



26 Sep 2025

Contents:

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

Headteacher's insight

It has been another busy and productive week in school, and I am so proud of the way our children continue to embrace their learning. We are really beginning to see a shift in attitudes towards challenge – pupils are not only willing to step outside their comfort zones but are actively seeking out opportunities to push themselves further. This growing resilience is wonderful to see and something we will continue to nurture across all areas of school life.

A particular highlight this week has been celebrating some outstanding home learning. The creativity, effort and thought that children are putting into their responses is truly impressive, and it is such a joy to see their hard work proudly shared in class. Thank you for the encouragement and support you give at home, which makes such a difference.

I would also like to remind families of the importance of regular times tables practice. Tools such as Times Table Rock Stars can make this both fun and effective, and just a few minutes each day can have a real impact on children's fluency and confidence in maths.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome the Book Fair to school next week. These events are always a wonderful way to inspire a love of reading, and every purchase you make helps us to earn commission which we can spend on new books for our school. Thank you in advance for your support – it really does benefit all of our children.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



News from our classrooms

Caterpillars Class

It's been another exciting week in class, filled with learning, laughter, and creativity! Here's a quick snapshot of what we've been up to:

Rocket Phonics: Exploring the Sound 'p'

We've continued our journey with Rocket Phonics, and this week, the spotlight was on the letter 'p'. Last week, we mastered the letter 'm', and this week we've been exploring the world of 'p'. Our little learners are making great strides as they become more confident with their letter sounds.

Maths: Learning About Less and More

In Maths, we've been discovering the concepts of less and more. The children are really enjoying hands-on activities, and the highlight has been our class shop! Mrs. Houlder set up a fantastic shop where the children get to practice sorting, counting, and comparing prices. It's a great way to make maths come alive!

Autumn Fun in the Mud Kitchen

The autumn season is here, and our mud kitchen is buzzing with creativity! The children have been crafting beautiful autumnal creations, using natural materials to make leaves, conkers, and even mud pies. It's a wonderful way to learn about the changing seasons through stories and imaginative play.

PSED: Routines, Routines, Routines

In PSED (Personal, Social, and Emotional Development), we've been working on embedding our understanding of daily routines. Knowing what comes next in our day helps the children feel safe, confident, and ready to learn. It's been lovely to see how the children are becoming more independent and confident as they navigate our classroom routines.



If your child is due to start school in Sep 2026 you need to apply for a place.

It is important that you make your application by 15 January 2026. Late applications have a lower priority than all on-time applications. **[More information](#)**

...continued

Reminders:

Home Learning: For this week's Home Learning, please check Tapestry for all the details. We'd love to see your child's progress, so don't forget to share any photos of their learning and creations at home!

Apples for Snack-time: A quick reminder to please slice your child's apples before sending them in for snack-time. This helps the children enjoy their snacks more easily and safely





Ladybirds Class



We have had lots of fun with our learning this week!

In Maths, we have been comparing numbers using the words more, same and fewer. The children have been practising carefully and showing great reasoning skills. In English, we have been exploring Cave Baby's feelings to help us get ready to write our own diary entries. To immerse ourselves in the story, we even pretended to make our very own cave paintings—it was messy, creative and lots of fun. In Computing, we have been learning how to log onto a computer using our own ID and password, as well as practising how to use a mouse. Some children had their very first go on the library computers this week. It was tricky at first, but everyone showed fantastic resilience and kept trying.

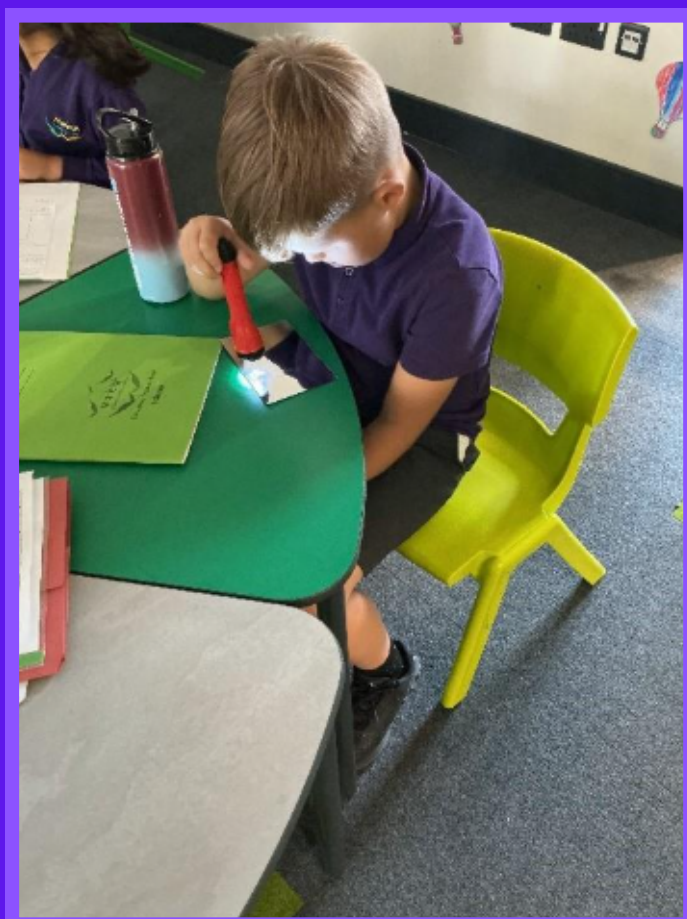
Well done, Ladybirds, for all of your enthusiasm and hard work—you should all feel very proud!





