



25 Sep 2026

Contents:

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

Headteacher's insight



One of the things we are really proud of across our schools is the way our children are building positive connections with the adults and children around them. A simple but powerful part of this focus this academic year has been our introduction of The Good Morning Club approach and, in particular, "Say Hey Your Way."

The idea is wonderfully simple: there is no single "right" way to say hello. Children are encouraged to choose a greeting that feels comfortable for them. That might be a wave, a smile, a high five, a fist bump or simply saying "good morning". What matters is not the particular greeting, but the moment of connection it creates.

We have been using Say Hey Your Way successfully in school and it has been lovely to see children embracing it. Those few seconds communicate something important: I see you, you belong here, and I'm pleased you're here.

And that sense of connection matters for learning too. We know that children are more ready to learn when they feel safe, settled and connected. A positive interaction at the start of the day can help a child make the transition from home into school, regulate how they are feeling and begin the day knowing that there is an adult who has noticed them and is pleased to see them. Connection comes before learning because connection helps create the conditions in which learning can happen.

It also gives children agency. Not every child wants a high five or feels comfortable with the same type of interaction, and that is absolutely fine. Giving children a choice teaches them that their own boundaries matter while also learning to respect the choices of others.

This fits beautifully with our school focus on intentional connections and our belief that strong relationships are not separate from great teaching; they are part of what makes great teaching possible. When children feel that they belong, understand the routines around them and arrive emotionally ready for the day, we give them the strongest possible foundations for learning.

So, if you hear your child talking about "Say Hey Your Way," you now know that behind that very simple greeting sits something much bigger: connection, belonging and readiness to learn.

Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher





Important information regarding educational visits

Educational Visits – A Change to Our Approach

We are writing to let you know about a change to our approach to educational visits and activities, in line with national guidance for schools.

Educational visits and activities are an important part of our curriculum. They provide children with valuable opportunities to learn beyond the classroom, develop independence and confidence, and make meaningful connections with their learning.

Under national guidance, schools are not required to obtain individual parental consent for curriculum-related activities and visits that take place wholly within the school's normal hours, unless the child is of nursery age. This includes regular activities and visits that form part of our planned curriculum.

Going forward, therefore, for children in Reception and above, we will not routinely ask you to provide individual consent for these types of visits. Instead, we will ensure that you are informed about activities and visits taking place away from school, including the locations regularly used as part of our curriculum.

You can expect information about these opportunities to be shared through our usual communication channels, such as newsletters, letters, emails or Tapestry. This will allow you to understand where your child may be going, why the visit is taking place and how it supports their learning.

What will stay the same?

The safety and wellbeing of your child will remain our highest priority. All educational visits will continue to be carefully planned and risk assessed, with appropriate staffing and safeguarding arrangements in place.

For more complex or unusual activities, such as residential visits, overseas visits, visits involving adventurous activities or activities involving remote supervision, we will provide more detailed information and may invite parents and carers to a meeting so that you have the opportunity to ask questions and understand all aspects of the visit. Where parental consent is required, this will continue to be sought.

For our Nursery children, parental consent will continue to be requested where required, in line with the guidance for Nursery-age children.

We are excited to continue providing our children with rich and varied learning experiences beyond the classroom and thank you for your continued support.



PTFA Halloween Trail

Do you live on Marleigh?



Are you willing to display one of our Halloween trail posters in your front window?

Please fill out a few details by scanning the QR code or following the link to get your halloween poster



Help us to run a fun activity over half term for the children and raise funds for the school!

Volunteer now!



<https://forms.gle/ztkJ6mWU7E6JcwYB7>

Helping your children fly





Wellbeing



Cost of Living Support

We know that the rising cost of food, energy and everyday essentials can put extra pressure on family budgets.

Help with money and household costs

Cambridge City Council has information and advice about benefits, budgeting, Council Tax reductions, housing costs and energy bills. The [Council's website](#) also includes a benefits calculator and links to other organisations that can offer financial advice and support.

Foodbanks and food hubs [Cambridge City Foodbank](#) provides emergency food and practical support, while [Fairbite Food Clubs](#) offer affordable weekly shopping for people experiencing financial hardship. Food hubs around the city can also provide free or low-cost food, with some available without a referral.

