



10 Oct 2025

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Headteacher's insight

As we move into the final two weeks of this half term, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on recent highlights and share some important updates from across our school community.

Firstly, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our Book Fair. Your enthusiasm and purchases have helped us generate valuable funds that will be used to purchase new books for both our library and classrooms. We're excited to continue building a rich and diverse reading culture at Marleigh, and your support plays a key role in making that possible.

Over the past few weeks, we've had the pleasure of welcoming several prospective families for tours of the school. It's been wonderful to share the energy and warmth of our learning environment with new visitors.

Looking ahead to September 2026, we will be welcoming one Reception class of 30 children, and we're already seeing strong interest in places. A number of our current classes are now full, and we are operating waiting lists in some year groups however the year group sizes are not even so we have spaces in others. If you know of local families who may be considering school options, we would be grateful for your promotion of Marleigh—being full is not only a reflection of our growing reputation, but also brings wider benefits to our school community.

We also have spaces available in our Nursery, which now offers extended hours in partnership with Premier from 7:45am to 6:00pm. This flexible provision is designed to support working families and provide a nurturing, play-based environment for our youngest learners. If you know of families who may be interested, please do encourage them to get in touch.

Next week, we will be celebrating **Harvest** in school. As part of this, we are inviting families to contribute to a donation drive for Abbey People Food Hub, which supports local families in need. We are collecting tinned, canned and dry goods, and a collection station will be set up in the school entrance all week. We warmly encourage families to send in donations to be added to our collective contribution—thank you in advance for your generosity and community spirit.



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In the final week of this half term, Marleigh will be participating in a pilot Ofsted inspection. This is part of Ofsted's internal training programme as they prepare to roll out a new inspection framework. Please be assured that this is not a formal inspection, and no judgements will be made—it is simply an opportunity for Ofsted to trial their updated processes. We're sharing this with you for awareness only.

Finally, I'd like to celebrate the children's creative responses to home learning this half term. Their engagement with the activity menu has been thoughtful and imaginative, and it's been a pleasure to see how they've interpreted tasks in their own unique ways. Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting this learning at home—it really does make a difference.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. Marleigh is growing into a vibrant and nurturing school community, and it's a privilege to lead it forward with you.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



News from our classrooms

Caterpillars Class

This week, we've had a wonderfully vibrant and engaging time in nursery, with lots of exciting activities and learning opportunities!

We introduced the children to the colourful and joyful celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights. The children particularly enjoyed creating Mendhi hand designs, experimenting with patterns and shapes to decorate paper hands. They also made their own Diya lamps.

As part of our learning this week about 'People Who Help Us', we had a very special visitor this week – one of our lovely nursery mums, who is a doctor, came in to talk to the children about her important job. The children were fascinated as she showed them how to apply dressings and talked about how doctors help people stay healthy. Thank you so much for your time.

Our home corner has also been buzzing with activity, with lots of children dressing up and role-playing as doctors, nurses, firefighters, and more. It's been wonderful to see their imaginations and confidence grow as they explore these real-life roles.

Last week, we explored the sound "b" as in bat, and this week we're learning "n" as in net. The children are becoming more confident in recognising letter sounds and are starting to use them in their play and early mark-making. In Maths we have been learning about patterns.

To develop fine motor skills, the children enjoyed using tweezers to collect autumnal treasures like conkers and leaves. This activity helped strengthen their hand muscles while also encouraging focus, coordination, and perseverance – all important for early writing and self-care skills.

Check Tapestry for your second Home Learning Challenge!



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**

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Reminders and useful information:

- **Snack Time:** Please send only **one snack** per session (morning or afternoon). Snack is an important part of our routine, but we limit it to 30 minutes to ensure children have time to enjoy all areas of learning. We've noticed that some children are spending longer at the snack table, so keeping snacks simple and limited helps us manage this time more effectively.
- **Fruit Safety:** For safety reasons, we kindly ask that **all fruit and vegetables be sliced**, including small fruits like grapes and strawberries, as these can pose a choking hazard. Alternatively, you are welcome to provide a different safe and healthy snack.
- **Toys from Home:** While we understand children may want to bring toys from home, we kindly ask that these be kept at home. We have a wide range of resources in nursery, and personal toys can sometimes lead to upset around sharing or misplacement.

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us create a calm, safe, and inclusive environment for all our children.





Ladybirds Class

This week, Ladybirds Class have been busy exploring new ideas across our subjects. We have been on a journey through sentence building, number work, and living history.

In **English**, we've been exploring the structure of sentences—learning how nouns, verbs, and adjectives work together to build meaning. Our writing has grown from being inspired by *The Highway Rat* to our new focus text, *The Bear and the Piano*. We're now looking forward to using our sentence skills to create a setting description.

In **Maths**, we've started our journey into addition. The children have been introduced to part-whole models, helping them understand how parts come together to make a whole. We are now writing simple addition number sentences, building confidence and fluency.

In **History**, we had a very special visitor! Mrs Biggs, a Marleigh resident, joined us to share memories of her childhood in the 1940s. The children were captivated by her stories—learning that children played with dolls and bikes, televisions were rare, and school uniforms weren't worn until age 11. Her visit helped us understand how childhood has changed over the last 80 years, and the children asked thoughtful questions throughout. Well done Ladybirds!





