23 Oct 2026

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Headteacher's insight

As we reach the end of our first half term of the academic year, I would like to thank all our children, families and staff for their hard work, enthusiasm and support over the past seven weeks. It has been a busy and positive start to the year, and I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved half-term break.

One of the highlights of this half term has been the start of our **Sports Alliance programme**, with children enjoying a football tournament and, this week, a cross-country event. We feel incredibly fortunate to be able to offer our children these opportunities to represent their schools, experience different sports and compete alongside children from other local schools. The benefits extend far beyond physical fitness. We see children developing confidence, resilience, teamwork, determination and a sense of belonging. Learning to celebrate success, manage disappointment, encourage others and challenge themselves are valuable life skills, and it is wonderful to see our children growing through these experiences. We look forward to many more Sports Alliance events throughout the year.

This week, I would also like to focus on something that makes an enormous difference to children's confidence and success in mathematics: **knowing their number facts securely and being able to recall them quickly and accurately.**

Just as learning to read fluently opens the door to enjoying and understanding increasingly complex texts, becoming fluent with number facts allows children to tackle more challenging mathematics with confidence.

It begins with **number bonds** – understanding how numbers fit together and relate to one another. For example, knowing that 7 + 3 = 10 also helps children recognise that 10 − 7 = 3 and 10 − 3 = 7. As children develop, this understanding extends to number bonds to 20, 100 and beyond. Importantly, we want children not simply to memorise answers, but to understand the relationships between numbers so they can apply their knowledge flexibly.

As children progress through school, **times tables become equally important**. Secure knowledge of multiplication and division facts supports almost every aspect of mathematics, including fractions, percentages, division, area and problem-solving. When children can recall these facts automatically, they have more mental capacity available to concentrate on the new learning and reasoning in front of them, rather than using all their energy on basic calculations.

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The key to securing these skills is regular, short bursts of practice. Five minutes each day is far more effective than one long session each week. Half term provides a lovely opportunity to build some of this practice into everyday family life without it feeling like homework. You might:

- Practise number bonds while travelling in the car or walking to the park – “I’ve got 6, how many more make 10?”
- Play quick-fire number games using dice, playing cards or dominoes.
- Ask children to spot patterns in their times tables or explain how they worked something out.
- Encourage older children to spend five minutes on Times Tables Rock Stars, aiming to improve their own speed and accuracy.
- Use everyday opportunities, such as shopping, cooking or sharing treats, to explore number relationships.

Above all, **keep it positive, playful and achievable**. Children need opportunities to experience success, and celebrating small improvements helps build the confidence and motivation to keep practising. Accuracy and understanding should always come before speed, with quicker recall developing through familiarity and repetition.

Our aim is for every child to develop the strong mathematical foundations that allow them to approach new challenges with confidence. The partnership between school and home makes a real difference, and a few minutes of regular practice at home can have a lasting impact.

Finally, I wish all our families a happy, restful and enjoyable half term. Whether you are heading away, enjoying days out or simply spending time together at home, I hope you have a wonderful break.

We look forward to welcoming all children back to school on Tuesday 3rd November, ready for another exciting half term of learning.

Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



Every bauble sold helps raise funds for our school's trim trail!

Marleigh Primary Academy

A little creativity, a lot of Christmas cheer!

CHRISTMAS BAUBLE FUNDRAISER

Let your child get creative this Christmas by decorating their own bauble at school.

Each bauble makes a lovely festive keepsake or a thoughtful Christmas gift for family and friends.





ORDER HERE



You can buy multiple baubles.

Payment deadline: Thursday 19 November

Children whose baubles have been purchased will decorate them during an art lesson at school.

Collect your child's decorated bauble from our collection stall at the **Christmas Fair on 3 December.**

Marleigh Primary Academy

Fundraising

Clubs have raised funds for our Trim Trail

Thanks to the support from our families, the income raised from our Autumn Term Sports Clubs has enabled **£420** to be donated towards the trim trail campaign and **£450** to be spent on new **maths resources**!
Income from our choir clubs will be used to support the cost of the choir's trip to **Wembley** in the Spring term (see below). If you'd like your child to join the choir club please log into MCAS to register, the new morning club starts after half term and costs only £15 (free to Pupil Premium children). Thursdays from 7:45 - 08:30am.