Free school meals Your child may be eligible to receive free school meals. Visit the [Council's website](#) for eligibility criteria and how to apply.

Budgeting tips For families looking for practical ways to make food go further, try Red Hen's [Club Cook](#). It was developed to help families on a tight budget cook simple, affordable meals together. You don't need to be a Club Cook member to use the recipes and videos.

Wider Support

There are all manner of reasons why finances may be tighter, and it may be that you need help around the circumstances that have let things to feel harder to manage. [How Are You Cambridge](#) has information on a whole host of charities and organisations that may be able to offer advice, practical support and in-person or online meet-ups.

Please do contact us if there are circumstances affecting your family's wellbeing as we may be able to help or signpost. You can email our Pastoral Lead, Mrs Futter at wellbeing@marleighprimary.org.



Healthy children
brighter
futures



Is my child too ill for school?

A quick guide for parents

Regular attendance helps your child learn, make friends and feel their best.



STAY AT HOME

Keep your child off school if they have:



High temperature (38°C or above)

Stay home until the temperature has gone.



Vomiting or diarrhoea

Return only after 48 hours with no vomiting or diarrhoea.



Chickenpox

Stay home until all spots have crusted over, usually about 5 days after spots first appear.



Impetigo

Stay home until sores have crusted/healed OR 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.



Scarlet fever

Return 24 hours after starting antibiotics.



Measles

Stay home for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears.



Ear infection

Stay home if there is a high temperature or severe earache, until feeling better / temperature has gone.



COME TO SCHOOL IF OTHERWISE WELL

Your child can usually attend school with:



Slight cough or common cold, including runny nose, sore throat or headache
Attend if otherwise well and no high temperature.



Conjunctivitis

No need to stay off unless very unwell.



Hand, foot and mouth disease

Can attend if well enough.



Head lice or nits

No need to stay off.



Cold sores

No need to stay off.



Ringworm

Can attend once treatment has started.



Slapped cheek syndrome

No need to stay off once the rash appears.



Threadworms

No need to stay off.

If your child is well enough to learn and does not meet an exclusion rule, they should be in school.

Based on NHS guidance • If you're unsure, contact NHS 111, your GP, pharmacist or the school.

Same brighter
tomorrows



Ladybirds Class

A Brilliant Start to Year 1

The children have made a fantastic start to Year 1 and have settled brilliantly into their new routines. I have been really impressed with how quickly they have adapted to life in Ladybirds and how enthusiastically they are approaching their learning.

In English, we have been enjoying Cave Baby and using the story to inspire our own writing. The children have been working hard to write sentences, remembering their capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We have also begun our new handwriting sessions, with lots of focus on correct letter formation, pencil grip and taking care with the presentation of our work.

In Maths, we have been developing our number fluency through our Mastering Number sessions. We are building strong foundations by exploring numbers in different ways and becoming increasingly confident at spotting number patterns and relationships.

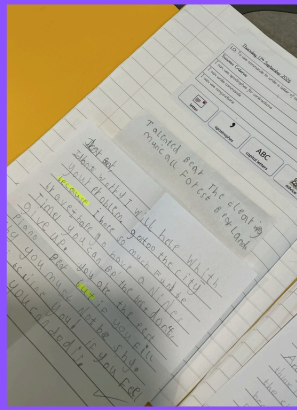
Our Art learning has focused on the work of Frida Kahlo. We have looked carefully at her self-portraits and will use these as inspiration to create our own, thinking about the features and details that make each of us unique.

We have also begun exploring our own personal history. The children loved sharing their memory boxes and talking about special objects, photographs and memories from their lives. Thank you for all the effort that went into creating these at home – they have prompted some wonderful conversations!

Finally, through Brain School, we have been learning more about how our brains work and beginning to understand some of the things we can do to help ourselves learn, manage our feelings and tackle challenges.

It has been a busy start to Year 1, and the children should feel proud of how well they have settled in!

