



24 Oct 2025

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Headteacher's insight

As we reach the end of our first Autumn half term, I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a busy, productive, and thoroughly enjoyable few weeks across the school.

A real highlight was our first STEM Day of the year, which was a huge success. The children took part in a range of exciting and engaging activities linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. We were also delighted to welcome EduThing, who delivered an informative and interactive online safety workshop—a vital topic in today's digital world. A huge thank you goes to our wonderful PTFA for their financial support in funding these workshops, helping us to provide such high-quality learning experiences for the children. Thank you also to all the parents and carers who attended the parent workshop EduThing hosted. Online safety is an important and challenge topic to navigate as a parent so we hope insight from the workshop was helpful.

Our Year 6 pupils also enjoyed a fantastic STEM-related trip on Wednesday, which built brilliantly on the themes of innovation and problem-solving. Meanwhile, Year 5 have continued with their swimming lessons and we're delighted to see such great progress being made. Our KS1 pupils had a great opportunity this week to take part in a friendly sports event between our two schools—an energetic and enjoyable afternoon that gave every child the chance to experience a larger sports event and develop their skills.

I would like to take this moment to thank all of our staff for their hard work, dedication, and commitment in ensuring that this first half term has been such a success. Their efforts in creating inspiring lessons and nurturing environments for our pupils are deeply appreciated. I'd also like to extend a sincere thank you to our parents and carers for their ongoing support and partnership—it makes such a difference in helping our children thrive.



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Looking ahead to next half term, bookings are now open for our Learner Reviews next half term—please see the section in this newsletter for further details on how to sign up. These meetings replace Parents Evenings in providing a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and goals for the year ahead.

Finally, I wish all our children, families, and staff a safe, restful, and enjoyable October half term. Thank you for a wonderful start to the school year—I look forward to seeing everyone back in school on **Tuesday 4th November** for another exciting and rewarding half term. Please note that the school is closed on Monday 3rd November for a staff INSET day.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



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**

Caterpillars Class

What a spooktacular week we've had in Nursery! Our story of the week has been **Room on the Broom**, and the children have been **retelling the story using stick puppets** in the reading corner — it's been wonderful to see their understanding and storytelling skills shine!

We've also been **reading lots of Halloween-themed books**, sparking great discussions and excitement about all things spooky and magical.

Our classroom has been transformed into a Halloween wonderland, with many children enjoying dressing up as witches and wizards in the home corner. Outside, **the pumpkins have been a big hit** (pun intended!) as the children used golf tees and hammers to strengthen their hand muscles — fantastic fine motor practice!

There's also been **potion making** in the water tray, **pumpkin collaging** with autumn leaves inside, and so many opportunities for early learning through play, creativity, and imagination.

We're so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the children have been — it's been a truly magical week in Nursery! ✨

We hope all our families have a restful break and we will look forward to seeing you all in the busy term leading to Christmas Festivities.



17th Dec, Christmas sing-along

Parents and carers invited at 2:30pm



News from our classrooms

Ladybirds Class

We've had such a fun and busy week in Ladybirds. In **Maths**, we've been learning about number bonds. We've used cubes, counters and tens frames to help us find all the different ways to make numbers up to 10. Some of us can even remember them off by heart now.

In **English**, we've been writing setting descriptions. We used our senses and lots of adjectives to describe what we could see and hear. Our writing is really starting to paint a picture for the reader.

On **Wednesday**, we had a team-building sports afternoon, where we played games that helped us practise working together with Dragonflies Class and our friends from Fen Ditton. We loved cheering for our friends and celebrating everyone's efforts.

On **STEM Day**, we explored all four STEM subjects – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. We worked together to investigate, build and test our ideas for bridges and launching "rocket mice." We used programming to walk through a maze and investigated shapes. We also took part in an online safety workshop. It was great fun being scientists and engineers for the day!

In RE, we used art to explore the idea of 'Creation'. We thought about how people show their ideas and beliefs through artwork and enjoyed creating our own masterpieces.

And don't forget – our trip is on Tuesday 4th November which is the first day of term. Please make sure [permission forms](#) are in and that we're all ready for an exciting day out.





