



14 Nov 2025

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Headteacher's insight

As we paused this week to mark **Remembrance Day**, our school community has shown great thoughtfulness and respect in reflecting on the sacrifices made by others. The children's discussions and creative work around remembrance have been truly moving and remind us of the importance of peace, gratitude and togetherness.

Meanwhile, there's an unmistakable buzz in school as **Nativity rehearsals** begin! The excitement of the festive season is starting to build, and we're all looking forward to the wonderful performances and joyful celebrations that lie ahead. It's always such a special time of year, and I know the coming weeks will be full of sparkle, teamwork, and memorable moments. We are particularly looking forward to the Christmas Fayre which the PTFA are busy organising for us all to enjoy. Please see below for details of how you can support through the upcoming non uniform day making donations for the tombolas.

A big thank you to everyone supporting our **Book Advent Calendar Raffle** – tickets are available on **MCAS for £1.50 each**, and every purchase helps to fund new reading resources for our children. Speaking of reading, we are incredibly proud of the progress our youngest pupils are making — their enthusiasm and growing confidence as readers are a joy to see!

Please continue to stay connected with us by following our **[school Facebook page](#)**, where we share regular updates, photos, and celebrations of school life.

Next week, we look forward to welcoming families into school for our **Learner Review Meetings**. These meetings are a valuable opportunity for children, parents and teachers to come together to reflect on learning, celebrate achievements and plan next steps — a truly collaborative approach to supporting and challenging every learner.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and involvement in school life.

Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher





News from our classrooms

Caterpillars Class

World Nursery Rhyme Week

This week we've been celebrating World Nursery Rhyme Week, and the children have had a wonderful time singing, moving, and exploring each rhyme:

The five official rhymes for this year are:

1. Sing a Song of Sixpence
2. Humpty Dumpty
3. When I Was One (I Played the Drum)
4. I Hear Thunder
5. Two Little Dickie Birds



Exploring Poetry

Alongside our nursery rhymes, the children have been dabbling in poetry this week through the wonderful book *Zim, Zam, Zoom!* by James Carter. The poems have sparked lots of imagination, giggles, and rhythm-filled fun as children experimented with sounds, actions, and new vocabulary.

Traditional Tale – Goldilocks and the Three Bears

One focus story this week has been Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children have really enjoyed retelling the story, acting out the characters, and using it to explore sizes in Maths — comparing big, medium, and small items just like the three bears as well as singing the song 'When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears'



School Place Applications for 2026

Please remember that Reception place applications are due by 15th January 2026

Learner Reviews – Friday 21st November

Book an appointment with your child's class teacher on MCAS or contact the office for assistance.



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Remembrance Day

The children were very respectful during our two-minute silence in Nursery on Tuesday - we are very proud of them. They have learnt about Remembrance Day through the CBeebies Clip 'Poppies' and made a poppy wreath from their handprints.

Phonics Focus

Over the past two weeks, our phonics sessions have focused on the sounds:

- 'w' – as in web
- 'h' – as in hat

The children have enjoyed spotting these sounds in stories, games, and everyday words around the classroom. Practising these at home — listening for them in books or on walks — is a great way to help reinforce learning.

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Welly Wednesday Returns!

We were so pleased to restart Welly Wednesday this week! The children adapted beautifully to new routines and expectations in this activity.

These sessions are a valuable part of learning — they encourage independence, teamwork, and problem-solving, while helping children to develop confidence, resilience, and a love of the outdoors.



Update: Our PE day has now moved to a Friday, you do not have to provide a PE kit.



Ladybirds Class



We've had a very busy and exciting start to the half term! Our highlight was our trip to the **Fitzwilliam Museum**, where we explored amazing artworks. The children were so curious and asked fantastic questions about what they saw as well as making amazing drawings based on what we saw.

In **Science**, we've been investigating materials. We've been busy sorting and describing different materials, thinking carefully about the difference between an object and the material it is made from.

In **Geography**, we've started to learn about maps and where we fit in the world. We've enjoyed looking at maps of our local area and finding familiar places — it's been great fun spotting where we live, learn and play! We have even made our own "messy maps" of Ladybirds' classroom. It was lovely to see the children using their observational skills and talking about how to represent the different objects we can see from a birds-eye view.

In **Design and Technology**, we've begun planning and designing puppets based on Little Red Riding Hood. We've already tried out different ways to join fabrics, and we can't wait to bring our puppet characters to life later this term!





Squirrels Class



In Squirrels Class this week, we enjoyed our first **DT lesson** on pavilions and looked at designing temporary frame structures. We worked in pairs to construct our structures using plasticine and toothpicks and used our knowledge of 3D shapes to decide on the most strong and stable designs.

In **science** this week we continued our topic on **movement and nutrition** and learnt to identify some of the main bones in the human body. We measured the lengths of different bones and ordered the data we recorded from smallest to largest.

