



19 Sep 2025

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Headteacher's insight

As the crisp Autumnal air begins to settle in, the leaves start to turn and the wind and rain appear more frequently, it's been wonderful to see our school community embracing the new season with energy and enthusiasm despite the drop in temperature.

This week marked the exciting start of our sporting programme, with Year 6 pupils from both Fen Ditton and Marleigh coming together for a fantastic afternoon of sport. It was a brilliant opportunity for the children to develop not only their sporting skills, but also teamwork, communication, and resilience – all key attributes we value highly. We are looking forward to a year packed of sporting opportunities for children across the school.

Year 5 also began their 12-week swimming programme this week, and we were incredibly pleased to see how enthusiastically the children embraced this exciting unit of learning from our curriculum. Swimming with your school friends adds another layer of excitement to an already unique school experience. We are keen to celebrate the progress the children make with this important life skill over the term.

When visiting classrooms this week, I have been impressed by the children's focus and determination in their lessons. They have embraced the challenges set for them with maturity and confidence, drawing on the message from Miss Dennett-Jones' assembly earlier in the week: that challenge is a vital part of the learning process and essential for progress. Facing learning challenges takes resilience and this is a skill that can be tricky to develop so it is encouraging to see our children making progress with this.

We also launched our Home Learning Task Menus this week, and we're very much looking forward to seeing the creative responses from our children. These tasks are designed to inspire curiosity and encourage children to challenge themselves in new and exciting ways.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another week of learning, growth, and shared success.

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher





News from our classrooms

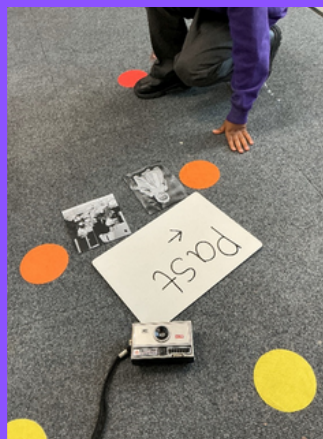
Butterflies Class

We've had a fantastic week in Reception! The children have loved retelling the story of *The Three Little Pigs* and have brought the tale to life through their imaginative play. Using props and masks, they took on the roles of the characters and acted out the story with great enthusiasm.

We were also very impressed with the children's creativity during our design activity. They worked hard to create their own houses for the three little pigs, thinking carefully about how to make them strong enough to withstand the wolf's huffing and puffing! Their designs were full of clever and original ideas, showing just how much thought and effort they put into their work.

we have also been exploring pictures and artefacts from the past and from the present. The children have enjoyed looking closely at these objects, talking about what they might have been used for, and noticing how things have changed over time. It has sparked lots of interesting questions and conversations! We would love it if the children could bring in a picture of themselves as a baby, as we will beginning to talk about how we have changed over time.

Well done, Reception – what a wonderful week of learning and fun!





Dragonflies Class

It's been another great week in Dragonflies. We did our first Big Write, creating diary entries about the day the Colour Monster felt all mixed up, and everyone worked really hard on their ideas.

In PE we started practising our ball skills, focusing on control, and in history we thought of some interesting questions to ask our parents about their school days. In computing we explored what makes up a computer and enjoyed using a sketch app to draw the features of a laptop.

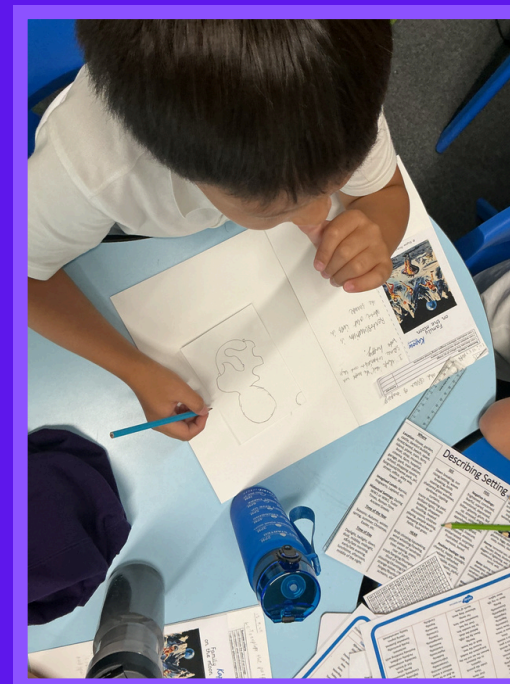
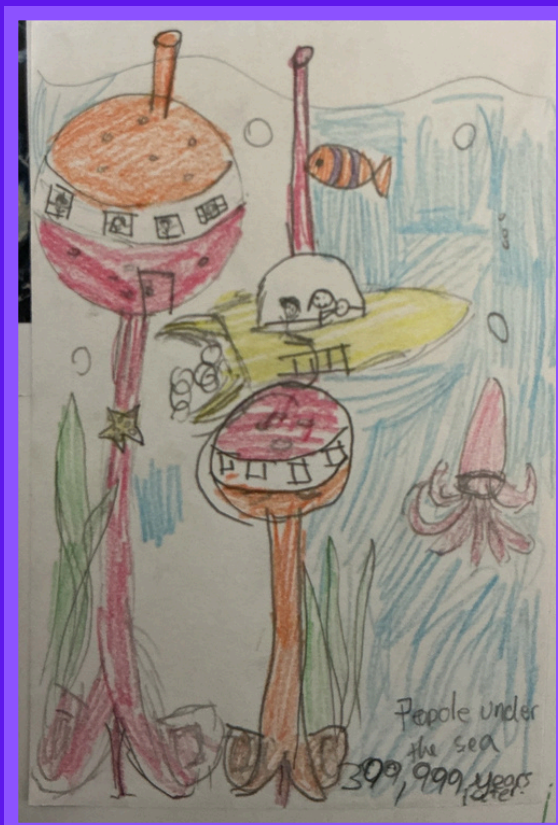




