



28th February 2025

**HELLO
SPRING**

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Headteacher's insight

Welcome back to the second half of our **Spring term**! I hope you all had a restful break and are ready for an exciting and productive half term ahead. This week has provided us a positive start to the half term with the children engaging well with their learning opportunities and as a school we welcomed Ofsted in to conduct the school's first inspection since we opened. It was a forensic and fair experience and I am looking forward to sharing the outcomes with you once the report is verified. At this point, I am very happy to share that the inspectors observed the true heart of Marleigh Primary Academy and were impressed by how the school has developed such a strong offer to its pupils and families.

This half term, our key focus will be on finalising our **new curriculum information documents**. We are committed to ensuring that you have a clear understanding of what your children will be learning and how you can best support their educational journey at home. These documents will provide detailed insights into each subject area, helping to strengthen the partnership between school and home.

We are also looking forward to meeting with all parents during our upcoming **Parents' Evening** appointments (**Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th March**). These meetings are a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate their achievements, and identify next steps in their learning. We believe that open communication is crucial for children's success, and we appreciate your continued engagement and support.

In addition to our academic focus, we have several exciting events planned to inspire and engage our children:

- **World Book Day** (Thursday 6th March) – We can't wait to celebrate bedtime stories with the children coming to school in their night/lounge wear.
- **Science Week** (Monday 10th to Friday 14th March) – Our budding scientists will explore fascinating experiments and activities, fostering curiosity and a love for discovery.
- **STEM Day** (Wednesday 2nd April - note the change from 3rd April) - Our next STEM day is on the theme of flight and we are looking forward to exploring this area of knowledge with the children.



...continued

- **Sports events** (Tuesday 11th March - Year 5/6 Matball, Tuesday 18th March - Year 3/4 Active Learning, Tuesday 25th March - Year 3/4 Orienteering) - We have three sports events planned for this half term that will offer our KS2 children valuable opportunities to develop their skills and to collaborate and compete with children from other schools.
- **Easter Celebrations** (Last week of Spring term)– We'll be spreading some festive cheer with Easter egg hunts, raffles, assemblies and lessons creating joyful memories for our children and strengthening their understanding of the meaning for some of this time of year.

It promises to be a vibrant and enriching half term, filled with learning, creativity, and community spirit. As always, thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. If you have any questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Looking forward to another fantastic half term together!



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



News from our classrooms

Comets Class

We have been so proud of how well Comets Class have settled back into school this week. We have seen the children show **resilience** in their learning when **writing sentences**, and wonderful **collaboration skills** in their **independent learning**. Comets Class have shown so much kindness to each other this week that we have filled up our kindness bucket and have celebrated being **kindness superheroes**!



This week in **Literacy** we have been reading **What the Ladybird Heard** and have been creating and labelling different **maps**. The children in comets class have made treasure maps and maps of familiar places to them. Some children used chalk outside to create a large map of a farm, just like in the story we read. We have loved seeing them challenge themselves by adding labels and arrows to their maps.

With the weather being almost spring like this week Comets Class have spent lots of time outdoors. During busy learning time the children have enjoyed being imaginative in the **construction area** and have used the large resources to build their own police station (in case Hefty Hugh and Lanky Len from the story What the Ladybird Heard came to visit Comets Class!). The **mud kitchen** has also been popular this week. It has been lovely to hear the conversations between the children about what they are making, about the ingredients they need to use and to hear them working together. In **maths** this week we spent some time outside looking for things that were long and short. We then compared the things that we had found and sorted them into two different piles. The children were able to give fantastic explanations when talking about whether what they had found was long or short.



Inside this week we have been finding different way to practice weaving and threading, which has been a great way to develop our fine motor skills. This half term we will be creating our own bookmark and will have a go at sewing and so we have been practicing the skills of weaving and threading to get our fingers ready for this. We have been so impressed with how the children have preserved with this challenge and tried their best. Well done Comets Class.



Hercules Class

What a fabulous start to the new half term in Hercules Class - we've had a packed week already! The children have returned with great enthusiasm and have already begun diving into some exciting new topics across the curriculum.

In **English**, we have started exploring our new key text, **The Arrival by Shaun Tan**. This beautifully illustrated book, which tells the story of a man's journey to a strange new land, is sparking some brilliant discussions about migration, belonging, and storytelling without words. We can't wait to see how our descriptive writing develops from this thought-provoking book next week...

In **Science**, we are diving into the world of **electricity** and **circuits**. This half term, we will be investigating how circuits work, exploring conductors and insulators and even creating our own electrical projects. The children are already showing great curiosity and enthusiasm for this hands-on unit.