Squirrels Class

This week in Squirrels Class, our science lesson was about reflective materials. We looked at different objects including metal spoons, tins and foil and tried to draw our reflections from them! We also had fun with mirrors, looking at how light from the windows, the lights on the ceiling and from torches reflect off the mirrors and made shiny patterns on the walls.



In music we have been learning the song '*Put On Your Gumboots!*' from South Africa, and have been practicing playing the tune on the glockenspiels.

We watched a video of people performing a gumboot tune using only their wellies and body percussion to make the sounds, and had a go at creating our own!



Badgers Class

What a brilliant week it's been in Year 6!

In **Science**, we became water engineers, experimenting with filtration. Using different materials, we designed and tested our own filters to see how well they could clean dirty water. There was lots of problem-solving and creativity on show! In History, we continued our work on the Vikings, this time investigating their impressive trade routes. We discovered how far they travelled and the huge variety of goods they traded across Europe and beyond.

In **RE**, we explored how Christianity was influenced by Martin Luther and Henry VIII, discussing how their actions brought about lasting change in the church.

Outside the classroom, some of us proudly represented Marleigh at a multi-schools football tournament. Every player gave their best, and the team spirit and support from the sidelines made us really proud. Meanwhile, others worked with Mrs Nicholls on an exciting project: creating a "Day in the Life of a Year 6 at Marleigh".

To finish the week, we spent Thursday afternoon with our Reception buddies. We shared stories, enjoyed team-building games, and even joined in some singing with Mr Madden - it was a wonderful chance to bond across year groups. Well done, Badgers - what a week of teamwork, curiosity, and fun!





Events and reminders

Parent Workshop: Online Safety with Eduthing – Part of Our STEM Days!

As part of our exciting STEM Days programme at Marleigh and Fen Ditton, we're delighted to invite all parents and carers to a special **Online Safety Workshop** led by Eduthing. Eduthing will be delivering engaging sessions for all children in Years 1–6 across both schools on Thursday 23rd October Marleigh and Friday 24th October Fen Ditton, and we're thrilled to extend this offer to benefit our parent community too.

Workshop Details:

- 📍 Thursday 23rd October at 4:30pm – Marleigh Primary Academy
- 📍 Friday 24th October at 9:00am – Fen Ditton Primary School

Each session will last approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour and is open to all parents and carers from both schools. There's no need to sign up – just come along!

These workshops will provide valuable insights into keeping children safe online, with practical tips and up-to-date guidance tailored for families.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the PTFAs at both Marleigh and Fen Ditton for their generous donations, which have helped cover the cost of this fantastic opportunity for both children and parents.

For more information on Eduthing please see <https://www.eduthing.co.uk/education/workshops/>.

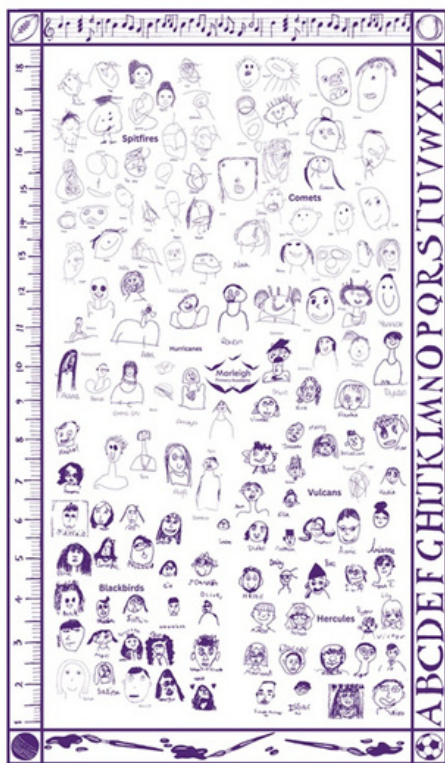
We look forward to seeing you there!



Pre-order Your 2025 Marleigh Tea Towel Keepsake

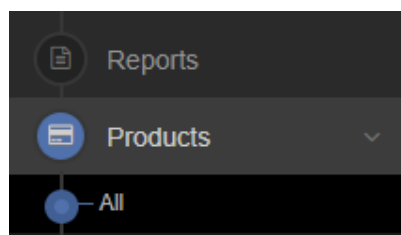
Following on from the success of last year's tea towels, we're pleased to announce your child will be drawing their self-portrait again for this year's edition! The tea towel will feature self-portraits from all children across every class, making it a wonderful gift and keepsake of their time at Marleigh.