In **PE** we have been enjoying our new units on **dance and yoga**! It has been fun to move in different ways and to see everyone get creative with their poses. We all enjoy the music and the faster pace of our dance lessons, as well as the slower, calmer positions and stretches in yoga.





Badgers Class

It's been a fantastic start to the new half term for Year 6 Badgers!

We were so proud to share our **class assembly** this week – the children spoke and performed brilliantly, showing confidence, teamwork and enthusiasm. Over the past two weeks, we've also been busy trying new things in **PE**, taking part in a **seated volleyball tournament** and a fun-filled **4D Dance workshop**. Some of our pupils represented the school at a **Panathlon event**, while our **Year 6 Sports Leaders** continued to be excellent ambassadors, supporting younger pupils and modelling great sportsmanship.

In **Maths**, we've been applying ourselves to our **fractions unit**, learning how to add and subtract fractions by finding the **lowest common multiple (LCM)** – a real test of perseverance and focus!

In **RE**, we've been exploring **significant places** and thinking about why certain locations hold special meaning for people of different faiths.





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In **Geography**, we've started our new topic on **Population**, beginning with an investigation into **population density**. We compared how populated different continents are and discussed why people choose to live in certain areas of the world.

In **English**, we've begun reading our new text, *The Legend of Podkin One-Ear*. The children have been exploring **figurative language** – including similes, metaphors and personification – and are already hooked on the story!

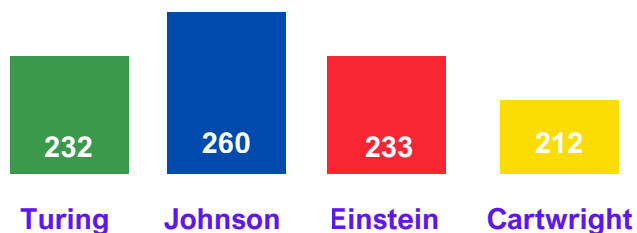


It's been a wonderfully active and engaging week full of learning, energy and enthusiasm – well done, Badgers!





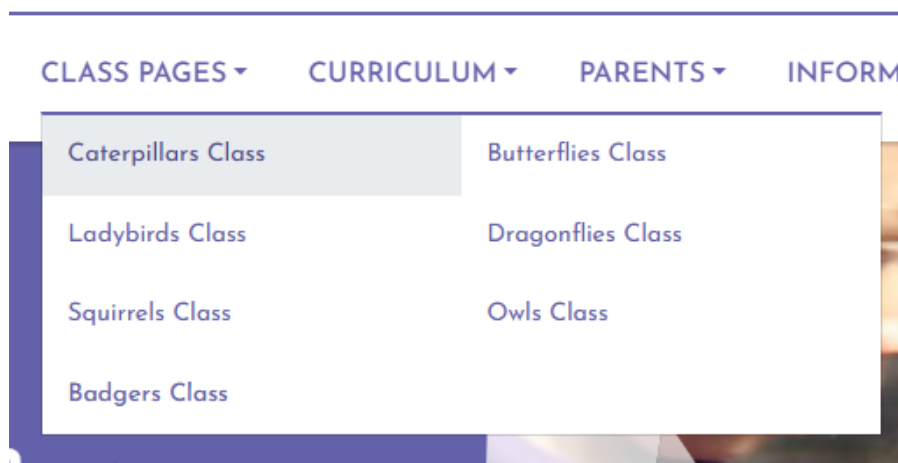
House Point Totals



Class Pages



To help keep track of class specific key dates and information, we have published **class pages** in the main menu of our [website](#). These will be updated every term and include information about trips, events and timetables for each class. Whole school key dates can still be found on our [upcoming dates page](#).



Butterflies Stay and Play

A big thank you to all the parents and families who were able to join us for Butterflies' very first Stay and Play session this week! It was so lovely to see the children sharing their classroom activities with you and talking proudly about their routines and favourite things to do at school.

The children were so excited to show you around their learning space — and your involvement made the morning extra special. Thank you again!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Frankie - Squirrels
Diar - Badgers
Carmil - Ladybirds





Non-Uniform Days!

This term we're inviting children to come to school in non-uniform, twice!

Friday 28th November

In return we are asking for donations of tombola and/or raffle prizes for the Christmas Fayre on 4th Dec.

Friday 12th December

Christmas Jumper Day wear a festive jumper to school and make a donation to Children in Need on JustGiving.



Save the Children

Christmas Jumper Day 

DONATE



Can you donate an advent calendar?

We're making a collective donation to our local foodbank of **advent calendars** to make sure that local children get the joy of having an advent calendar despite their family finances being strained. If you can pick up 1 or 2 when you're doing your shopping and drop them to our collection station at the front office between Monday and Friday next week we'd really appreciate it!





Reminders

Friday Reading Group

If you are available on a Friday morning, we invite you to our parent and carers reading group. We look forward to welcoming you.



Book Advent Calendar Prize Draw Buy tickets now to win!

For only **£1.50** per ticket you're in with a chance to win 1 of 3 **Book Advent Calendar** prizes!

