



1 May 2026

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Headteacher's insight

As we reach the midpoint of the half term, I want to thank you for your continued support—there is a great deal of positive work taking place across the school, and it is a pleasure to see the children so engaged in their learning. With the bank holiday weekend ahead, I hope families are able to enjoy some well-earned time together.

Looking ahead, we are reviewing our communication approach as part of our planning for the next academic year. We are keen to ensure that what we share is both purposeful and manageable for families. One proposal we are considering is to separate key operational information from richer insight into school life. This would mean a short, weekly Friday briefing communication focused purely on reminders, key dates, and information about upcoming school and local events, alongside a more detailed, half-termly newsletter that offers a deeper window into learning across the classes and the wider life of the school.

We would really value your views on this. Please do take a moment to respond to the short form—whether you would welcome this change or have any reservations you would like us to consider. Your feedback will directly shape how we communicate moving forward. School [Newsletters from September 2026 – Fill in form](#)

I hope you all have a positive bank holiday weekend and the additional day provides an opportunity for you to rest and recharge. We will look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Tuesday next week.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



Reporting absences

NEW

Whether your child is sick, or you have an upcoming medical appointment, there is a way to report this to the office via your child's class page.

Scroll to the bottom of your class page for Useful links

Useful links:

[Report an absence \(sickness, medical, travel etc\)](#)

You will be asked which type of absence you are reporting. If you are reporting sickness, we may follow this up with a phone call. Medical appointments should be accompanied by an email with a screenshot of the appointment.

What type of absence are you reporting?

- Sickness
- Medical appointment
- Other

If you're reporting any other absence you will be directed to our [Application for Leave of Absence during Term Time form](#).

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Aarav - Ladybirds
Joey - Butterflies
Cia - Owls
Adira - Butterflies
Gert - Dragonflies
Astis - Ladybirds





Wellbeing

Help and Support in Challenging Times

If things feel difficult right now, please remember, you are not alone and there is support available.

Foodbank and Community Meals

Find out about local Food Banks and help with hot meals or basic food supplies [here](#).

Cost of Living Support

Further support with the cost of living is available through Cambridge City Council. This includes help with managing money, accessing grants and finding local support services. [Financial advice and cost of living support - Cambridge City Council](#)

Family Support

If you are struggling with any aspect of parenting/caring for children, please consider contacting our [EIFA \(Education Inclusion Family Advisor\)](#), Saffron for 1:1 help with sleep, sibling rivalry, challenging behaviour and more. You can reach out for support by [completing this form](#).

Parents/carers of children with additional needs or disabilities may find the [council's Local Offer](#) useful for signposting and advice. [SENDIASS](#) or [PinPoint](#) are also brilliant for advice, helplines and resources.

You can find out about support across a wide variety of charities and organisations available throughout the county [on the How Are You Cambridge support finder](#).

How We Can Help

If you feel that any of these services could support your family, please do reach out to them. If you are feeling overwhelmed and don't know who to turn to for help, speak with your child's class teacher or our Pastoral Lead, Mandy Futter (wellbeing@marleighprimary.org). There is help available, and you will always be met with understanding and respect.



Help improve children's wellbeing – take part in the SHINE Survey

We are pleased to invite you to take part in the SHINE (Studying Happiness, self-Image and Nutrition and Eating in children) Parent & Carer Survey. The survey will help us understand the health and wellbeing of children in Reception (4-5 years) and Year 6 (10-11 years). The survey is open to parents and carers of children in these year groups.

The survey takes around 20 minutes and can be completed online (or on paper, if preferred – see below). It includes questions about:

- Your child's mental wellbeing,
- You and your child's eating and physical activity habits,
- Your household and background.

By sharing your experiences, you will help us make changes at both local and national levels to support children's wellbeing.

As a thank you for taking part, you can enter a prize draw to win one of four £50 shopping vouchers, awarded to parents and carers in your local community.

The information you provide will only be used only for research purposes and will be kept completely confidential.

