



7 Nov 2025

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Headteacher's insight

Welcome back to the start of Autumn Term 2! I hope everyone enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half-term break. We began the week with a productive INSET day for our teaching team, where we focused on relational approaches and the powerful impact these have on learning. Strengthening relationships within our classrooms continues to unlock deeper engagement, resilience, and curiosity in our pupils. Alongside this, staff reflected on metacognition and how we can help children become more aware of their own learning processes. We also reviewed updates across our core curriculum subjects to ensure every learner continues to make strong progress as we move into the second half of the term.

Autumn 2 is always a busy and exciting half-term. It's a longer stretch, but one full of engaging learning opportunities designed to secure and deepen pupils' knowledge and understanding. We're particularly looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to our Learner Review Meetings over the next fortnight — our new approach to parents' evenings. These meetings will provide a valuable opportunity for teachers, parents, and pupils to come together to reflect on progress so far and set goals for the term ahead.

Key dates for this half-term are included in this newsletter to help families plan, participate, and make the most of the many events and activities coming up. I'm grateful to the staff and our PTFA for their efforts and contributions that enhance our offer to stretch far beyond our timetabled lessons. Thank you, as always, for your continued support — together, we will make this a positive and inspiring half-term for every child. As always if you have any queries or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



From our Governors

Welcome Back! We hope everyone's had a great half-term. Now that everything is settled in for this academic year, we wanted to share some of the latest governor updates.

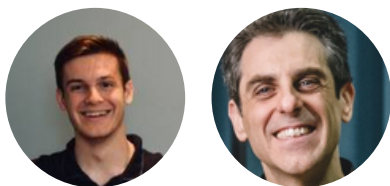
First and foremost, we're really excited for a year where the schools can settle into their rhythms! It was very encouraging to see how last year's changes had such a positive impact, with the re-organisation of the leadership structures and appointment of Mrs Thompson into the Executive Headteacher role. This year now feels like a springboard, with more stability, allowing us to embed all of last year's progress.

A major achievement of this last half-term has been the participation in an Ofsted pilot, to test out Ofsted's new framework. Marleigh was selected for this after it's 'Good' rating last year, and we're really grateful for the way staff have participated, giving us a headstart to be ready for Fen Ditton's Ofsted in this next year or so. Thank you to everyone involved!

We have one main governing body update, which is that at the end of this term, I (Xav) will be stepping back from the co-chair role, into a regular governing role, and Ben Roberts will be taking my place. Ben is a parent at Marleigh, and as we've chatted about the role, it's been so clear to see how passionate he is for Fen Ditton and Marleigh to be atmospheres where children can thrive and grow. On a personal note, I'd like to thank pupils, parents, staff and governors for continuing to make this the wonderful school community it is. It's an immense privilege to see how much care and effort is being put in, to give the best possible experience for the children.

That's all from us this time around! Have a brilliant second half of term. Our email addresses are below, and if you need to get in touch, whether for safeguarding, interest in being a governor, or something else, please do reach out.

Best wishes,



Xavier Castelino and Dom Vicinanza (Co-Chairs of Governors)
xcastelino@anglianlearning.org dvicinanza@anglianlearning.org



Butterflies Class

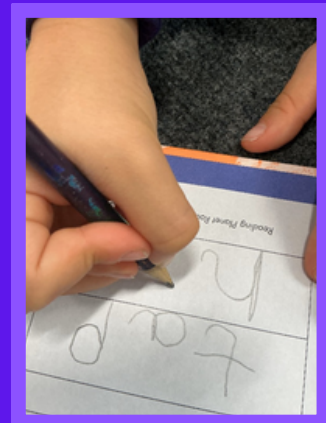
Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely half term break. It's been a busy and exciting first week back in Butterflies Class, and the children have settled back into school wonderfully.

This week we have been celebrating **Bonfire Night** in lots of fun and creative ways. The children have explored different techniques to create their own **firework artwork** — using paint flicks, printing, glitter, and even chalk to capture all the sparkle and colour of fireworks lighting up the night sky.

To finish off our celebrations, we watched a firework display, which filled the classroom with excitement and wonder. It was lovely to see the children's faces light up as they talked about their own Bonfire Night experiences.

This week in phonics, we've been learning all about the sounds 'c' and 'k'. The children have had great fun spotting these sounds in words and practising writing them in their books.

We've been so impressed by how independent the children are becoming when using these sounds in their own writing — from writing words like cat and kit, to having a go at sounding out new words all by themselves! It's wonderful to see their growing confidence and enthusiasm for phonics.



12th Nov, Stay and Play

Parents and carers are welcome into the classroom after morning drop off (8:45am-9:30am). It will be a fantastic opportunity for your child to share their experiences at school with you. We hope to see lots of you there!



News from our classrooms

Dragonflies Class

This week in Dragonflies we've had a lovely start to the new half term. In English we began our new book **The Storm Whale** and have enjoyed getting to know the story and its characters.

We also started our sewing project in DT, learning how to thread a needle and practise running stitch. In geography we've been exploring the continents and finding out more about our world. It's been a great first week back, and everyone has settled in brilliantly.





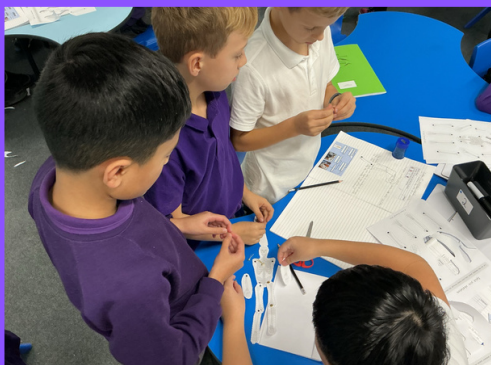
Owls Class



Owls class have started Autumn 2 off by focusing on getting our bodies and minds ready! Through yoga, year 4s are improving their flexibility with moves such as the tree pose and warrior pose. We are also learning yoga to encourage mindfulness and self awareness.

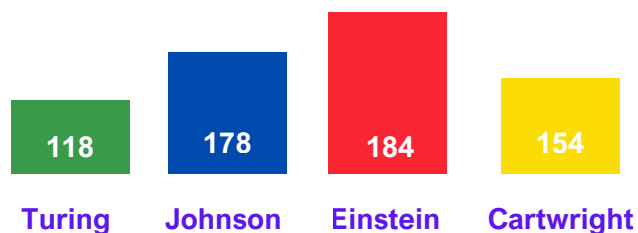
Moving onto science, we looked at how our bodies are protected and supported by our skeleton. We have been exploring key terms such as vertebrates and invertebrates, endoskeleton and exoskeleton - using this knowledge to categorise different animals. Owls class also created their own movable skeletons!

It has been a busy 4 days filled with discovery and movement, but we can't wait to see what else we will accomplish in this new term.





House Point Totals



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!



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Kamila - Badgers
Alin - Caterpillars



Christmas Holiday Scheme Places

FULLY
FUNDED



Your child can book onto a fully funded holiday scheme this Christmas with fun experiences and food offered.



Children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals are eligible and can attend for up to 16 hours.



For details and the wider eligibility criteria please scan the QR Code or visit:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf

Questions: **HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

Key Dates for Autumn 2025/26

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 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 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



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