



06 Jan 2026

**Contents:**

- Headteacher's insight
- News from our classrooms
- Events and reminders

## Headteacher's insight

Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring term at Marleigh Primary Academy. It has been a genuine pleasure to see the children return this week so positively, ready to learn and reconnect. After any break – and especially after the Christmas holidays – we are very intentional in how we support pupils back into school life. Staff have prioritised the 3Rs: relationships, routines and resilience, ensuring that every child feels secure, supported and ready to thrive as the new term begins.

As we start January, it also feels right to reflect on what was a wonderfully busy and joyful end to the Autumn term. The PTFA Christmas Fayre was a fantastic community event, and we are very grateful for the time, energy and generosity that made it such a success. The children shone in their performances, showing confidence, creativity and teamwork, and it was lovely to come together for both the Carol Service at Fen Ditton Church and the Christmas Service with Barnwell Baptist Church. These moments of shared celebration are an important part of our school's identity and it was collectively a positive and connected end to the Autumn term.

Behind the scenes, there were also special moments that meant a great deal to our community: the staff Christmas lunch, kindly donated by some of our parents, was hugely appreciated; the pupil Christmas lunch was a real highlight for the children; and the Santa Dash brought energy, laughter and festive cheer to the final days of term.

This week, we have been delighted to welcome new pupils joining us in Nursery and across the school. As Marleigh continues to grow, some year groups are now full and we are operating waiting lists. If you know of local families who are considering a move but are unable to secure a place with us, we would strongly encourage them to apply to our sister school, Fen Ditton Primary. Our growth across the two schools is beneficial to us all, strengthening collaboration, increasing resources, shared expertise and opportunities for our wider community.



## ...continued

Looking ahead, the Spring term promises to be one of momentum, building on the many successes of the Autumn term. I am extremely grateful for the ongoing support of our parents and carers; it is this partnership that enables our staff to do their jobs so effectively, always with the best interests of the children at heart.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I look forward to all that the term ahead will bring.



*Mrs Thompson*

**Mrs Emily Thompson**  
**Executive Headteacher**



## Movement Miles Challenge: Children who move more are always a step ahead!

Starting on the **12th January to 26th January**, our school is taking part in the **Anglian Learning School Sport Alliance's Movement Miles championship!** In the next two weeks, we need your help! We encourage your and your child to take part in as many Movement Miles as possible (walking, running, swimming, cycling and more...). This can be before school, during school, After school and at the weekends!

Any movement that can be measured can be submitted via the Microsoft form (linked below) which also contains all the information you need (If you don't make a mile, you can still send in your metres and it will still count!) and whichever school has the most Movement Miles will be crowned champions! Please follow this link or scan the QR code attached: [Anglian Learning School Sport Alliance: Movement Miles – Fill in form](#)

Keep an eye out for our Social Media posts for updates and opportunities to share your successes.

## Ladybirds Class Request for Items & Helper

On Wednesday next week (14th January), we will begin our new History topic - Toys in the past. On Wednesday, please could your child bring in a non-electronic toy from home?

- ✓ The toy should come in a clearly labelled bag
- ✓ It will be used for a history activity only.

In addition, we would love a parent or grandparent volunteer to visit the following Wednesday (21st Jan) to briefly chat with the children about a toy from their childhood. If you are willing to help, please speak to Mrs McLachlan or contact the school office.

Thank you for your support—we're really looking forward to launching this new topic.



## News from our classrooms

### Caterpillars Class

#### ***One Thing We're Looking Forward To***

We are looking forward to meeting our new classmates and making new friends.

#### ***Our Class New Year Intention***

Our new class intention is to look after our toys and keep the nursery tidy.

#### ***A Highlight From Our Week***

A highlight from our week was discovering new things in the nursery.

#### ***Something We Learned This Week***

One thing we learned this week was the different ways we celebrated during the holidays.

#### ***Class Book Update***

Our class story this week was Come to school too Blue Kangaroo by Emma Chichester Clark.





## Butterflies Class

### ***One Thing We're Looking Forward To***

There has been much excitement in Butterflies this week as we have started to use our new role play house outside and we are looking forward to using our new reading shed as well.

### ***Our Class New Year Intention***

Our class intention this year is to work together to keep our classroom tidy.

### ***A Highlight From Our Week***

We were really happy to see each other again after the break, and enjoyed playing turn taking games together in our PSHE lesson such as 'Snakes and Ladders.'

### ***Something We Learned This Week***

We have been looking at a non-fiction text this week so we have been learning about the difference between fiction and non-fiction books.

### ***Class Book Update***

Our current class text is an interesting non-fiction book called 'Above and Below - Dusk Until Dawn' and we are looking forward to learning more facts.





### History: Request for Items & Helper

See details on page 3.