24 age appropriate books wrapped and ready to be opened each day in the run up to Christmas!

Prizes will be drawn and distributed on **Friday 28th November**, buy your tickets now through MCAS.

The more tickets you buy the better chance you have at winning, good luck!



Ho ho ho!



Presents:

Festive fair

Thursday 4th December

3.30-5pm

Tickets cost £5 per child

(adults and children under 3 are free)

Includes 10 tokens to use at festive stalls:

(extra tokens available to buy on the day)

- * Name the Xmas gonk * x1 token**
- * Guess the sweets in the jar * x1 token**
- * Make a reindeer headband * x2 tokens**
- * Splat the sprout * x1 token**
- * Make reindeer food * x1 token**
- * Lucky dip * x2 tokens**
- * Bean bag toss * x1 token**
- * Tombola * x1 token**



Buy your tickets now!



Other activities:

- * Santa's Grotto ***
(pre-book separately, details to follow)
- * Letters to Santa ***
- * Raffle ***
- * Bake sale ***
- * Tattoos ***
- * Story corner ***

<https://buytickets.at/marleighprimaryptfa/1939485>

Helping your children fly



Ho ho ho!



Santa's grotto

Thursday 4th December
3.45-4.45pm

Tickets cost **£3.50** per child
Includes a photo opportunity and a present
Choose timed 10 minute slot.



Buy your tickets now!



<https://buytickets.at/marleighprimaryptfa/1939485>

Book by Friday 28th
November

Spaces are limited
Book your slot now!

Helping your children fly



Ho ho ho!



Presents:

Festive Raffle

Drawn at 4.45pm

at the Christmas Fair

Tickets cost **£1 each** at the event or in advance

Drop off: 24th-28th November

Pick up: Friday 28th November

Over £1,000 worth of prizes to be won!

Flight experience for two: Cambridge Aero Club (£246)

30 day spa pass for two: Quay Mill Hotel & Spa (£200)

Family photoshoot: Dion Gallichan (£120) x2

Family ice skating session: Cambridge Ice Arena (£66)

Football match family ticket: Cambridge United (£66)

Christmas hamper: Hill group (£45)

Express massage: R3vive (£30)

Family soft play ticket: Partyman (£30)

2 free whole pizzas: Salento (£28) x2

Drop-in class: R3form (£22) x2

Indoor climbing session: Clip n Climb (£17.50)

Gift card: Scotsdales (£5)

Free ice cream: Salento (£2.50) x5



quay mill hotel &

Dion Gallichan
Photography
Luxury Wall Art Specialists



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

QUIZ NIGHT

**TUES 25TH
NOVEMBER
FROM
6:30PM**

**£2.00 ENTRY FEE
TOWARDS CHARITY
PRIZE FOR WINNERS**

**REGISTER YOUR TEAM AT:
SALENTOSMARLEIGH@GMAIL.COM
UNIT 4 THE HANGAR, JUBILEE SQ
CB5 8BG**



**The
Land Trust**

Greenspaces | Community | Environment



PREMIER HOLIDAY CLUBS



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during the WINTER HOLIDAYS!**



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Based on 20,000 reviews

YOUR NEAREST MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP

Venue: Marleigh Primary Academy, CB5 8BG

Dates: December 22nd - December 23rd

Times: 8.45am till 3.45pm

Price: £28.99 per day (15% discount online now)

Ages: 4 - 12 years old

Additional info: Book now to secure attendance!



Our Holiday Camps keep children active, safe, and entertained throughout the school holidays.

Join us this Winter as we offer a wide range of fun activities, including sports, performing arts, and games, all at great value. There's something for every child to enjoy as they start 2026!

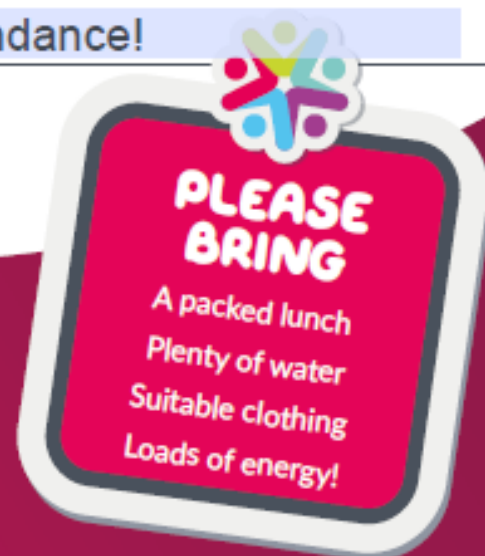
Book now for a holiday full of excitement!

CAMPS ARE BETTER WITH FRIENDS!



**TREAT YOUR FRIENDS
TO 20% OFF...AND GET
20% OFF TOO!**

*Ts&Cs apply. Refer a Friend discount on new bookings only.



Based on over 20,000 reviews

Key Dates for Autumn 2025/26

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 Year 5 - Astra Zeneca trip
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 Christmas Fair - 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
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



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