



19 Dec 2025

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Headteacher's insight

As we reach the final day of the Autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly full, joyful, and productive few months across both of our schools. This week alone has showcased the very best of our community spirit. Our carol services at Fen Ditton Church were a true highlight—beautiful moments of music, reflection, and togetherness that reminded us how powerful it is when our pupils' voices fill such a special space. The Christmas Fayre at Fen Ditton brought families, staff, and friends together from both schools in a wonderful celebration of festive cheer, and we are so grateful to everyone who contributed their time, energy, and generosity.

Throughout the week, our children have thrown themselves into every opportunity with enthusiasm. On Wednesday, families joined us for our Active Learning maths activity at Wednesday drop-off, creating a lively and positive start to the day and reinforcing how strong learning partnerships can be. We also shared Christmas lunches, took part in a spirited Santa Dash, and enjoyed the Nursery Christmas sing-a-long — each event adding its own sparkle to the day and offering moments for joy, laughter, and connection. No 'hump day' for us!

It has been wonderful to see pupils conclude their curriculum units with pride, showing real progress in their learning and a growing confidence in themselves as learners. From academic accomplishments to personal growth, there is so much for our children to feel proud of.

Across this term, the sense of community connection has been stronger than ever. Whether through shared events, classroom learning, informal conversations, or the many ways families support us behind the scenes, your involvement enriches school life in ways that make a genuine difference. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our pupils, families, and staff for your continued support, positivity, and commitment. We have been particularly encouraged by how our families have got behind our recently launched referral scheme to build our school community at Fen Ditton.



...continued

With some classes now full at Marleigh, this is the perfect time to help new families understand that we are a partnership of two excellent schools with the same offer at two different sites.

As we head into the holiday, I hope each of you finds time for rest, connection, and celebration. Thank you for everything you bring to our schools — we look forward to welcoming you back in the new year on **Tuesday 6th January** for an exciting Spring term ahead.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



News from our classrooms

Butterflies Class

What a wonderful final week of term we have had in Butterflies Class as we get ready for the Christmas break!

This week, the children have thoroughly enjoyed creating a variety of Christmas crafts. They have shown great enthusiasm and creativity while developing their fine motor skills and sharing ideas with their friends. The classroom has certainly been feeling very festive!

Music has also been a highlight this week. The children have been singing well-known Christmas songs and using a range of instruments to keep the beat. They have loved exploring rhythm and working together as a group, and it has been lovely to see their confidence grow.

As part of our learning about the world around us, the children have been learning about different celebrations from around the world. They particularly enjoyed learning about Hanukkah and have been comparing it with other festivals they know, including Christmas. The children asked thoughtful questions and showed curiosity and respect when learning about how others celebrate.

We are very proud of all the children for their hard work and positive attitudes this term. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year, and for your generous cards and gifts for us all.

We wish you all a happy, safe and restful break and look forward to welcoming the children back in the new term!