## Ladybirds Class

### ***One Thing We're Looking Forward To***

Ladybirds Class have settled back into school beautifully this week and are already full of excitement for the term ahead. We're really looking forward to our new art unit, where we'll be learning all about colour mixing and enjoying lots of painting.

### ***Our Class New Year Intention***

As we start the new term, our class intention is to be kind to each other and ourselves as we continue our learning journey together.

### ***A Highlight From Our Week***

A real highlight of the week was our sports event on Wednesday. The children loved taking part in the different activities and especially enjoyed joining in with the KS1 children from Fen Ditton. It was wonderful to see such great teamwork, enthusiasm and smiles all round.

### ***Something We Learned This Week***

In our learning, we began our new class book, *The Great Fire of London* by Emma Adams. We learned that the Great Fire of London started in a bakery on Pudding Lane on 1st September 1666, and the children were fascinated by this important moment in history.





# Dragonflies Class

## ***One Thing We're Looking Forward To***

This half term, the class is really looking forward to Art, where they'll be able to be creative and try out new ideas, as well as Science, where they're excited to explore and learn more about different materials.

## ***Our Class New Year Intention***

Our class intention is to try really hard in our learning every day, especially in Maths and when working on neat, careful handwriting.

## ***A Highlight From Our Week***

A real highlight from our first week back was taking part in a fun Key Stage 1 PE Event, which everyone enjoyed. It was also lovely to see how happy the children were to be back at school and spending time with their friends again.

## ***Something We Learned This Week***

This week in Maths, we learned about money, including recognising coins and talking about their values. In PSHE, we talked about the internet, its different uses, and how it has changed our lives over time — including the way we communicate and play games today.

## ***Class Book Update***

In English, we have started reading Beegu. The children have been interested in the story so far and are enjoying talking about the characters and what might happen next.





# Squirrels Class

## ***One Thing We're Looking Forward To***

In Squirrels Class, we're looking forward to exploring our new history topic 'Why did the Romans invade and settle in Britain?' and discovering how part of their legacy still shows in Britain today.

## ***Our Class New Year Intention***

Our intention this term is to be respectful learners by listening carefully to each other and trying our best, even when learning feels challenging.

## ***A Highlight From Our Week***

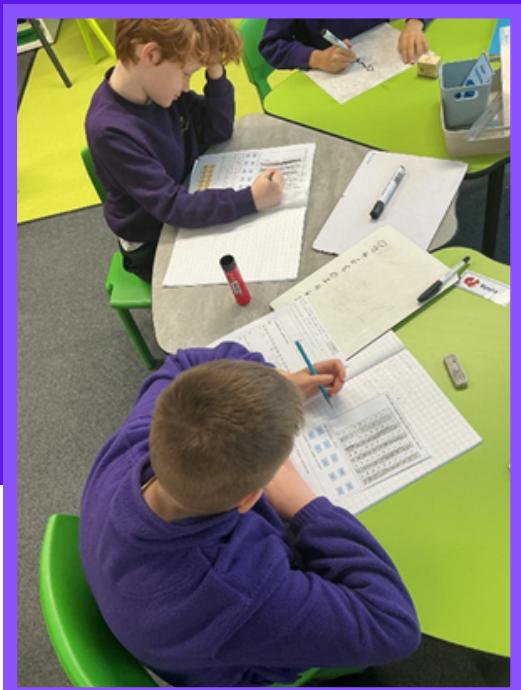
A highlight from our first week back was our first gymnastics lesson. We really enjoyed learning how to make our bodies still and strong in different positions, both on and off the apparatus.

## ***Something We Learned This Week***

We learned how to develop our oracy skills by using expression to retell a well-known story.

## ***Class Book Update***

We are excited to begin our new class text for English – Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, retold by Sabina Radeva. We will be writing explanation texts to explain a few of his theories.





## Owls Class



### ***One Thing We're Looking Forward To***

In Owls class, we are looking forward to exploring our classic class book: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S.Lewis and we are also excited to develop our knowledge of rocks further. We started our science topic by investigating all types of rocks - using the magnifying glass to observe and categorise rocks (ask the Owls what the three categories of rocks are!).

### ***Our Class New Year Intention***

Owls class have the intention of taking pride in our work through peer appreciation and self-reflection. We learn many wonderful things in school so it is important to take a moment and see how far we have come on our learning journey.

### ***A Highlight From Our Week***

A highlight of this week was finishing our multiplication and division topic. Year 4/5 worked extra hard to polish our skills in column method multiplication and short division. We are now ready to take our knowledge of multiples and factors to our next topic: Fractions!