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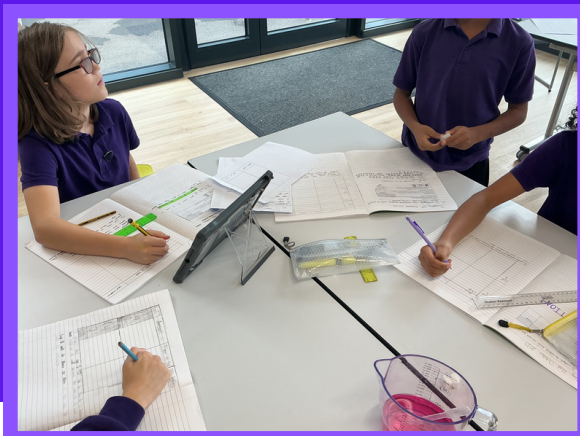
Badgers Class

What an exciting and inspiring week we've had in Year 6! We rounded off our **History** unit by creating beautifully presented **double-page spreads** all about the **Vikings**. The children showcased everything they've learned about Viking life, trade, and invasions through detailed writing and illustrations – a wonderful way to conclude our topic!

In **English**, we stepped into the world of Skellig once again, writing diary entries from the perspectives of **Michael or Mina**. The children captured the characters' emotions and voices brilliantly, showing real empathy and imagination in their writing.

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly our **STEM trip to Qualcomm**! We took part in interactive workshops and tours, learning all about the amazing technology behind everyday devices. We had a go at coding on **Micro:bits**, playing games like *Rock, Paper, Scissors* and *Chuck-a-Duck*. We were fascinated to see a robotic arm being programmed to test headphones, and even stepped inside an **anechoic chamber** to experience total sound isolation. We also discovered the intricate **hardware that powers microchips** in products such as smartphones, sat navs, and more.

It was an incredible experience that really brought Science, Technology and Engineering to life. Well done, Badgers, for your curiosity, teamwork, and enthusiasm throughout the week!





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Learner Reviews – Week Commencing 17th Nov

This term, we are introducing a new approach to parents' evenings called 'Learner Reviews'. These will take place during the week beginning Monday 17th November.

Each class teacher will offer a 10-minute appointment for each child, where the parent/carer and the child (where appropriate) will have the opportunity to review their learning and progress so far this academic year. For our youngest children, it may not be appropriate for them to attend, and teachers will advise accordingly.

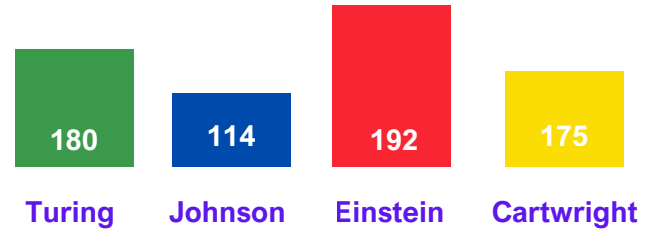
Appointments will be available between 08:15 and 16:40, and to offer maximum flexibility, parents can choose to attend in person or virtually. If you would like a virtual appointment please contact us after you have made your booking. If you require more flexibility, please do contact us so we can see what we can do to support.

Bookings are now open via BromCom. If you experience any difficulties accessing the system or booking your slot, please contact the school office who will be happy to help.

Date	Class	Teacher
Tuesday 18th November	Ladybirds – Year 1	Mrs McLachlan
	Owls – Year 4/5	Miss Rubete
Wednesday 19th November	Butterflies - Reception	Miss Catchpool-Joseph
	Badgers – Year 6	Miss Westrope
	Dragonflies – Year 2	Mr Chambers
Thursday 20th November	Squirrels – Year 3/4	Miss Maxwell
Friday 21st November	Caterpillars - Nursery	Mrs Sellars/Mrs Houlder



House Point Totals



Art Club with the Artist Bookbinder Creativity, Fun, and Mindfulness for kids

Art Club returns this term with Mariapaola (The Artist Bookbinder), offering children a creative space to explore painting, colouring, drawing, and more. Each week, young artists develop confidence and mindfulness through hands-on, imaginative activities designed to nurture self-expression and joy.