Owls Class

Owls class have started their art unit with something out of this world, **retro futurism**!

We looked at examples of retro futurism and discussed how and why the artists have made their choices. We then had a go at making our own version focusing on shape and colour.





Events and reminders

Welcome to Our SCITT Student

This term, we are delighted to welcome our SCITT (School-Centred Initial Teacher Training) student to our school community. He will be working alongside our staff and children, gaining valuable experience as he trains to become the next generation of outstanding educators.

Mr White will be working with Mrs McLachlan in our Ladybirds class. We are very much looking forward to supporting him on his journey and are grateful for the enthusiasm, commitment, and care he brings to our school. His contributions are already making a positive impact on our children's wellbeing and learning.

Mr White - Thank you to for choosing to train with us – we're excited to be part of your teaching journey!

Year 5 & 6 Survey

Children in Years 5 and 6 have the opportunity to earn a **£15 voucher** in exchange for participating in a survey about loneliness (approx. 1hr long but can be taken at home and with breaks).

Take the survey

For any further questions about taking part please contact lily.verity@manchester.ac.uk



Youth Loneliness Study – Participants Aged 10–24 Needed

Researchers at the University of Manchester are developing a new questionnaire to better understand loneliness in young people – and they're looking for participants aged 10 to 24 to help shape it.

Why is this important?

Loneliness can deeply affect young people's wellbeing. This study will help researchers understand how loneliness is experienced and ensure the right support reaches those who need it.

What's involved?

An anonymous online survey
Takes up to 1 hour to complete
Includes questions about loneliness, emotions, and behaviour
Participants will receive a £15 voucher as a thank-you

Is it safe?

Yes. All responses are confidential.
For participants under 18, parental/guardian consent is required (you will find it at the beginning of the survey).

Want your child or teen to take part?

They can access the survey here:
https://www.qualtrics.com/manchester.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_eXvKaaZ3UI16ERM

Or scan the QR code below.





**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE MORNING** 

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 26th September

Next Friday, we'll be taking part in the **Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning**, joining thousands of others across the country to raise funds for the vital work this charity does for people affected by cancer.

Staff will be enjoying cakes and treats together during their breaks, and children will also be included in the occasion with a special treat at playtime, handed out after our morning assembly. We'll be speaking to the children in an age-appropriate way about why we're taking part, and thanking them for their families' support.

We warmly invite you to support this event in any way you can:

- **Donate cakes or treats** for the children's playtime.
- **Make a donation** via our JustGiving page:
- <https://www.justgiving.com/page/fen-ditton-primary-and-marleigh-primary-academy-4>



If you are able to support by donating cakes please can you drop these at the school office on the afternoon of Thursday 25th or the morning of Friday 26th. If you baking at home, please can we ask that **no nuts** are used and that you **include a list of ingredients** on a note with the donation and for purchased donations please leave them in the packaging so that we can manage allergy and dietary requirements.

This is a lovely opportunity for our school community to come together around an important cause that touches many lives. Thank you, as always, for your generosity and support.

Help Fen Ditton Primary and Marleigh Primary Academy raise money to support Macmillan Cancer Support

DONATE NOW



Home Learning – A Refreshed Approach

Following on from last week's newsletter piece, you will know that this half term, we are introducing a refreshed approach to home learning through a menu of tasks for each year group. The aim is to give children and families more flexibility and choice in how home learning is approached.

Over the course of the half term, children are expected to complete all of the tasks from the menu. However, the order, the depth, and when they are handed in is up to each family. Some children may choose to spend more than a week exploring one task in detail, while responding more quickly to others. Others may prefer to work steadily through one task a week. Both approaches are absolutely fine — one a week is simply a guide to help pace the learning across the half term.