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Squirrels Class

It has been a busy week for Squirrels Class! On Wednesday, the children in Year 4 went to **Stapleford Granary** for a morning of immersive music and dance experiences, linked to **The Tin Forest** story by Helen Ward.

Then in the afternoon, all of Lower Key Stage 2 walked to Fen Ditton Primary School for an afternoon of golf-related games, which linked to the golf unit they have been learning in PE. It was great to see the children persevering with the putting and chipping skills and enjoying themselves with the different activities.

We also enjoyed our science lesson this week which involved experimenting with different materials and investigating the types of shadows they made. We used our knowledge of transparent, translucent and opaque materials and learnt that shadows are made when an object blocks the light.





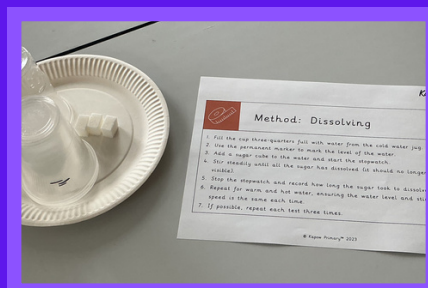
Badgers Class

It's been another busy and exciting week in Year 6! In **Science**, we carried out a three-part experiment investigating how temperature affects how quickly sugar cubes dissolve. We tested cold, warm, and hot water, made careful observations, and discussed why temperature makes such a big difference to the rate of dissolving.

In **English**, we've been exploring **information texts**. Using our research skills, we gathered fascinating facts about **kingfishers, herons, and foxes**, focusing on how to organise information clearly and write in an engaging, factual style.

In **PE**, we've continued developing our football skills, focusing on attacking play and using small, controlled steps to keep the ball away from defenders. In History, we examined the impact of Viking invasions on British settlements, thinking about how these invasions changed communities and culture across the country.

And to top it all off, on Wednesday afternoon we visited **Fen Ditton** for a Year 6 activity with Mrs Dennett-Jones. We had great fun working in teams to build creative structures using just straws and Blu Tack. It was a brilliant challenge for our problem-solving and teamwork skills! Well done, Badgers, for another fantastic week of curiosity, collaboration, and creativity.





Christmas Cards & Tea Towels

Don't forget to return your child's Christmas card design to school, and pay for both the cards and tea towels before the end of term!

Payments can only be made in **MCAS > Products**, if you have any issues logging into your account please email the office.

School Meals

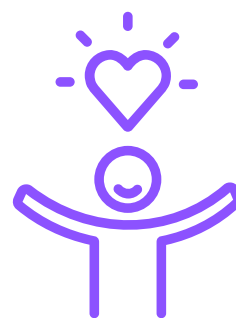
We have noticed that when block bookings are made, sometimes a booking is missing, whilst we've made IFG aware of this it's worth double-checking yourself to avoid confusion during the week.

- Log into your account and check all pre-booked meals are showing
- Contact IFG directly if you notice any missing bookings (primary@impactfood.co.uk or 0204 542 7211)
- The deadline for booking meals for the week ahead is **midnight on Saturday**



If your child is absent from school it is your responsibility to cancel their meal to avoid being charged.

If your child comes to school without a packed lunch or booked school meal, we will ask you to bring a packed lunch to school and will only be able to provide school meals at such late notice in exceptional circumstances.



Mental Health Matters – For Parents/Carers too!

Last week we shared tips on how parents/carers can support their children's mental health. This week, it's your turn.

As parents, it's easy to put everyone else's needs first—but looking after your own mental wellbeing is just as important. You can't pour from an empty cup, and your mental health has a powerful impact on your family's overall wellbeing.

Here are a few ways to prioritise your own mental health:

Take breaks without guilt – Even just 10 quiet minutes can help reset your mind.

Investigate the 10 keys to happier living - Based on the latest research, Action For Happiness have identified 10 Keys that tend to make life happier and more fulfilling

Talk to someone – Whether it's a friend, family member, or professional; sharing how you're feeling can make a big difference.

Ask for help – You're not alone. Reach out to your community – see below for just some of the support available in Cambridge.

This World Mental Health Day, we encourage all our parents and carers to check in with themselves. Taking care of your mental health isn't selfish—it's essential.

If you ever need support, don't hesitate to reach out to the school. We can connect you with local resources, listening services, and mental health professionals. If you need urgent mental health support, please visit [this webpage](#).



Some support on offer for adults in Cambridge

Frazzled Fridays (Cambridge Acorn Project)	A free weekly drop-in for parents and carers. Enjoy breakfast, a hot drink, informal chat, and one-to-one support with professionals. Children are welcome – toys are provided. No referral or booking needed.	Fridays (term-time) 8:30 am – 11:00 am at The Hub, Abbey People, 15 Barnwell Road, Cambridge CB5 8RG Frazzled Fridays - Cambridge Acorn Project
How Are You Cambridge (H.A.Y.)	Browse a directory of local activities	How Are You Cambridge? Home
CPSL Mind	Wide range of support: “Good	CPSL Mind



House Point Totals

202	173	195	225
Turing	Johnson	Einstein	Cartwright

Raise money for Marleigh



Anyone can order from the Scholastic Shop! Whether you're a teacher, a parent, or a current or former student, any order over £10 you place on the Scholastic Shop will help you support your school.

