



12 Sep 2025

Headteacher's insight

We've reached the end of our first full week of the new academic year, and what a fantastic start it has been! The children have settled back into school life beautifully, and it's been wonderful to see our curriculum in full swing across all year groups. To read about the curriculum your child will be experiencing this year, please refer to last week's communication or visit our [school website](#) where you will find the curriculum mapped out per year group.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions earlier this week. It was lovely to welcome so many of you into school, and I truly appreciate your feedback about how valuable it was to meet your child's teacher and see their classroom environment. We know how important those connections are, and we're glad the sessions were helpful.

Below, you'll find updates from each class, sharing some of the exciting learning that's been happening. I hope you enjoy reading about what the children have been up to! From next week, we will move back to fortnightly class updates, so you can continue to stay informed and celebrate your child's progress.

We are pleased to share with you our new approach to home learning starting from next week. We are looking forward to celebrating the creative efforts of the children as they complete their challenges which will enable them to revise their learning and apply their knowledge in to different contexts. The children can complete their challenges in any order over the half term and can choose to complete one a week or to take longer for some challenges if their project approach requires a longer period of time.

Next week, our sporting programme begins with our Year 6 children from both schools experiencing an afternoon of sport together which will focus on football. Our Year 5 children start their swimming lessons next Wednesday and we are looking forward to guiding them through the 12 weeks of opportunity to develop this crucial life skill.



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Finally, a special mention to our Reception children in our Butterfly classes, who have now completed their very first full week of 'big school' with us. We are incredibly proud of how well they've adapted to their new routines and embraced school life with such enthusiasm. What wonderful additions to our school family they are!

Wishing you all a restful weekend.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



News from our classrooms

Caterpillars Class

Our Nursery children are settling in beautifully, with returning friends helping new faces feel right at home. We've been focusing on our Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) skills as we explore our classroom and learn how to care for it—especially tidying and showing respect for others and our space.

Our classroom teddy has been choosing different areas to visit each day, sparking lovely conversations about how we behave in each space and what the expectations are. It's been heartwarming to hear last year's children confidently share our class rules and routines. We're off to a fantastic start!





Butterflies Class

The children have had a wonderful first week in Butterflies Class, settling into their new school with great enthusiasm. We have been learning the classroom rules and routines and have enjoyed exploring both the indoor and outdoor environment. It has been lovely to see the children beginning to make new friends and show such kindness towards one another.

During our carpet sessions, we have been singing lots of counting songs and developing our listening skills through fun games. The children have also drawn some beautiful pictures of their families, which are now proudly displayed in our classroom. This has been a lovely way for them to share something special about themselves with their new friends.

We have also been busy with activities linked to the story of The Three Little Pigs. The children have listened carefully to the tale, retold parts of it in their own words, and even had a go at building their own houses using different materials. This helped us think about problem solving, teamwork, and using our imagination.

It has been a busy but exciting start, and we are so proud of how confidently the children have begun their learning journey in Reception. We are looking forward to more adventures together in the coming weeks!





Ladybirds Class

This week in Ladybird Class, we have made a fantastic start to the new school year. In **maths**, we began learning about place value and exploring numbers, while in **English** we have been inspired by the story **Cave Baby** to help us with our writing. In history, we started to learn about timelines by thinking about the events in our own lives. We are already working hard, learning lots, and enjoying being part of Ladybird Class!



Dragonflies Class

Dragonfly Class have made a great start to Year 2. In **English**, we have begun our work on The Colour Monster, which is helping us to think about different feelings at the start of a new school year.

In **History**, we have been learning about how schools have changed over time and comparing them to our own experiences today. It has been a positive start to the year, and we are looking forward to the term ahead.





Squirrels Class

We've had a positive and busy first full week back in Year 3/4 Squirrels! It's been great to see the children settling into the class and already being familiar with the school routine! We have spent time setting goals and discussing expectations, as well as starting new topics. In **maths** we have begun a unit on **place value**, and the children are already becoming more confident with understanding and representing 3-digit numbers.

In **English** we have spent time recapping key writing skills such as punctuation, word classes and sentence types in preparation for starting our poetry writing unit next week. Our classroom has been filled with energy and enthusiasm, and it has been lovely getting to know the children and taking time to lay the foundations for a positive and productive year ahead. Thank you for your support towards a successful start to the term.

Miss Maxwell

Owls Class

Owls class has been immersing into our book '**Who Let the Gods Out**' through acting!

There has been amazing voice changes and even emotive actions. We possibly have some future actors and actresses in the future...





Badgers Class

What a busy and exciting week we've had in Badgers! In **English**, we've been inspired by the beautiful words and illustrations in *The Lost Words* by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris. We've explored how nature can come alive through poetry and have begun experimenting with our own descriptive language.

In **Guided Reading**, we've been absolutely captivated by *Skellig* - so much so that it has become our end-of-day Reading for Pleasure book. The whole class is gripped, and we can't wait to uncover more of the mystery as the story unfolds! In **Maths**, we've challenged ourselves with place value, learning how to read and write numbers up to 10,000,000. It's been tricky at times, but Badgers have shown brilliant perseverance and accuracy.