### ***Something We Learned This Week***

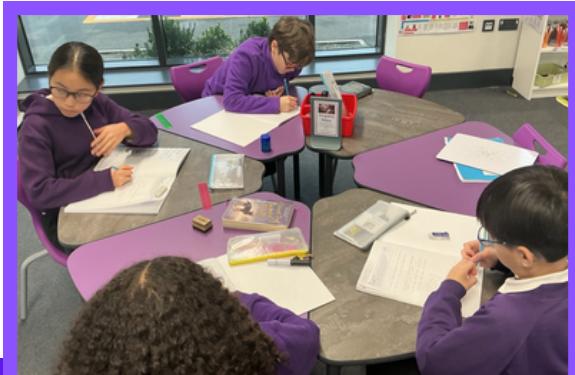
In English, we are working towards writing a comparative description. This week our focus was on identifying and using comparative language. The Owls have practiced comparing two different settings through comparative adjectives and phrases.

The Owls are ready to spread their wings and take on new challenges this term.





## Badgers Class



### ***One Thing We're Looking Forward To***

In Year 6 Badgers, we are very excited to learn about Space in our new science topic.

### ***Our Class New Year Intention***

Year 6's intention this half term is to show respect to all members of our school and the wider community, exercising tolerance and understanding for everyone's needs and differences.

### ***A Highlight From Our Week***

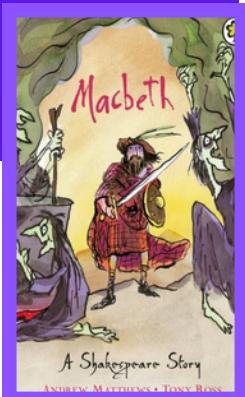
In Gymnastics with Mr Parker we explored the different gymnastics positions, such as pike and tucks, and experimented with different methods of travel between movement.

### ***Something We Learned This Week***

In maths this week, we have been learning about ratio and how to describe the additive or multiplicative relationship between two values.

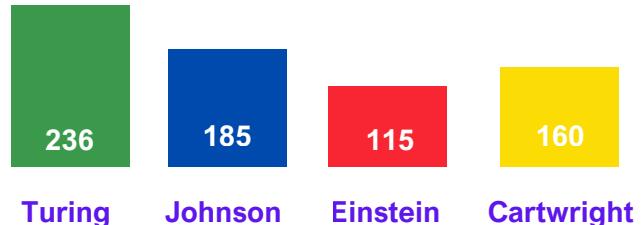
### ***Class Book Update***

Our new class English text for this half term is Macbeth, based on William Shakespeare's famous play, and we have loved exploring the characters at the beginning of the story thus far.





## House Point Totals



## Big Garden Bird Watch

### Join Us for the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch!

We're excited to announce that we are taking part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch 2026, running from 6 January to 13 February! This is a nationwide activity where thousands of schools survey the birds visiting their school grounds, helping the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) understand more about bird life in the UK.



### What will we be doing?

Each class will choose some time to go outside and observe the birds in our playground and outdoor spaces. Pupils will identify and count the birds they see, then we will submit these results online to the RSPB — even “zero” sightings matter!

This activity supports real scientific research into birds and biodiversity while encouraging children to get outdoors and connect with nature.

### How can families join in?

You're welcome to take part at home too! Simply choose an hour over the weekend of the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> January to watch the birds in your garden, local park or from your window, and record what you see. It's a fun way to explore wildlife together and contribute to a national project!

Find full details, registration information and resources here:

[Join Us for the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch!](#)

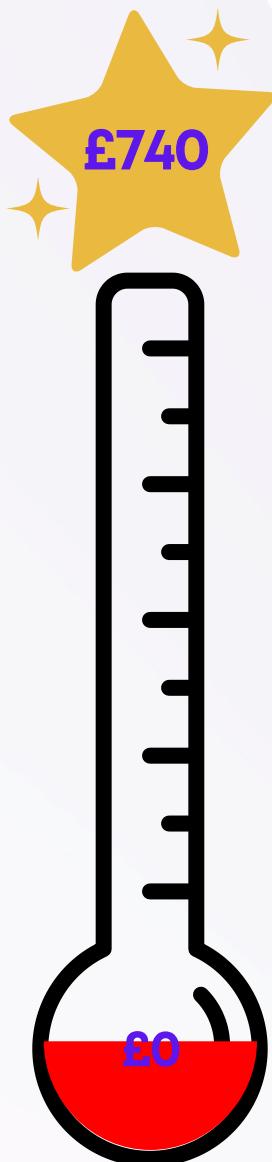
Let's make every sighting count — happy birdwatching!

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

Valerie - Dragonflies  
Shivit - Dragonflies  
Amalie - Caterpillars



# Help us raise funds for a Playground bench



This will be the first bench in our new outdoor learning space for all children to enjoy.

**Every contribution helps, thank you for your support!**

**DONATE**



**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

# 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 DITTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

