



23rd July 2025

Headteacher's insight

As we reach the end of a fantastic school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements, moments of growth, and shared successes we've experienced together as a school community.

This year has been full of learning, laughter, and progress. Our pupils have worked incredibly hard, showing resilience, curiosity, and kindness in everything they do. From academic milestones to sporting achievements, creative performances, and community events, they have made us all immensely proud. I would like to thank our dedicated staff for their unwavering commitment and care, and our families for the support and encouragement you continue to give. It truly takes a whole community to nurture young minds, and your partnership makes a real difference.

A special thank you to our Governors who volunteered their time this year to provide invaluable leadership to our schools. Their support and challenge has made positive contributions to our journeys and we are fortunate to have a dedicated group of governors who I feel confident will continue to propel us forwards, enabling us to be the best we can be for your children.

Our PTFA have been wonderful this year and I am grateful for their time and effort in giving your children great, fun events over the academic year. We finished on a high note with the disco as that was very popular but we also thank them for every event they have provided for our school community. We can't wait for the children to enjoy the new playground surface and then new markings which the PTFA are funding.

We have enjoyed our end of primary school celebrations with Year 6 and we are confident they are ready for the transition to Secondary School and have the knowledge, values and skills to take them far. Good luck Year 6 - do yourselves proud!

As we look ahead to a well-deserved summer break, I hope everyone finds time to rest, recharge, and enjoy time together. We are already excited about the year ahead and all that it will bring.

A reminder that children return to school on **Thursday 4th September**. Please see below for important dates and information for the new academic year.

Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher





From our Governors

As we reach the close of another academic year, as a Local Governing Body, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments and growth across our school community.

Marleigh Primary Academy received its first Ofsted inspection this year and we are proud to have received a "Good" rating in all areas. This reflects the dedication of the staff, the commitment of our families, and the enthusiasm of all the pupils.

Progress has been particularly remarkable this last term. Both schools have seen continued growth in community engagement, stability, and curriculum development, all of which contributed to an inspiring and supportive environment for learning.

Our Sports Days were a joyful celebration of teamwork, effort, and school spirit, made even more special by the wonderful turnout and encouraging feedback from families. Fen Ditton's Summer Fayre was another highlight, with contributions from both school communities.

Ultimately as governors, across the board, we have been reflecting on a year of hugely positive progress, a thriving community, and tireless efforts from all involved to give pupils the best possible school experience. We would like to particularly congratulate pupils for their amazing progress in writing this year, which has been clear to see.

On behalf of the Local Governing Body, we would like to express our heartfelt thank you to the Executive Headteacher Mrs Thompson, who not only led a very successful first Ofsted review, but continued to guide, inspire and support the Fen Ditton and Marleigh teams. When you see staff at the school gates, please do pass on any thanks you may have of your own. It's a wonderful team which has really gone above and beyond this year, and it is so clear to see how much they care about making our schools a better place.

Last, but by no means least, we'd like to thank every parent and pupil for your part in our this community. The school wouldn't exist without you! This has been a year where the staff leadership structure, and the structure of the governing body, have all changed quite significantly – however the enthusiasm and grace shown to our staff have been a big factor in making that possible. Thank you to you all.

Wishing you all a restful, happy, and sunshine-filled summer holiday!

Best regards,

Xav Castellino and Dom Vicinanza (Co-Chairs of Governors)





From our Family Support Worker

The summer holidays are here...with 6 weeks to fill and the possibility of a bit of rain, we have compiled some advice and a list of free/low-cost things to do to keep you and your child/ren busy, and have thrown in some indoor options too! Also attached to this email are some local events running throughout the summer.

Top Tips

- Keep bedtimes consistent (obviously there may be a few exceptions here and there if you are going away on holiday or day trips)
- To give some structure, pop a piece of paper up on the fridge with a weekly “timetable” outlining what is happening that day. Aim to put something in each day, even if it is simply “go for a walk”.
- If routines are lost, mealtimes might get muddled too, try to stick to regular meals and drinks as hunger and dehydration can cause challenging behaviours.
- Create a “boredom jar” with some simple low or no-prep activities written on lollypop sticks or bits of paper for your child to choose from when they run out of ideas. You could use some of the ideas shown below and add your own.
- For a lower cost treat, check out which restaurants/supermarkets are doing “kids eat free” or similar offers [here](#).