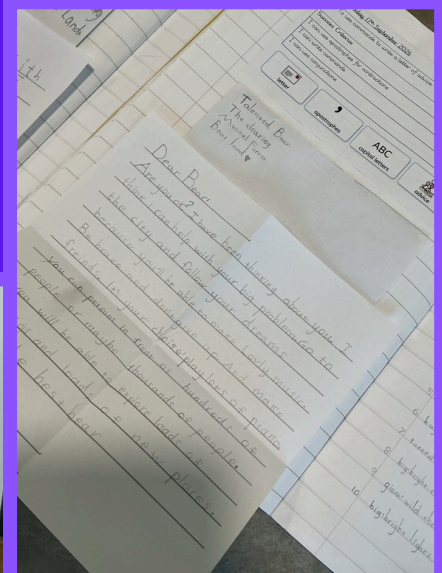




Dragonflies Class

This week, we have continued exploring **The Bear and the Piano**. The children have been writing letters from Fox to Bear, helping Bear decide whether he should move to the city to follow his dream. We have been thinking carefully about giving reasons, using persuasive language and encouraging Bear to make the right decision for him.

In PE, we have been developing our team-building and communication skills. One of our challenges involved working together to pass a hoop all the way around a circle without letting go of each other's hands! We then made it even trickier by blindfolding one member of the team, meaning everyone had to communicate clearly, listen carefully and support one another. The children showed fantastic teamwork and perseverance!





Elevating Expectations



Reception Open Day 2027

We invite you to visit **Marleigh Primary Academy**, register today for a group tour.

Group Tour Dates & Times

Monday, 5 Oct, 2pm - 2:45pm

Monday, 12 Oct, 11am - 11:45

Monday, 9 Nov, 2pm - 2:45pm

Monday, 16 Nov, 11am - 11:45am

Monday, 23 Nov, 4pm - 4:45pm



REGISTER NOW



If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 you need to apply for Reception for September 2027.

Deadline for applications is 15th January 2027

Key dates 2026-27

Fri, 2 Oct	Learner Reviews shared with parents
Thur, 8 Oct	Harvest Festival (food donations encouraged for collective donation to local food bank)
Thur, 8 Oct	Individual and sibling photos
Mon, 19 Oct	Parent and Child Workshop Reception and Year 1 - Phonics 3:15-3:45pm
Half term (26 - 30 Oct)	We hope for another Halloween themed event to be available as last year's Halloween Trail was well received. Watch this space!
Mon, 2 Nov	INSET Day - School closed for children Book Advent Calendar Raffle tickets go on sale
Tue, 3 Nov	Tea towel order deadline for parents and carers
Mon 9 - Fri 13	Learner Review meetings for each pupil and parent/carer from Nursery to Year 6. Each family will make a 10 minute appointment and attend in person or online to review their child's learning with the class teacher.
Wed, 11 Nov	Year 6 Badgers Class assembly to parents and carers 9:00am
Fri, 13 Nov	Non uniform day - donations welcomed to support the Christmas Fair
Mon, 16 Nov	Flu vaccination, 12:30-3pm
Wed, 18 Nov	Year 5 Owls Class assembly to parents and carers 9:00am
Wed, 25 Nov	Year 4 Hedgehogs Class assembly to parents and carers 9:00am

...continued

Sun, 29 Nov	Deadline for Book Advent Calendar Raffle tickets
Mon, 30 Nov	Winners of Book Advent Calendar Raffle announced and prizes given
Wed, 2 Dec	Year 3 Squirrels Class assembly to parents and carers 9:00am
Thurs, 3 Dec	Christmas fair, 3:15-4:30pm Second session flu vaccination, 10:30 -12pm
Wed, 9 Dec	Parent and Child Workshop Year 3 and 4 - Times Tables 3:15-3:45pm
Fri, 11 Dec	Reception (Butterflies) Christmas performance to parents and carers - 9:15am Christmas Jumper Day
Mon, 14 Dec	KS2 (Squirrels, Hedgehogs, Owls and Badgers) Church service - parents and carers welcome - 2pm
Tues, 15 Dec	KS1 (Ladybirds and Dragonflies) Christmas performance to parents and carers - 2:30pm
Wed, 16 Dec	Nursery Christmas Celebration with Parents and Carers 2:30-3pm
Thur, 17 Dec	Last Day of Term - School closes for Christmas