[Click here to access the survey.](#)

For more details, [visit our website.](#)

If you have any questions or want a paper version of the survey, contact the study team at shine@ucl.ac.uk.

Thank you for supporting this important research,
The SHINE Study Team

SHINE is a collaboration between University College London, Durham University and Newcastle University.



Caterpillars Class



What an exciting week it's been full of exploration, imagination, and discovery!

This week the children have been developing their early maths skills by comparing and sorting collections. Using natural and play materials — shells, pebbles, cars, buttons, and blocks — the children grouped objects by colour, shape, and size. They've enjoyed explaining their thinking to friends, using new language like "bigger than," "the same," and "different."



Our space theme has truly taken off! Inspired by rockets and planets, we talked about what astronauts do and what it might be like to travel to the moon. We watched rocket launches, read stories about space, and designed and built our own rockets.



We've made the most of our outdoor area this week. The children zoomed around on bikes and scooters, strengthening their balance and coordination. They built imaginative worlds in the sandpit, created lunar landscapes, and challenged themselves on the obstacle course. The slide was especially popular — lots of laughter as they took turns and encouraged one another.

It's been wonderful to see so much teamwork, problem-solving and creativity in everything the children did.





Ladybirds Class



We have had another busy and exciting week in class, with lots of hands-on learning and great enthusiasm across the curriculum.

In maths, we have been exploring fractions, focusing on understanding halves. We looked closely at shapes and created posters to show how they can be split into two equal parts. This helped us to understand that a half must be fair and equal, and we had some great discussions about when something is not quite a half and why.

In English, we have started thinking about writing a newspaper report. We explored what a newspaper is and discussed how information is presented to the reader. We are beginning to notice key features and think about how we can write in a clear and engaging way. We are excited to build on this learning in the coming lessons.

In science, we have been investigating the different parts of plants. We explored real-life flowering plants, carefully identifying the roots, stem, leaves and flowers, and discussing the important jobs each part does. The children showed great curiosity and observation skills when looking closely at the plants. We are really looking forward to our trip on 12th May, where we will extend our knowledge of plants even further.

Our PSHE lesson was a real highlight this week, as we were visited by Molly the dog and Mrs Thompson. We learned all about how to care for a pet, including feeding, exercise, grooming and visiting the vet. The children asked thoughtful questions and showed a great understanding of the responsibility involved in looking after animals.

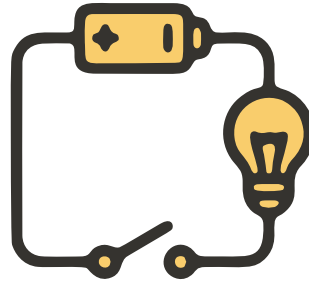
In music, we have been using glockenspiels to explore pitch and tempo. We enjoyed experimenting with different sounds and began creating our own simple musical patterns, performing them with growing confidence.

It has been lovely to see the children working so well together this week, sharing ideas, showing curiosity and taking pride in their learning.



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Squirrels Class

This week in Squirrels Class has been busy as always! From fractions to electrical circuits, and from Anglo-Saxons to non-chronological reports about London, the children have been developing their learning in all sorts of ways!

Our maths unit on fractions has proved challenging so far, but Squirrels have shown resilience when tackling their tasks and solving word problems. This week, we've focused a lot on counting in fractions on number lines and using bar models and fraction walls.

In English, Squirrels completed their independent writing and all wrote fantastic non-chronological reports about London. After carrying out research on the iPads last week and filling in their planning sheets, the children worked on applying their writing skills to developing their reports.

In history, our topic is all about why the Anglo-Saxons came and settled in Britain. This week, we looked at a reconstructed settlement; we noticed how the buildings were made with wattle and daub and that they only had one room with a central fireplace. We drew and labelled an Anglo-Saxon house with the key features of the room inside.

In science, the children learned about the components of an electrical circuit and had a go at constructing their own in groups. They then drew and labelled their own circuit designs, and we are looking forward to testing their ideas next lesson!

