



30 Jan 2026

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Headteacher's insight

One of our key priorities in school is helping children to secure their core knowledge – particularly in reading, number facts and times tables. We know that children learn best when key facts are rehearsed regularly in small, manageable chunks. This kind of repetition builds confidence, fluency and long-term understanding.

This is where learning at home plays such an important role. Home learning does not need to be formal or time-consuming to be effective. Simple, everyday moments can make a real difference. Reading road signs as you travel together, spotting number bonds on door numbers while out for a walk, or answering a times table question for each step as your child walks up the stairs to bed are all powerful ways to reinforce learning in a natural, low-pressure way.

Regular reading at home is especially important. Reading to your child, listening to them read, and talking about books together all help to develop strong reading habits. Recording this reading in your child's reading record allows us to celebrate progress and support them effectively in school. Children also benefit greatly from seeing adults read for pleasure; modelling reading at home sends a powerful message that reading matters.

We have also been delighted to see the creativity sparked by our menu of learning tasks. The range of responses and individual styles has been wonderful to celebrate. These tasks provide valuable opportunities for discussion at home about what children are learning in school, and they often lead to learning being deepened even further. Most importantly, they show children that their learning is valued beyond the classroom.

By practising little and often, and by talking positively about learning at home, children begin to see learning as part of everyday life rather than something that only happens in school. Thank you for the many ways you continue to support your child – your involvement makes a lasting impact and we can see the benefits to your children in the classroom.



...continued

I hope you enjoy the weekend together. I am looking forward to our final fortnight of this half term that will have us celebrating national storytelling week, NPSCC number day, Children's mental health week, finalising and sharing our scheduling for next half term with you and ending on our **PTFA Funky Hair Day**.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



Fundraising News & Updates

Playground Benches

We are so pleased to have raised funds so quickly for the first bench! We have found a supplier who can provide the product for **£550** so we've updated our target to **£1100** with the intention to purchase two benches which will seat half a class at a time for learning activities. **Hill Group** have committed to donating the remaining amount.. so watch this space!

Target Breaker! 103% of target raised

£763.75

Raised of **£740.00** goal
By 17 supporters

Stretch target set at £1,100.00
69% of our new target achieved



Funky Hair Day

Get ready for a day of **colour, creativity and fun** as the **PTFA** invites all pupils to take part in our **Funky Hair Day** on **Friday 13th February**.

On this day, children are welcome to come to school in **non-uniform** and show off their wildest and most wonderful hairstyles. Think big hair, bold colours, wigs, crazy hair-dos and plenty of hairspray — the wilder, the better!

DONATE

Marleigh Primary PTFA presents:

Colourful hair **FUNKY HAIR DAY** Wacky styles
Accessories

On Friday 13th February
Get creative!

Prizes to be won for the "funkiest" hairstyle!
Help fundraise new classroom play resources for indoor playtime on rainy days.

Donate here

Did you know??
Each class will get involved and choose what resources to buy with the money raised!

www.goodhub.com/go/marleigh-primary-academy-207926 Helping your children fly

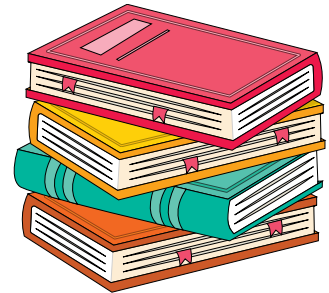




Other News & Updates

Friday Reading Group, will you join?

Thank you to parents who have volunteered their time for 1 hour on Friday mornings to hear children read. We'd love to broaden our pool of parents, if you'd like to come along you're welcome to just turn up from 9am - 10am. No weekly commitment!



Movement Miles Update

Congratulations to all the Students who took part in the 2-week Anglian Learning Movement Miles Competition! Pupils and staff got moving by running, walking, cycling and swimming and more before, during and after school and at the weekends — and the results were AMAZING.



Together, Marleigh travelled 241.91 miles!

That's roughly the distance from Cambridge to London and back again — what a journey!

After 241 submissions across all schools, the average wellbeing score was 4.5/5

A brilliant reminder that moving more isn't just great for your body — it's amazing for your mind too.

Together, Marleigh, Fen Ditton, Stapleford and Bottisham Primary Schools travelled a massive 1,634.914 miles!

That's the same as going from London to Rome and back again... with miles to spare, it's also the equivalent of running over 62 marathons

Huge congratulations to everyone who took part — you've shown that teamwork, determination, and movement can achieve big things!



Caterpillars Class



Caterpillars have been exploring our topics of **Winter** and **animals**. We continue to enjoy Welly Wednesday in the forest. This week we based our learning on the story **Hamilton's Hats** and followed a trail of hats through the wood. The children tried on the hats and talked about who they might belong to.

Caterpillars continue to develop other skills such as motor skills by riding the trikes and exploring the role play vets area which complements their learning about domestic animals and pet care.

We have had fun at the maths table this week thinking about 1,2 and 3 including how we can recognise quantities, numeral recognition and numbers in rhymes and stories.





Trip reminder

Ladybirds are going on a trip on Tuesday 3 Feb, please arrive to school on time dressed for the weather

Ladybirds Class

This week in **maths**, we have been adding within 20, exploring different ways to add numbers and using our number bond knowledge to help us work things out more quickly and confidently.

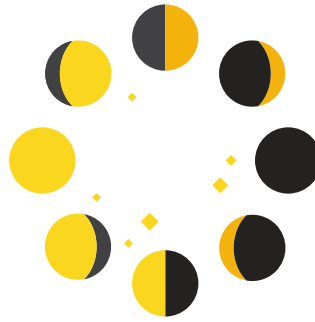
In **English**, we have continued writing our non-fiction texts about the Great Fire of London, learning about what happened after the fire and how the city began to rebuild. The children have worked hard to include facts and organise their ideas clearly.