Games

Most of these games mean you get to lay down whilst your child/ren play – bonus!

- Lay down on your stomach and have your child draw pictures, letters or numbers (depending on their age) on your back. You then have to guess what they’re drawing or writing
- Pretend to be a baby or poorly patient and get your child to “look after” you
- Go outside and lay on your back with your child and share ideas about what the different clouds look like
- Hide an object in the room and then give your child clues as to where it is hidden whilst sitting down, or say “warmer” and “colder” as they get closer and further away from the object.
- Create a scavenger hunt round your house or garden, using picture clues for younger children and written clues or riddles for the older ones.
- Dig out board games or create new ones with your children



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Activities

Set up your own summer camp at home, with this guide full of science, art and physical activities that can be adapted for children from 2-12 years.

If you have access to a garden, the WWT has some lovely low-cost activity ideas to get children outside and enjoying nature.

Swimming – The Abbey Pool has discounted "pay and play" rates for regular swimmers and children can swim for £1 at certain times.

Find your local park and take a picnic for hours of fun - classics like i-spy, Stuck in the Mud and Simon Says work brilliantly when the fun of the swings and slides has worn off!

Younger children will love simply taking a short bus or train ride – Under 4's travel free, and under 15's have a discounted rate.

Cooking and baking

Reading – create a cosy den, maybe adding some fairy lights and snacks and read with your child or make up stories.

Painting, drawing and colouring are all great low-cost activities. No paints at home? No problem - children can make their own paint with mud and water from the garden or park, using a stick as a paint brush and the ground or a tree trunk as their canvas! You can also give children water and a paint brush and they can "paint" anything out in the garden.

Places to go

Cherry Hinton Hall Park – A paddling pool, play park and plenty of green open space. Car parking prices apply

Milton Country Park – Car parking prices apply

Cambridge Central Library – Choose from a huge array of magazines, books, audiobooks and E-books. It's free to become a member.

Visit one of Cambridge's many museums – Entry is free for most, and many are hosting Summer events and activities for children.

Shuttleworth Collection – there is a cost to enter the museum, however there are picnic benches and a park which are free to use, and you can see planes flying overhead on practice days.



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Support for change

Many children may begin to worry about going back to school after such a long break, especially when it involves a new classroom and teacher.

- Book a virtual “drop-in” ran by the local Education Inclusion Family Advisors (EIFAs) to chat about helping your child with transitions (or even sleep, sibling rivalry or more). Further details are in the leaflet attached to this email.
- Take time to chat with your child/ren about starting back at school. Listen to any worries and try not to be tempted to solve them straight away or try to minimise them.
- Ask your child if there is anything they can think of that would make going back easier.
- Speak about school in a positive way around them.
- Make a “back to school” countdown calendar, so it’s viewed as a positive thing. Each day could have a small treat or activity. [This example](#) shows 24, but you could do fewer days if you can’t think of 24 ideas!
- Create a “goodbye” ritual that you can do at school drop-off – a goodbye hug, a secret handshake or silly phrase you say to each other.

Further Support

We know life can throw challenges at you at any time of the year. During the Summer break, you can contact Mrs Thompson ethompson@anglianlearning.org for safeguarding concerns or queries , but should you need some more general support, please visit [How Are You Cambridge? \(H.A.Y\)](#) for details of a wide range of local support services. [Place2Be](#) also offer tips on how to navigate common parenting challenges.

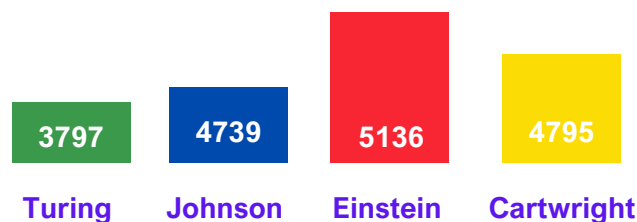
Moving On Up

For those who have children moving up to Secondary School in September, it can feel like a daunting time. Young Minds have some brilliant resources for parents/carers looking to support their child through this transition and make it as smooth and successful as possible. Please click on the following links for more information.

