!" It was lovely to witness each child's unique perspective, and the laughter we shared while reading and writing our poems.

In science, we explored the fascinating world of materials, which is Mrs McLachlan's favourite subject! We explored everyday objects and discussed the material they were made from, sorting them into categories. Our discussions included thinking about natural and man-made materials and how glass is made. Everyone enjoyed the hands-on learning experience.





House Point Totals



Fond farewells

It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to **Mrs Kouassi** and **Miss Jearally**, two invaluable members of our staff who have greatly supported our classes during their time here. Their dedication and enthusiasm have left a lasting impact on both students and colleagues alike. While we will miss their presence and contributions, we wish them all the best in their future endeavours. Thank you for everything, and good luck!

I feel very grateful for the last 2 years at Marleigh and the opportunity I had to work with all the children. Will definitely miss them.

Thank you for all your support. Mrs Kouassi

Parents evening

Parent's evening bookings are now live, please log into your My Child At School (MCAS) account to book your 10min slot. Bookings are available on **4th and 5th December between 4pm-6:30pm.**

If you have any difficulties booking please contact the office enquiries@marleighprimary.org

Spotted by staff



Ella in Hercules for writing her own Refugee poem inspired by our Michael Rosen day.

Roman in Blackbirds for his enthusiasm in maths and trying hard to use the correct mathematical vocabulary.

Mariyah in Hercules worked really hard when creating fronted adverbial sentences using different ISPACE.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Araina - Comets
Ameen - Blackbirds
Theo - Spitfires
Oscar - Spitfires
Teddy - Spitfires





December

With a fun filled run up to the end of term please see below the finer details of all events in December.

11th December - Santa STEM day - The children will enjoy a day of focused STEM activities that will challenge their minds and develop their skills. Parents are welcome to come in to class at 3pm to see and hear about the activities.

12th December - Winter Jumper Day - In support of the charity Save the Children we are inviting all children and staff to wear non uniform and a winter themed jumper on this day. We are inviting donations to this charity through our [JustGiving page](#).

16th December - Nursery Christmas Sing-a-long - Family members are welcome to join us for this fun event at 2.30pm. 2 tickets per family will be issued.

17th December - Nativity performances - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children - 9.30am and 2.30pm. Tickets will be issued to families.

18th December - Whole school trip to the Pantomime - If you have not done so please make a donation towards your child's ticket through MCAS.

18th December - Christmas Celebration Concert - All children (Reception to Year 6) will be contributing to our whole school Christmas performance at 2.30pm. We will give each family two tickets for family members to join us for this festive event.

18th December - Festive Fayre event - Our wonderful PTFA will run a fun after school event. Look out for communication from the PTFA on how you and your children can enjoy this event. It looks set to be a great community event.

19th December - Christmas lunch - All children will enjoy a festive themed lunch on this day. To take part in the cooked Christmas lunch please book this with our catering team (does this need a deadline?)

20th December - Last day of term - Christmas party - Children can come to school in non-uniform on this day and will enjoy a class party in the afternoon after morning lessons.



Upcoming Dates & Reminders

On **Wednesday 27th November** we are marking No Pens Day. Each class will be having a show and tell session so your child will need to bring in to school a small object or photo that they can talk about with their peers. Please support them by selecting a suitable item and practising what they would like to say at home. Reasons we are taking part in this initiative are below for you.



Teachers estimate that, in the UK today, 1.9 million children struggle with talking and understanding words. Without the right support, they face huge hurdles in learning, making friends and staying in good mental health. It's a chance for your child to improve their speech, language and communication skills through a day of talking and listening activities - starting with the biggest ever show and tell!

Internet use

When children access the internet at home, without close supervision, it is important to regularly remind them about the actions they should take if they come across something that makes them feel uneasy or is unexpected.

A simple three step process to reinforce with them is to 1. Stop 2. Close and 3. Tell. We encourage all families to discuss this with their children to help keep them safe online.



Stop what you are doing.
Do not click on the page
or reply to any message.



Close the laptop.
Put your phone
or tablet down.



Tell a grown-up.



Local Events




The Marleigh Angel Trail returns for a 3rd year and you are invited to join in! Angels are messengers of good news and you are invited to host one in your window in Marleigh during December.


A map will be created to help spot angels around Marleigh. Craft kits are available (this year our angels will light up!)

Let Catrin know if you'd like to participate. Let's spread some joyful good news in our community this winter time. Don't live in Marleigh? You can still join by asking for a map and spotting angels all around the estate!

catrin@barnwellbaptistchurch.org.uk



**SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD**



PAPAYA

PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A free talk/workshop with Dr Susie Davies - 26th November 7pm

Worried about your child's smartphone use?

Wondering what age to give them their first phone?

Wondering how to raise the issue with your child's school?

You're not alone - more than 1300 parents/carers have joined *Cambridgeshire Smartphone Free Childhood* with questions like this in the last 8 months.

Join us for a free event with GP and author *Dr Susie Davies* where she'll unpack some of the complex issues around smartphone use and, in a non-judgmental way, help you find solutions that work for your family.

Hosted by *Cambridgeshire Smartphone Free Childhood*, with support from the leading screen free *Heritage School*, Q&A session and information about how you can get involved - so that together we can make a difference.


WHEN: 26th November 2024

TIME: 1900-2030

WHERE: Lady Mitchell Hall, Sidgwick Ave, CB3 9DB

COST: Free - please use QR code to book a spot

BOOK YOUR SPOT



**Fen Ditton
Baby & Toddler Group**

Friday Mornings
10-11.30 am
At the Fen Ditton Village Hall
(term time only)

All welcome
Mums, dads, grandparents & carers
£2 per family group

Email: toddlers@fenditton.org
for more information





WINTER JUMPER DAY

12 DECEMBER



Donate to

♥ **SUPPORT** ♥

Save the Children