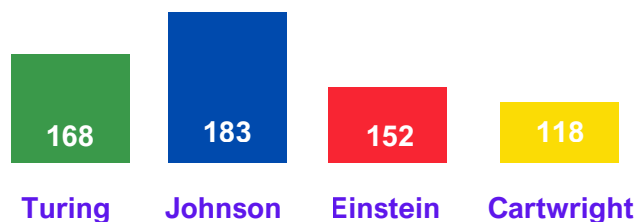
Alongside these projects, there are still regular weekly expectations for all children:

- **Reading**
- **Times tables practice**
- **Spelling** (introduced from next half term)
- In some year groups, additional **Maths/English tasks**

This balance allows children to consolidate their core skills regularly while also enjoying the chance to explore a variety of creative and open-ended tasks at their own pace.



House Point Totals



Save the date for our Book Fair!

See our poster at the bottom of this newsletter, **2nd - 7th October from 3:15pm - 4pm.**

Reception Open Day

Register for a group tour today!.

Photo and video consent

Thanks to all parents and carers who have completed our new online consent form, a much easier way to check consents for our pupils.

For those of you yet to complete it, please click the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/hQR3s7s7Cz>

Clubs

School clubs will resume the week commencing 29th September with more information coming next week.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Malik - Owls
Nok Kan - Badgers





FOLLOW US

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 9:15am

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



BOOK FAIR

**2ND - 7TH
OCTOBER
3:15-4PM**

**FREE
ENTRY**

A wide selection of books

Payment by QR code!

**Marleigh
Primary
Academy**



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

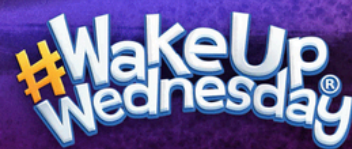
Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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Reception Open Day 2026

We invite you to visit our sister schools—**Marleigh Primary Academy** and **Fen Ditton Community Primary**—to help you choose the best fit for your family.

Register today for a group tour:

Fen Ditton

Friday, 10th October at 2pm

Thursday, 23rd October at 2pm

Marleigh Primary Academy

Friday, 3rd October at 2pm

Friday, 17th October at 2pm

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 you need to apply for Reception for September 2026.

Deadline for applications is 15th January 2026.

REGISTER NOW



Frazzled Fridays

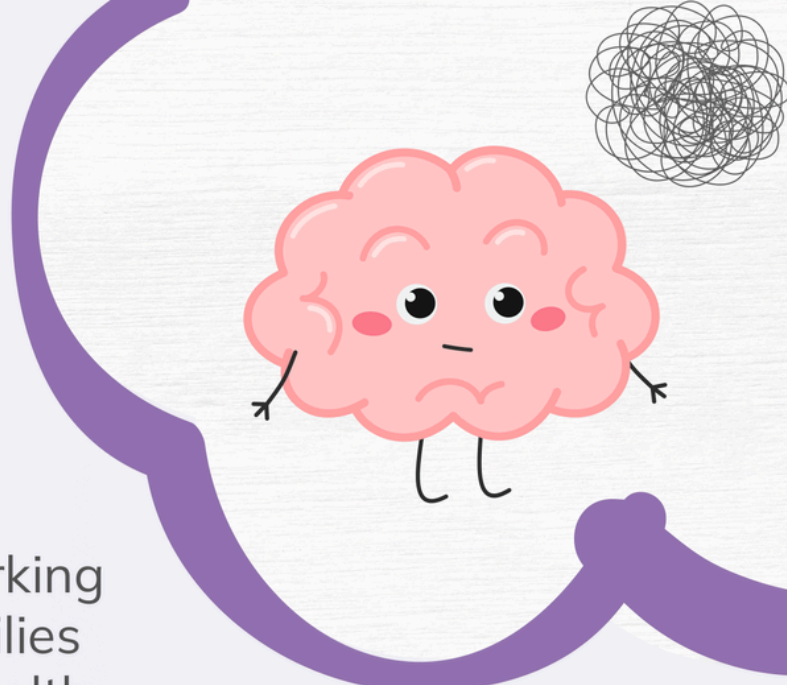
Abbey People and Cambridge Acorn Project working together to support local families with issues around mental health and wellbeing.

An informal and safe space run by volunteers and professionals. We are here for any child or family or any wellbeing difficulties.

8.30 – 11.00am
Every Friday
(term time only)

The Hub
15 Barnwell Road
Cambridge
CB5 8RG

**Talk to us,
don't suffer in
silence.**



How are you feeling?



**Cambridge
Acorn Project**

www.cambridgeacornproject.org.uk

We have received support from the



Cambridge
Community
Foundation



**COMMUNITY
FUND**

ABBHEY PEOPLE
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

Talk it Through Thursday's

Feeling low or worried?

Come and talk to us.
This is an informal, safe,
and confidential space
run by volunteers and
professionals to support your wellbeing.

9am - 11 am
Every Thursday
(term time only)



The Family Centre
Fisher's Lane
Cherry Hinton
CB1 9HR

We're here for you

**Talk to us,
don't suffer in
silence.**



**Cambridge
Acorn Project**

www.cambridgeacornproject.org.uk