In **science**, we have been exploring our senses, focusing on taste and smell. The children particularly enjoyed investigating different flavours and scents — although 90% dark chocolate was definitely not the treat many were expecting! We also discovered that smells can be pleasant to some people but unpleasant to others, leading to some great discussions about how our senses can work differently.

In **art**, we have been learning about mixing colours to create new shades, before using LEGO bricks to print patterns with paint. The children loved experimenting with colour combinations and the printing process — it was a very exciting and creative session!

Please don't forget our trip on Tuesday and make sure that the children come to school dressed for the weather. We are looking forward to it!





Badgers Class

Badgers have had a very busy and enjoyable week, full of exciting learning across the curriculum. In **science**, we have been learning all about the phases of the moon. To help us understand this tricky concept, we used Oreos to represent the different phases, carefully modelling how the moon changes shape throughout the lunar cycle. This hands-on activity really helped to bring our learning to life and was thoroughly enjoyed by the class.

In **history**, we stepped back in time to **Tudor England** and focused on **Queen Elizabeth I** and her famous visit to Worcester. We explored why royal visits were so important and learned how people in Tudor times prepared for such an event. The children were fascinated to discover the amount of planning involved, from cleaning streets to decorating the city, and enjoyed comparing life in Tudor times with life today.

In **RE**, we continued our learning about different religious head coverings. This week, we focused on the kippah in Judaism, learning about when and why it is worn and what it symbolises. The children showed great respect and curiosity during discussions and asked thoughtful questions about different beliefs and traditions.

In **PE**, Badgers have been working hard on their gymnastics skills. Mr Parker has been extremely impressed with the class's determination, resilience and positive attitudes. The children have shown great teamwork and perseverance while practising and improving their routines, and their confidence continues to grow each week.

Well done to all of Badgers for another fantastic week of learning!



House Point Totals

264	281	248	248
Turing	Johnson	Einstein	Cartwright

World Book Day - 5 March

This year for World Book Day children will be invited to dress as a word for our 'Words Come Alive' theme. Children can dress as any word so it can be as simple or creative as they want to make it, using everyday clothing, household items, or simple homemade signs to represent a word!

Looking for a nursery?

Families with children aged 3–4 are invited to apply for a place in **Marleigh Nursery**, a term time nursery open from 9am-3pm currently registering our next intake of children for the Summer term.

We have a fantastic Early Years team and a spacious play-rich environment where children can thrive.

If you have a little one ready to take their next step, we'd love to welcome them. [Find out more.](#)



REGISTER NOW



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Romee - Butterflies

Elara - Butterflies

Anika - Dragonflies

Amaya - Dragonflies

Bertie - Dragonflies

Rafferty - Squirrels

Millen - Ladybirds




William - Dragonflies





KS2 Spark Tank Innovation Challenge

We are excited to launch the Spark Tank Innovation Challenge for our KS2 pupils. Children are invited to design an invention that could help make the world better by:

-  reducing waste
-  saving energy
-  helping people feel safe and included

This is an optional homework challenge, where pupils create an idea for a new invention and present it on a poster or through drawings, diagrams or models.

Key information

- Open to KS2 pupils
- Children can work alone or with a friend
- Entries due: 25 February
- School will choose three winning ideas

The winners will then work with **real engineers** to develop their inventions further and attend a showcase event in **March**.

This is a fantastic opportunity for children to develop creativity, confidence and problem-solving skills.

We look forward to seeing their amazing ideas!

Key dates 2025-26

Tues, 3 Feb	National Storytelling Week workshops
Weds, 4 Feb	UKS2 parent RSE workshops - 2:45pm-3:15pm
Fri, 6 Feb	NSPCC's Number Day - dress up as a number. Donate
Wed, 11 Feb	Years 3 and 4 Sports event
Fri, 13 Feb	Funky Hair Day - PTFA Fundraiser. Donate .
Wed, 25 Feb	Sports event EYFS
Wed, 4 Mar	ALPSA Swimming Gala KS2 (selected children)
Thurs, 5 Mar	World Book Day - Dress as a word for 'Words Come to Life'
Wed, 11 Mar	Sports event Year 5 and 6
Wed, 18 Mar	Sports event Years 3 and 4
Wed, 25 Mar	ALPSA Festival Friendship games KS1 (selected children)
Mon, 20 Apr	National Child Measurement Programme
Wed, 22 Apr	ALPSA League Girls Football KS2 (selected children)
Mon, 27 Apr	Reception Vision Screening
Wed, 6 May	Sports event Years 3 and 4
Wed, 13 May	ALPSA Tournament Netball Years 5 and 6 (selected children)
Wed, 20 May	Sports event for Years 1 and 2
Thurs, 21 May	Class photos
Wed, 3 Jun	Sports event EYFS
Wed, 10 Jun	ALPSA Tournament
Wed, 17 Jun	Sports event Year 5
Wed, 24 Jun	ALPSA Tournament Golf Years 5 and 6 (selected children)
Wed, 1 Jul	Sports event Year 6
Wed, 8 Jul	ALPSA Festival Multi Skills KS1 (selected children)
Wed, 15 Jul	ALPSA Tournament Athletics KS2 (selected children)

Marleigh Primary PTFA presents:



Colourful
hair

FUNKY



Accessories

DAY

Wacky
styles

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Helping your children fly





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