In **History**, we stepped back in time to the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. Working in small groups, we created timelines of key events and discussed how these two groups helped shape Britain. In **Computing** with Mrs Nicholls, the classroom was filled with laughter as we explored Scratch to create music. There were some very unusual (and very funny!) sound effects echoing through Year 6! It's been a week full of creativity, curiosity, and collaboration - well done, Badgers!





NEW!

Home Learning - Autumn term update

This year, we're excited to launch a refreshed approach to home learning that encourages creativity, independence, and deeper engagement with the curriculum.

Each half term, children will receive a **Home Learning Menu** – a selection of open-ended tasks linked to their current learning in school. These tasks are designed to be flexible and creative, allowing children to respond in a way that suits their interests and strengths. They may choose to create models, write stories, produce artwork, or carry out research – the possibilities are wide-ranging and purposeful.

The aim is to develop key skills such as **self-study, time management, and presentation of knowledge**, while also making home learning enjoyable and meaningful.

Children can choose the order in which they complete the tasks over the half term. The menu for this half term is:

- **Stuck into your child's Home Learning Book**, which will come home on **Monday**
- **Available on the school website** under Parents > [Home Learning](#)

In addition to the creative tasks, we have clear expectations for English and Maths home learning across the school. Please see the table on the next page for guidance:



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Year Group	Time Spent	Activity
Nursery	Daily	Read to your child in any language
	Fortnightly	'Tapestry Challenges' – ideas to try at home and share via photos/comments
Reception & Year 1 (Autumn Term)	5 × 5 mins	Reading
	15 mins	Spelling/Phonics – common exception words and phonics sounds
Year 1 (Spring/Summer) & Year 2	5 × 10 mins	Reading
	20 mins	Spelling/Phonics
	20 mins	Maths activities including games
Years 3 & 4	5 × 15 mins	Reading
	15 mins	Spelling
	30 mins	Times tables
	Weekly	One additional piece of work
Years 5 & 6	5 × 15 mins	Reading
	20 mins	Spelling
	30 mins	Maths
	Weekly	One additional piece of work

Please note that our spelling scheme for home learning will be launched in Autumn 2. We hope this approach will inspire children to take ownership of their learning and enjoy the process of exploring and creating. If you have any questions or need support with home learning, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.



Friday Celebration Assemblies – Sharing Achievements from Home

We are excited to let you know that during our **Friday Celebration Assemblies** each week, children will now have the opportunity to share achievements from outside of school. These could include swimming badges, Guiding and Scouting milestones, sporting successes, music certificates, or any other personal accomplishments they are proud of.

We warmly encourage families to help their child come prepared on a Friday to speak briefly about their achievement in assembly, so that we can all celebrate their success together. If your child has a certificate, badge, or award to show, they are very welcome to bring it in – but this is not essential. We look forward to celebrating the wonderful achievements of our pupils both in and out of school!

Can you spare an hour to help us grow a love of reading?

We are inviting parents, carers, and family members to volunteer their time to support our children with reading. Starting **next Friday**, and continuing **weekly during term time**, we will be running a **Reading Volunteer Hour** from **9:00–10:00am**.

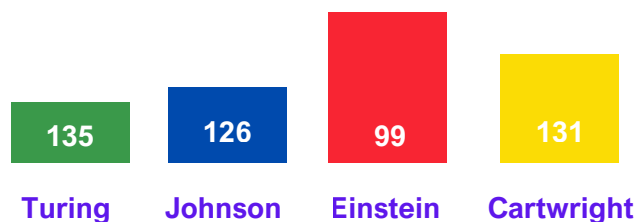
Reading is at the heart of everything we do, and having more adults available to hear children read makes a real difference to their confidence, fluency, and enjoyment.

- No need to book in advance – just turn up on the day if you're free.
- A member of staff will supervise the group of volunteers, so no DBS check is required.
- Whether you can come every week or just occasionally, your time and support will be very much appreciated.

We hope to see many of you there – thank you for helping us nurture a love of reading in our school community!



House Point Totals



Drop off and pick up

We open both gates (nearest the park and ride and those 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.

Stay Connected with Us on Facebook!

We love sharing the wonderful moments, achievements, and updates from across our school community—and our Facebook page is the perfect place to stay in the loop!

By following us on Facebook, you'll get:

- 📷 Photos and highlights from school events
- 🏆 Celebrations of pupil achievements
- 📅 Reminders about upcoming dates and activities
- 💬 Opportunities to engage and share your thoughts

Help us spread the positivity!

If you see a post you enjoy, please give it a like, leave a comment, or share it with friends and family. Every interaction helps us celebrate our pupils and showcase the fantastic things happening in our school.

👉 Follow us today and be part of our growing online community!

🔗 <https://www.facebook.com/MarleighPA/>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Arianna- Badgers
Ayra- Dragonflies
Gabriel - Hercules
Atilla- Butterflies
Hubert - Owls
Peter - Caterpillars





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 2025/26

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