[How Parents Can Help With Secondary School Transition](#) | [YoungMinds](#)



Year End House Point Totals



Change to drop off and pick up from September

From September, we will be opening the gate nearest the park and ride as normal and then in addition we will be opening the doors nearest the office to allow children to enter and exit from two points at drop off and pick up to support the management of foot traffic. Children will continue to be dismissed from their classroom doors unless we have written permission that they can travel home independently.

We would suggest that the youngest children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) come through the gate by the Park and Ride and the older children come through the office gate entrance but this isn't fixed and we are happy for either entrance to be used by families.

Uniform

Thanks to our PTFA we have a rail of good quality second hand uniform for sale – just ask the office in Sep.

Jubilee Square

The flower beds on Jubilee Square have suffered damage in recent weeks, please remind children the plants are to be admired but not cycled through or pulled up as the cost to replace them falls to residents.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Eloise - Blackbirds
Kaival - Blackbirds
Gabriel - Hercules
Angus - Hercules
Darcy - Spitfires
Leonardo - Blackbirds





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

Key Dates for Autumn 2025

Thu 4th Sep	All children Year 1 to Year 6 return to school
Tue 9th Sep	Meet the teacher event at school - Session 1: 3:15-3:35pm, Session 2 (a repeat of session 1) 3:40-4pm
Wed 17th Sep	Year 5 swimming lesson 1 of 12 weekly lessons
Wed 17th Sep	Year 5 and 6 Football experience - all children, during the school day
Wed 24th Sep	Year 5 and 6 Football tournament - up to 16 children will be invited to attend - during school day
Fri 26th Sep	Macmillan Coffee Morning - Cake sale in school, families invited to make a donation through our JustGiving page and the children will enjoy the cakes!
Wed 1st to Wed 8th Oct	Book Fair in school - Families invited to buy books from the fair as gifts or for own children to enjoy and in turn we generate credit to purchase new books for our library.
Wed 8th Oct	Year 3 and 4 Sporting experience - all children, during school day
Mon 13th and Tue 14th Oct	Harvest - Donations for local food hub to be brought in to school
Wed 15th Oct	KS2 Cross Country tournament - 24 children will be invited to attend - during the school day
Tue 21st Oct	School Photos (individual photos) all school
Tue 21st Oct	Nursery stay and play session - all parents and carers welcome straight after drop off AM or PM
Wed 22nd Oct	Year 1 and 2 sporting experience - all children, during school day
Thu 23rd Oct	STEM day
Thu 23rd Oct	Parent Workshop - Children being active online- 5pm at Marleigh - open to all Fen Ditton and Marleigh parents, carers and friends, run by an external provider Eduthing and funded by the PTFA
Fri 24th Oct	Parent Workshop - Children being active online- 9am at Fen Ditton - open to all Fen Ditton and Marleigh parents, carers and friends, run by an external provider Eduthing and funded by the PTFA
Fri 24th Oct	Last day of Autumn 1 half term
Mon 27th Oct to Mon 3rd Nov	Half term holiday - PTFA Halloween trail

Key Dates for Autumn 2025


Tue 4th Nov	First day of Autumn 2 for all children
Wed 5th Nov	Year 5 and 6 sporting experience - all children, during school day
Mon 10th to Fri 14th Nov	EYFS National Nursery Rhyme week
Tue 11th Nov	Remembrance Day - all children invite to wear a poppy if they wish to
Wed 12th Nov	Badgers Year 6 class assembly - all parents and carers welcome 9:05-9:20
Wed 12th Nov	Panathlon sports festival - 12 children will be invited to attend - during the school day
Wed 12th Nov	Butterflies Year R Stay and Play - all parents and carers welcome straight after morning drop off 8:50-9:30am
Wed 19th Nov	Owls Year 4/5 class assembly - all parents and carers welcome 9:05-9:20
Wed 19th Nov	Year 3 and 4 sporting experience - all children during school day
Wed 26th Nov	Squirrels Year 3/4 class assembly - all parents and carers welcome 9:05-9:20
Wed 26th Nov	Butterflies Reception sporting experience - all children, during school day
Wed 3rd Dec	Yoga festival - 12 Year 3 and 4 children will be invited to attend - during school day
Thu 4th Dec	PTFA Festive Fayre - 3:30-5pm - all parents, carers and family welcome
Mon 8th Dec	Butterflies Reception Nativity - all parents and carers welcome 2:15
Wed 10th Dec	Year 5 and 6 sporting experience - all children, during school day
Thu 11th Dec	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Concert - all parents and carers welcome 2:15pm
Fri 12th Dec	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Concert - all parents and carers welcome 9:15pm