Tea towels are available for just **£8 each**, and you can order as many as you like via **My Child At School > Products**. Orders will be delivered to the school and distributed to children before the end of the Autumn Term—*just in time for Christmas!*



How to order

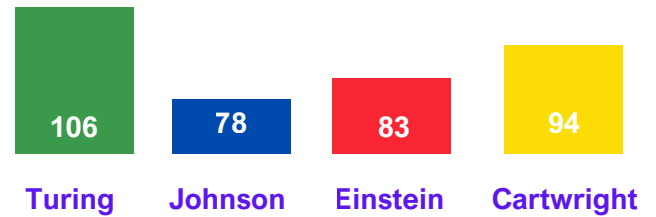
- [Log into My Child At School](#)
- Find Products > Tea Towels
- Add to basket!



Order before the 22nd October Deadline

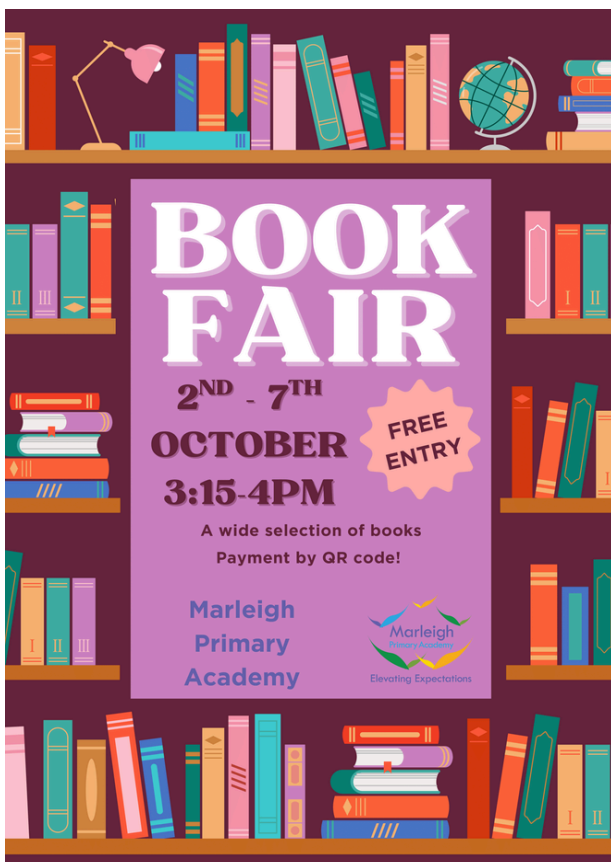
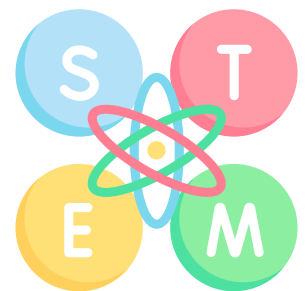


House Point Totals



Calling All STEM Enthusiasts!

We are looking for parent volunteers to share their passion for **Science, Technology, Engineering, or Maths** by giving a short talk during a school assembly. If you work in a **STEM** field or have an interesting STEM hobby, we'd love for you to inspire our pupils! Please email enquiries@marleighoffice.org and put for the attention of **Mrs McLachlan** if you would like to take part or find out more.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Yagmur - Squirrels
Akshara - Caterpillars
Joanna - Squirrels
Livi - Ladybirds



HALLOWEEN



PTFA Halloween Trail

Do you live on Marleigh?



Are you willing to display one of our pumpkin posters in your front window?

Please fill out a few details by scanning the QR code or following the link to get your pumpkin poster.

Help us to run our first ever Halloween trail, giving the children a fun activity and raising funds for the school!



Volunteer now!



<https://forms.gle/Y4Eb7S2KPAzxnQgN9>

Helping your children fly



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTH VIOLENCE

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 39% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 36% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinsella.org.uk

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



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

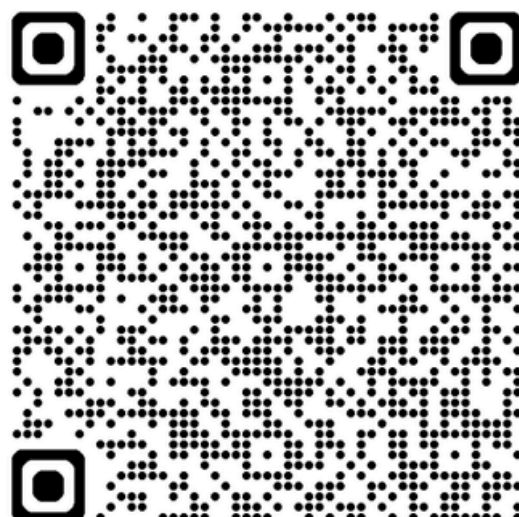
Friday, 3rd October at 2pm

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





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

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
Tues 18th Nov	Flu vaccination
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