A productive and learning-filled week in Squirrels Class!



Badgers Class



It's been another busy and engaging week in Year 6!

In **History**, we explored the **Blitz**, using a range of **primary sources** to understand what life was like during this time. The children showed great curiosity as they analysed real accounts and images, helping to bring this important period to life.

In **Science**, we investigated **shadows**, using torches and black paper to explore how shadows are formed and how their size and shape can change. There was lots of careful measuring and thoughtful discussion as we carried out our experiments.

In **Art**, we continued developing our **portraiture skills**, using photographs and applying our understanding of scale drawing to create more accurate and detailed sketches. It has been fantastic to see the children's confidence growing in this area.

In **PE**, we have been enjoying netball, developing our passing and teamwork skills. A particular highlight was Wednesday's American flag football event against Fen Ditton, which was full of energy, teamwork and great sportsmanship.

Well done, Badgers, for another brilliant week of learning and enthusiasm! 🌟



AGE 16-24?

CARE FOR
SOMEONE AT
HOME?

Free monthly creative
workshop in Cambridge

Calm space* Artist-led
Food provided* Friends welcome

Book: learning@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk



Key dates 2025-26

Mon, 20 Apr	National Child Measurement Programme
Wed, 22 Apr	ALPSA League Girls Football KS2 (selected children)
Mon, 27 Apr	Reception Vision Screening
Mon, 4 May	Bank holiday, school closed
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
Mon 25 - Friday 29 May	HALF TERM
Wed, 3 Jun	Sports event EYFS Squirrels class assembly, parents & carers invited from 09:50
Mon 8 - Fri 12 Jun	Year 1 Phonics Screening Test
Wed, 10 Jun	Sports Alliance Year 3 and 4 Cricket fixture - selected teams Dragonflies class assembly, parents & carers invited from 09:50
Thurs, 11 Jun	Year 6 Bottisham Cup Sports event - all children
Wed, 17 Jun	Year 5 Sport Event afternoon - all children Ladybirds class assembly, parents & carers invited from 09:50 Year 6 Residential Trip (returning Friday 19 June)
Fri, 19 Jun	Fathers Day Gift Shop
Tues, 23 Jun	Caterpillars and Butterflies Teddy Bears Picnic
Wed, 24 Jun	ALPSA Tournament Golf Years 5 and 6 (selected children) Butterflies class assembly, parents & carers invited from 09:50
Wed, 1 Jul	Sports event Year 6 Butterflies trip to South Angle Farm
Fri, 3 Jul	Science Fair project presentations in school Summer Fayre - after school
Wed, 8 Jul	ALPSA Festival Multi Skills Year 1 & 2 (selected children)
Thur, 9 Jul	Sports day (morning)
Fri, 10 Jul	Year 6 Play in a Week performance 9am Science Fair event - 3:15-3:45pm - parents and carers invited to attend

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Wed, 15 Jul	ALPSA Tournament Athletics Year 3 & 4 (selected children)
Thur, 16 Jul	Year 6 Leavers assembly 9:15 - parents and carers invited to attend End of Year Disco - after school
Fri, 17 Jul	Nursery Graduation Ceremony 2:30pm - parents and carers invited to attend Last day of the academic year
	<i>Autumn term 2026/27 begins 4 September 2026</i>



FOLLOW US

Term Dates 2025/26

[For key upcoming dates see our website](#)

[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

**SUPERHERO
POP-UP SHOP FOR
FATHER'S DAY
FRIDAY 19TH JUNE**

**PLEASE PAY IN ADVANCE:
€3.50 PER GIFT, PER CHILD
VIA MYCHILDATSCHOOL**



FUNDRAISING FOR OUR SCHOOL TRIM TRAIL

The children will be able to choose one or more lovely gifts for a special person in their life. This could be a dad, stepdad, grandparent, carer, or another important adult.

You may purchase more than one gift.

On the day, a stall will be set up in school where children who have paid can come and select their gift. Each gift will be placed in a gift bag, and staff will bring children along in small groups.