Meanwhile, in **Humanities**, our new Geography topic is all about **biomes** and **climate**, focusing particularly on desert life. As we explore different landscapes, climates, and the adaptations of people and animals, we will work towards answering our key enquiry question: *Would you like to live in the desert?*

It's been a brilliant first week back and we're looking forward to everything this half term has in store!

Well done, Hercules Class for all your hard work this week!





Vulcans Class

This week in English, we have been exploring some of **London's** most famous **landmarks**! We started by gathering interesting facts about Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, and the London Eye—*Did you know that Buckingham Palace has over 775 rooms?* We were all amazed.

In **Science**, we have been investigating **life cycles** and thinking about the different things we can do as we grow such as learning to walk, talk and read. We wondered: *Do our hands grow as we get older?* To find out, we measured the size of a baby's hand and an adult's hand. Then, we predicted the size of our own hands before drawing around them and measuring using cubes—what a fun way to learn! Finally, we wondered if the older you are the bigger your hands are. We found out this wasn't true as some of the members in our class have bigger hands than Mrs McLachlan!

In **PSHE**, we have been learning how to **cross the road safely**. We discovered different types of crossings (*Do you know what a Pegasus Crossing is?*) and then put our knowledge to the test outside. Some of us were pedestrians, some were cars, and some even became the traffic lights! It was a great way to practice staying safe when out and about. Well done, Year 2, for another fantastic week of learning!





Donation requests

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**.

Empty Jars

We're also asking for donations of clean large empty jars, with no labels, for our Year 5/6's cookery this half term.

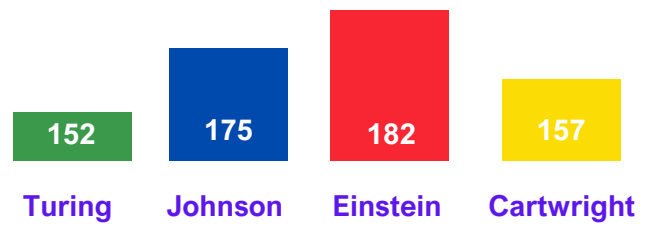
Please bring these to the office.

Thank you!





House Point Totals



Celebration corner



This week we are dedicating this section of the newsletter to share with you the exciting news that Miss James is pregnant and is looking forward to welcoming her baby to the world in the Summer term.



As a school family, we are very excited for her and we know you will want to join us in wishing her well on this adventure with her family.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Eibhlinn - Comets
Lucas - Comets



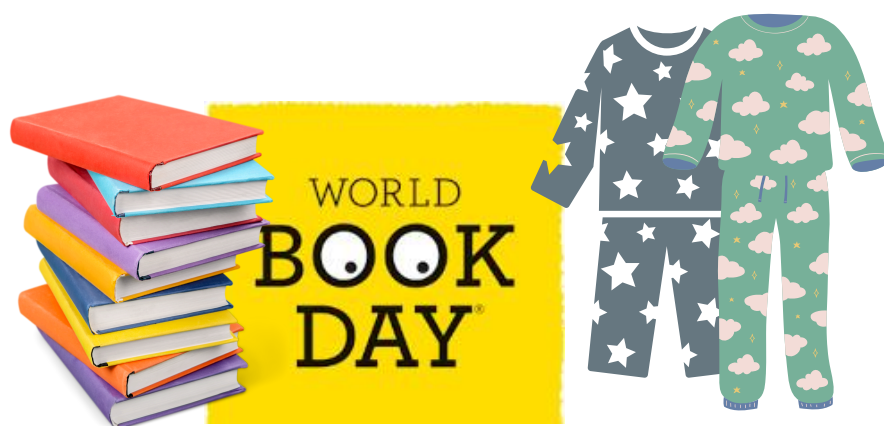
Upcoming events and reminders

We will be celebrating **World Book Day 2025** on **Thursday 6th March** by:

- Inviting the children to attend school in their Pyjamas / loungewear to celebrate the joy of bedtime stories
- Inviting parents and carers to join their child in their classroom for a **reading breakfast session 08:40-09:10**
- In class learning opportunities during the school day that celebrate and promote our love for reading
- Inviting the children to enjoy a **film night after school**. Films will be film adaptations of children's books. Entry to this event is 'paid' by bringing to school a new, or good condition, children's book to donate to our school library stock. Collection will be at 5pm.
- On Wednesday 5th March Keith Hatton, local children's author, will be visiting and leading workshops with each class

Other reminders:

Light STEM day has been moved to Wednesday 2nd April from Thursday 3rd April



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

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