Simply choose from the thousands of the books and education resources on our website and select your chosen school at checkout, and **we'll donate 20%** of your total order value back to the school in Rewards.

Year 6 Reminder

Don't forget to apply for secondary school places by 31st October and to ask for any help if needed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Malika - Dragonflies
Remy - Caterpillars
Aaric - Badgers
Adel - Dragonflies



BOOK FAIR

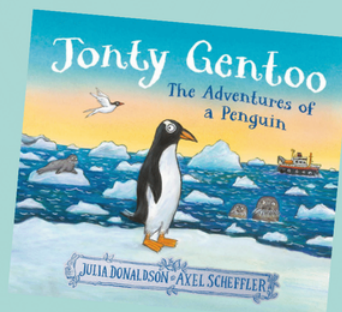
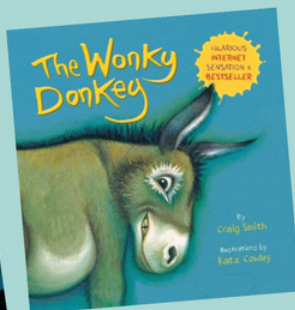
Our Scholastic Book Fair 2025 was a great success! Thank you to those who were able to attend this week and purchased books!

WE MANAGED TO RAISE:

£96.13

Remember, every time you purchase books with Scholastic you can earn rewards for our school!

**Watch this space: Book Fair 2026 is booked -
COMING SOON!**



HALLOWEEN



PTFA self - guided Halloween Trail



Buy your tickets now!

When: 25th October - 2nd November



Tickets cost £1.50

Submit your answers online using the QR code on the map for a chance to win on of **10 prizes!**

Maps will be available to **collect** from the school office from **Monday 20th October**



Friday 31st October
from 4pm come to:

Buy your tickets now!



for a Halloween event.
Show your trail map to
get 10% off!

Now that's a treat!

<https://marleigh-primary-ptfa.sumupstore.com/>

Helping your children fly





You're invited to
SALENTO MARLEIGH'S

HALLOWEEN PARTY

HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY,
DANCE, MUSIC, FILMS,
TREATS & MORE!

Friday 31st October

Free entry
from 4pm

FREE MEAL PRIZE FOR BEST
COSTUME! (t&cs apply)

SALENTO MARLEIGH
The hangar, jubilee square

contact;
salentosmarleigh@gmail.com



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



Key dates 2025-26

TERM DATES

Autumn Term:
4th September – 19th December

Spring Term:
6th January – 27th March

Summer Term:
13th April – 17th July

INSET DAYS

1st - 3rd September
3rd November
5th January
20th July

HOLIDAY CLUBS

October Half Term
27th October – 31st October
Christmas Holidays
22nd December – 2nd January
February Half Term
16th – 20th February
Easter Holidays
30th March – 10th April
May Half Term
25th – 29th May
Summer Holidays
21st July – 28th August

What we offer:

BEFORE SCHOOL CLUB

CLASSROOM SUPPORT

BEFORE AND
AFTER SCHOOL
WRAPAROUND CARE

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

HOLIDAY & INSET DAY
PROVISION

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Sports Day: TBC

Enrichment Days: TBC

BOOK
NOW



Key Contacts

Wraparound Care/Inset Day
Provision:
Hannah Taylor
htaylor@premier-education.com

Holiday Camp Provision:
Sheridan Mead
smead@premier-education.com

Booking Enquiries:
Kerry Rayner
krayner@premier-education.com

Quality Assurance Manager
Elliott West
ewest@premier-education.com

Winter Wheelers: keep cycling through winter!

In partnership with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, we've organised four Winter Wheeler events, designed to encourage Cambridgeshire residents to stay safe and keep cycling throughout the colder months.



Come along to keep your bike in top shape and stay safe on the roads this winter!

Join us at any of the following events:

- St Ives Market Hill: Monday 3 November, 11am - 2pm
- Cambridge, outside the Guildhall: Tuesday 4 November, 4pm - 7pm
- Ely Train Station: Thursday 6 November, 11am - 2pm
- Whittlesey Market Street: Friday 7 November, 11am - 2pm

**Free
events!**

Scan this QR code to sign up!



Each event will include:

- Dr Bike sessions - free bike checks
- Bike light giveaway
- Bike marking by Cambridgeshire Police
- Cycle maps and cycling advice
- Meet our Active Travel Officers - volunteers for advice and support



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY



**Cambridgeshire
Constabulary**



**Cambridgeshire
County Council**



FOLLOW US

Term Dates 2025/26

[For 2026/27 dates see our website](#)

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
Wed 17th Dec	Christmas dinner for children
Thu 18th Dec	Christmas sing a long with parents and carers 3pm
Fri 19th Dec	Last day of Autumn 2 half term