



**27th June 2025**

**Contents:**

- Headteacher's insight
- News from our classrooms
- Events and reminders

## Headteacher's insight

What a fantastic week it has been at Marleigh! Yesterday's Sports Day was a wonderful celebration of teamwork, determination, and school spirit. Despite the gusty wind, the warm weather and great energy from all involved made it a truly memorable day. It was our first Sports Day with our new house system in place, which added an exciting layer of friendly competition—and I'm delighted to announce that **Einstein** were the overall winners! A huge well done to all the children for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our brilliant PTFA, who provided refreshing ice lollies and watermelon slices for the children during their break, as well as drinks and treats for our parent spectators. Your support added a special touch to the day, and we are so grateful for the time and effort you give to our school.

It was wonderful to see so many parents joining us to cheer on the children—thank you for taking the time to be part of the day. Events like this really highlight the strong community spirit we're so proud of at Marleigh, and the valuable opportunities we have to connect and celebrate together.

Alongside our sporting achievements, I've also been incredibly impressed by the amazing entries we've received for our Science Fair. The creativity, curiosity, and hard work on display are truly inspiring. I'm very much looking forward to welcoming you all to view the children's efforts after school next Friday—it's sure to be a real highlight.

Looking ahead, next week our Year 6 children will be heading off on their residential. While I'll admit I'm not particularly looking forward to the lack of sleep, I'm genuinely excited to be joining them on this special trip. It's such an important opportunity for the children to grow in independence, build lasting memories, and enjoy time together as they approach the end of their primary journey. A huge thank you to the dedicated staff who have volunteered their time to support this experience—we couldn't do it without you.

Wishing you all a restful weekend and a great week ahead.

*Mrs Thompson*

Mrs Emily Thompson  
**Executive Headteacher**





## News from our classrooms

### Blackbirds class

Blackbirds have had a very active week from the dance festival to sports day, sharing our science fair presentations to giving campaign speeches for the house Vice Captain roles. What a wide and varied list of talents the children have! Well done Blackbirds!





## Spitfires Class

This week in Nursery, we've been diving into our **Summer** topic, exploring all things beachy and oceanic! We've enjoyed reading books like Sheldon's Shell and other stories about the ocean, which have sparked lots of discussions and imagination.

We've also had a lot of fun playing circle games, including a tricky one called Pass the Sound. In this game, we take turns saying something starting with the same letter. It's been a real challenge, but we're all doing our best to think quickly!

In **Maths**, we've been learning about numbers up to 6 and practicing counting and in **Phonics**, we've been working on our letter sounds—y and ng—which has been exciting and a little tricky too!

Outside, the children have been busy in the sandpit and, while inside, we've enjoyed a rockpool in the tuff spot. We've also been exploring capacity at the water tray, learning how much different containers can hold.

In amongst all this learning, we've been talking a lot about the wonderful friendships we've made in Nursery. The children have been making friendship bracelets to share with their friends, which has been such a lovely activity.

There's also been some special preparation happening for our upcoming Graduation on **Monday 21st July at 2:30pm**. We can't wait to celebrate the children who will be leaving us and moving on to the next chapter of their journey. We hope many parents of our graduating Nursery children can join us for this special occasion!







## Hurricanes Class

In Science this week, the children became enthusiastic explorers as they investigated and compared different animal footprints. Using pictures, models, and even creating their own prints, they looked closely at shape, size, and pattern to work out which animals might have made them. There were brilliant discussions as they spotted similarities and differences, and it was wonderful to see their observation and reasoning skills shine through.

In DT, we took that same energy into designing and building windmills. Using what we've learned about structure and movement, each child has worked hard to design their own windmill model. From choosing materials to thinking about how to make it spin, there's been plenty of problem-solving and creative thinking. We can't wait to **test our windmills next week** and see how they perform.





### **School dinners**

Don't forget to order your child's school dinners before midnight on Saturday, if you have any issues please email [\*\*primary@impactfood.co.uk\*\*](mailto:primary@impactfood.co.uk)

## **Free 4D Dance club taster session**

4D Dance are a new after school club starting in October with spaces for children from 3-11yrs old. Register your child for a free taster session after school on **Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> July**

Please direct all questions to Amy at [\*\*cambridge@4d-dance.co.uk\*\*](mailto:cambridge@4d-dance.co.uk)



## **We are hiring!**

### **Part-time Caretaker wanted - join our team!**

We're seeking a dependable and proactive Caretaker to maintain our facility's safety, and functionality.

Responsibilities:

- General maintenance & repairs
- Opening, closing, and securing school premises
- Supporting a safe environment

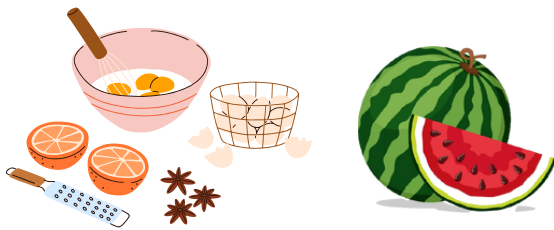
Previous experience preferred but not essential – just bring a can-do attitude!





## Thank you to the PTFA

Our amazing PTFA raised a whopping **£175.05** at the bake sale yesterday! They want to extend a huge thank you to the parents who donated bakes and an enormous watermelon!



## Arriving to school on time

We have had some queries regarding the school gate being closed at 8.50 and having to come through the office. To clarify, there is an expectation that children are sitting in their classroom ready to start their day at 8.50, meaning they should at 8.40 when the school gate is opened.

We would ask for your help in this matter by arriving at the school gate in time for 8.40. Thanks for your understanding.

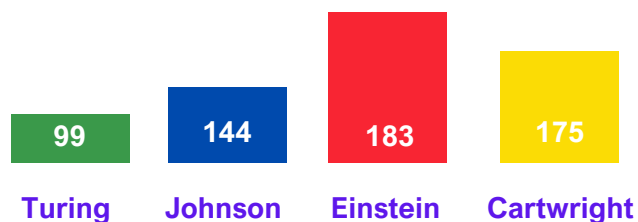
## Hall, room and pitch hire

Looking for a space to host your weekly yoga class, five-a-side football game, or community group?

We're exploring interest in regular lettings of our school facilities outside of school hours and would love to hear from you. If you're considering booking a room, hall, or pitch on a recurring basis, please let us know by completing our short [expression of interest form](#).



## House Point Totals



## Key upcoming dates

Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> June	<u>Year 6s visit their secondary school</u>
Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> July	<u>Transition morning - details to follow</u>
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	<u>Year 6 Residential Trip</u>
Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> July	<u>Science Fair</u>
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	<u>Vulcans trip to Cambridge City Centre</u>
Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> July	<u>Hercules American Football Sports Morning</u>
Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> July	<u>Year 6 Production (5:30 to visitors)</u>
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	<u>Nursery graduation 2:30pm</u>
Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	<u>Year 6 Leavers Assembly and end of year disco after school</u>
Wednesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	<u>Last day of school!</u>

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

Bella - Hurricanes  
Jasper - Vulcans  
Jaxon - Spitfires  
Zuzanna - Spitfires





## 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



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18

CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

### IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

### UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 4* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

### GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

### CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

### POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *'The Super Mario Bros. Movie'* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

### REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

### REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of *Daily Star* and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including *IGN*, *TechRadar*, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College