Where: Marleigh Primary Academy STEM Room

When: Sessions will run on Fridays from 7 November to 19 December (no session on 21 October):

- 3:15–4:00 pm: Reception & Year 1 – max 6 children (£57.35 for 6 sessions)
- 4:15–5:15 pm: Year 2 and above – max 8 children (£73.80 for 6 sessions)

To book, please email info@theartistbookbinder.com with your child's name and school year. Places are limited and confirmed upon payment.

Children attending the school's after-school club can join the after school club until 4:30 pm or from 4:30 pm—please mention this when booking, and Mariapaola will liaise with staff to arrange transitions.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Fiza - Caterpillars
Farooq - Caterpillars
Georgia - Owls



School Uniform Resale

Just a reminder that our School Uniform Resale is available during school drop off and pickup through the main gates near reception.

Price list

- Jumpers with logo £2
- School Dress £2
- Jumpers without logo £1
- Trousers and Skirts £1
- T-shirts and shirts FREE



School Uniform Donations

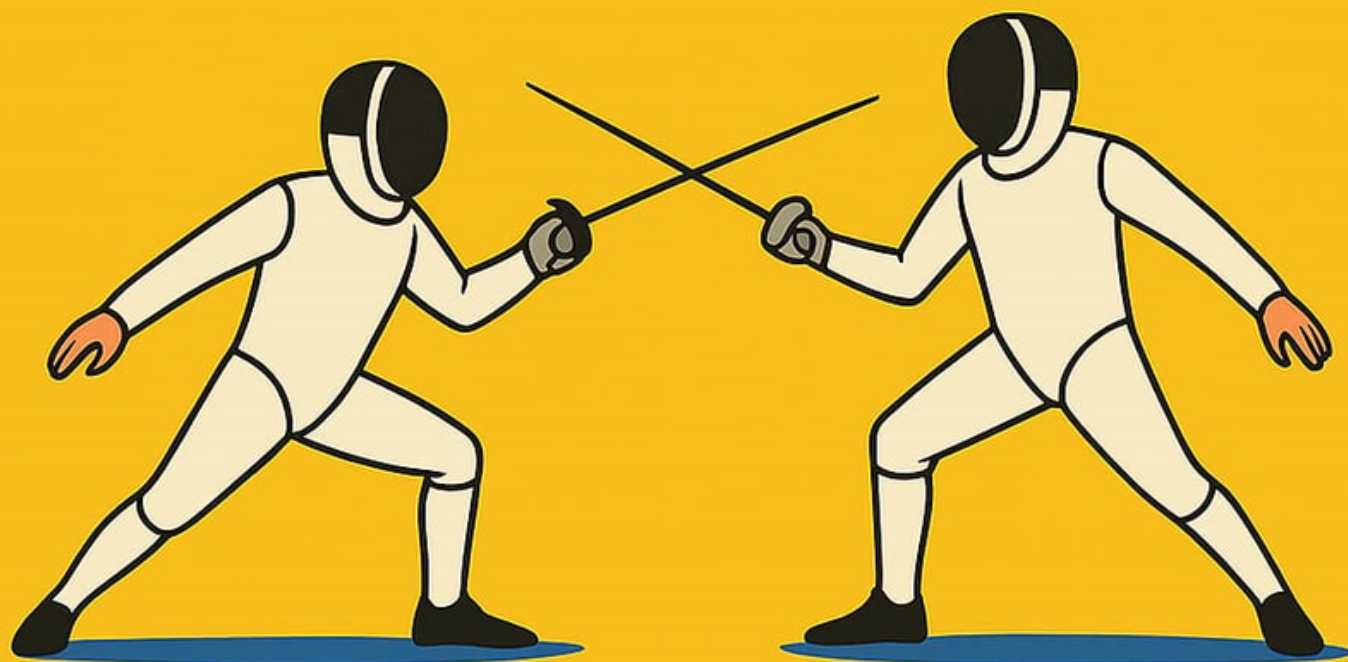
We are accepting donations of branded and non-branded uniform in good condition (no stains or holes). Please hand in at School Reception.

Promote sustainability by donating or buying pre-loved uniform and help raise funds for the PTFA!



FENCING

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB



FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL

3:15 TO 4:15

YEAR 1 – YEAR 6

FIRST SESSION FREE

TO BOOK PLACE CONTACT

enquiries@wwwfencing4kids.com

07886643982



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

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