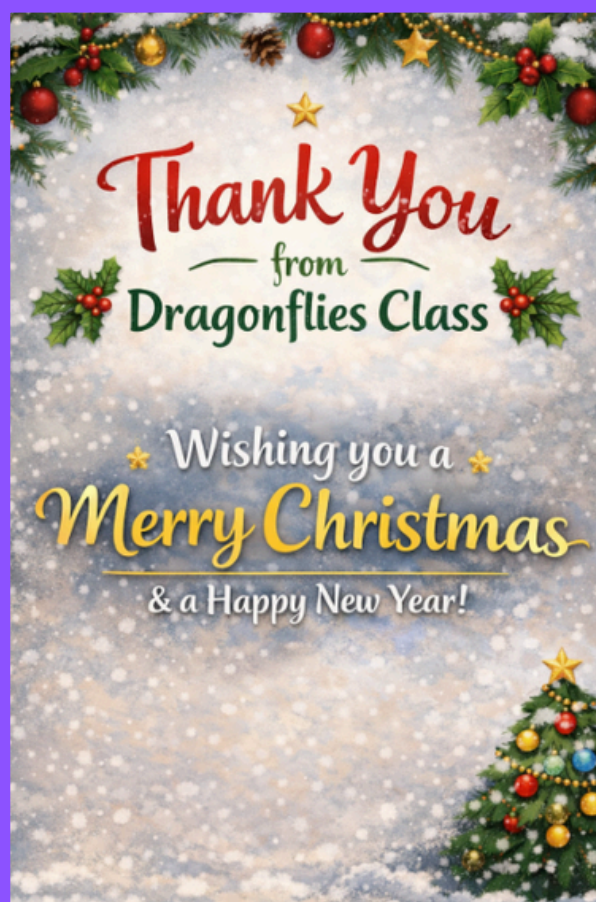




Dragonflies Class

This week in Dragonflies we've been busy enjoying our final week of the term. In English we wrote postcards, thinking carefully about what we might like to share. We also took part in the Santa Dash and performed in the carol concert, which were both lovely festive moments.

In DT we finished making our pouches and were very proud of the hard work that went into them. A big thank you for all your support this term, and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy holiday.





Wellbeing

Calming the Christmas Chaos

Christmas can be both utterly joyful and a bit overstimulating! As we head into the festive break, many families find routines wobble, emotions run higher, and everyone can feel a bit overwhelmed at times.

Here are a few tips to help support calmer days and wellbeing over the holidays.

Keep one or two routines steady

Inevitably there will be a lot of change over Christmas but try to keep some “anchors” in place. A predictable bedtime routine, regular meals, or a consistent wake-up time can help children feel secure.

Slow down

Building in pockets of time to rest helps everyone reset after jam-packed days... If your children like to be kept entertained, here are some simple cheap/free Christmas activities to try!

Name feelings

“I feel exhausted after seeing all those people! I think I need some quiet time” Naming emotions and coping strategies normalises them and helps children make sense of big days.

Use movement

Calm high emotions with movement - wrap up warm for a short walk, dance to a favourite song, or get children to help with a practical task around the house.

Practice gratitude

Christmas can be a materialistic time of year, and children can be drawn in to comparison which can sometimes feel draining and frustrating for parents. A daily time to share what you're each feeling grateful for, or encouraging children to sort through old toys to give to charity can help refocus.

Whilst Christmas is a happy time for many, for others it can be difficult for a variety of reasons. Support is available even over the Christmas period from several charities.

Wishing all our families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.



House Point Totals

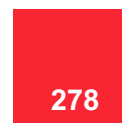
End of term winners!



Turing



Johnson



Einstein



Cartwright

Thank You

We're incredibly grateful to parents/carers and friends who have supported us and treated us this term. In particular for raising funds for Christmas Crackers for the children, and the generosity of the staff shared lunch on Thursday (special thanks to Tina for organising this during an already busy time of year!).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Princess Angel - Owls
Hannah - Squirrels
Berk - Dragonflies





News and information

Art Club with the Artist Bookbinder

Art Club with Mariapaola (The Artist Bookbinder) offers 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 9 January to 13 February

- 3:15–4:00 pm: Year 1 (£65.35 for 6 sessions)
- 4:15–5:15 pm: Year 2 and above (£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.

New Adult Art Club

Discover the art of drawing the human form and capture the figure's beauty and intricacy in a brand-new life drawing class held every Thursday at the Marleigh Academy in Cambridge.

This comprehensive life drawing course caters to curious beginners and intermediate students. You'll immerse yourself in a diverse range of artistic disciplines, fostering confidence in a relaxed, social environment. Supportive guidance and expert demonstrations will ensure your growth and development as an artist.

What: Figure Drawing classes (All Levels Welcome)

When: Thursday, January 15th, 22nd, 29th and 5th & 12th Feb from 7 PM to 9 PM. (Continues after February half term)

Where: Small Hall, Marleigh Academy, Cambridge

Includes: Tuition, short and long poses, expert demonstrations, weekly worksheets, personalised feedback, and varied professional life models.

Cost: £75 for a five-week block. Concessions are available; please inquire.

Please note that spaces are limited.

Sign-Up/Enquire: Email cambridgefiguredrawing@yahoo.com or call David Bennison on 07402903114.

Quiz night

Wednesday 21 January



The
Crown
& Punchbowl

7PM | £2.50 PER PERSON | MAX SIX PER TEAM
PRIZES AND RAFFLE | BOOK YOUR TEAM IN HERE >>
FUNDRAISING FOR FEN DITOM PRIMARY SCHOOL





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