Key Dates for Autumn 2025

Fri 12th Dec	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day - All children invited to attend school wearing non uniform that includes a Christmas or Winter jumper - Families invited to make a donation through our JustGiving page
Mon 15th Dec	KS2 (Year 3,4,5 and 6) Church carol concert - all parents and carers welcome 2pm
Wed 17th Dec	Nursery Christmas sing a long with parents and carers 2:30pm
Wed 17th Dec	Year 3 and 4 sporting experience - all children, during school day
Thu 18th Dec	Christmas sing a long with parents and carers 3pm
Fri 19th Dec	Last day of Autumn 2 half term

EYFS SUMMER CHALLENGE

STEM:

- 
1. **Learn to count to 20** and challenge yourself to count in 2s!
 2. Go on a **summer bug hunt** - *what insects can you spot?*
 3. **Water challenge** - *test what sinks or floats in your sink or paddling pool!*
 4. **Shadow drawing:** *take some of your toys outside and see which ones have fun shadows to draw around!*
 5. **Flower painting** - *use some flowers or leaves to try painting fun patterns.*



READING:



Take on a **summer reading challenge!**

How many books can you read?

Bronze - 5 books

Silver - 6-10 books

Gold - 11+ books!

These could be any books - from picture books to longer books you read with your family!



Summer writing challenge:

1. **Practise your letter formation** - can you form the letters of the alphabet?
2. **Make a card** for your new teacher!
3. **Keep a summer holiday diary:** *jot down all of the things you get up to this summer holiday. You can even add photographs or lovely drawings too!*

WRITING:

KS1 SUMMER CHALLENGE

STEM:

1. Log the minutes spent practising on **Numbots or TTRockstars!**
2. Go on a *shape safari!* Look for **shapes** in nature and your local area
3. Make a **weather diary** for a week - use drawing, symbols or words.
4. Go on a **summer bug hunt!** Spot the different insects around this time of year
5. **Design your own kite!** *Challenge: could you build one?*



READING:

Take on a **summer reading challenge!**

How many books can you read?

Bronze - 5 books

Silver - 10 books

Gold - 15+ books!



These could be any books - from picture books to longer chapter books you read with your family!

Record and rate them out of five stars!



WRITING:

Summer writing challenge:

1. **Write a letter to your new teacher:** *what things do you want them to know about you?*
2. **Keep a summer holiday diary:** *recount and write about all of the things you get up to this summer holiday. You can even add pictures too!*



LKS2 SUMMER CHALLENGE

STEM:

1. Log the minutes spent on **TTRS** practising those all-important **times tables**!
2. Design your own **water park** - challenge: *could you build a mini version?*
3. Design and **build a kite** - fly it in your local park and see how high it goes!
4. Go on Scratch Jnr and create an exciting **summer-inspired mini game**!
5. Make your very own **marble run** and test its ability! *Record your results.*



READING:

Take on a **summer reading challenge**!

How many books can you read?



Bronze - 5 books

Silver - 10 books

Gold - 15+ books!

These could be any books - from picture books to longer chapter books! Record and rate them out of five stars!



WRITING:

We have been selected to take part in the **Summer Book Writing Festival 2025** - the world's largest free summer writing programme organised by BriBooks.

What's in store?

- The chance to write and publish your very own book.
- A Certificate of Participation for every published author.
- Free access to an expert-led masterclass on the A to Z of book writing!

Scan the QR code or register [here](#)!



UKS2 SUMMER CHALLENGE

STEM:

1. Logging the minutes spent on **TTRockstars!**
2. Design your own **water park** - challenge: *can you build a mini model?*
3. Design and **build a kite** and fly it in your local area!
4. Make your own **stop motion animation**
5. Bake or create your own **summer-inspired dessert** - *use measuring skills and experiment with new flavours!*



READING: Summer Reading challenge:

1. Record your reading over the holidays - *log and tally up how many pages you've read!*
2. **Bronze, Silver, Gold** levels based on the amount you have read:

Bronze - 5-10 books or 250 pages

Silver - 11-15 books or 400 pages

Gold - 16-20+ books! or 500 pages!

3. Rate Summer reads out of **5 stars!**



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