13% of target raised

£1,761.38

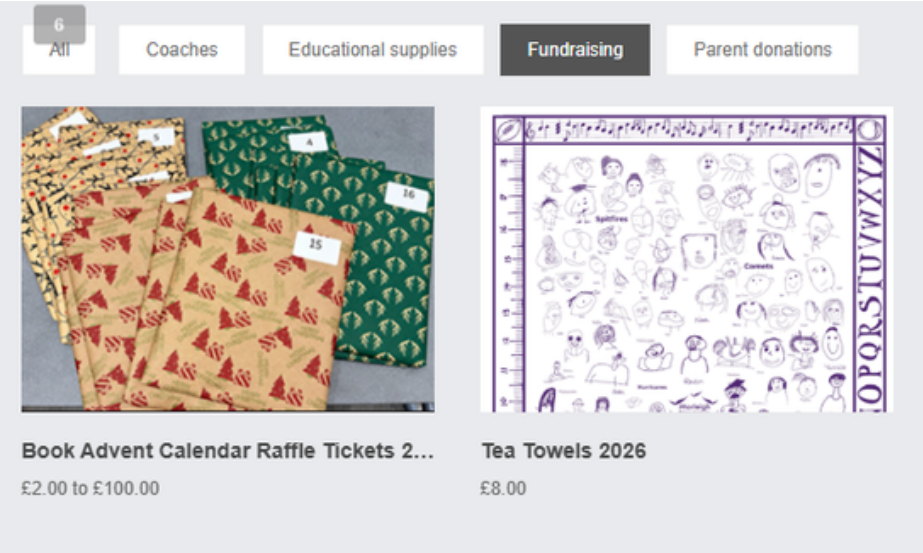
Trim trail campaign

GoodHub Donate Online

Tea Towels 2026 Edition

Our popular student portrait Tea Towel is now available to purchase in MCAS for only £8, delivery will be to the school. You can order as many as you like, they make great Christmas gifts!

Log into MCAS and go to Products > Fundraising



Fundraising

Book Advent Calendar Raffle – A Festive Treat for Young Readers!

With 1st December fast approaching, we are delighted to bring back our **Book Advent Calendar Raffle** following its success last year!

We have prepared three wonderful book advent calendars for three lucky winners, with prizes tailored to different age groups:







Each advent calendar contains **24 individually wrapped and numbered books**, ready for the lucky winner to unwrap and enjoy one each day throughout Advent. What better way to count down to Christmas than by discovering a new story every day?

Raffle entries cost **just £2 each**, and families are welcome to purchase as many entries as they wish. The more entries you buy, the greater your chances of winning!

Raffle tickets are available on MCAS from today! *Head to Products > Fundraising*

Closing date: Sunday 29th November
Prize draw: Monday 30th November

The draw will take place in plenty of time for our three lucky winners to receive their book advent calendars, ready to start opening them on 1st December.

We hope lots of families will join in the festive fun and help us celebrate the joy of reading throughout December. Good luck, everyone!

VIAM
VOICE IN A MILLION 2027

OVO ARENA WEMBLEY
WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH 2027



SING AT WEMBLEY!

JOIN OUR VOICE IN A MILLION CHOIR

WHAT IS IT?

Voice in a Million (VIAM) is an incredible mass choir concert at the OVO Arena Wembley, featuring thousands of children from schools across the UK. Our choir will learn a fantastic set of songs and perform together on a huge stage with professional lights, sound and special guests.
It's a truly unforgettable experience!

WHO CAN JOIN?

Children in **Years 4 to 6** from Marleigh and Fen Ditton are invited to join. You do not need any previous choir experience – just a love of singing and a commitment to attend rehearsals and the concert.

REHEARSALS

You can join either or both of these clubs to join the choir:

Fridays at Fen Ditton
(after school)

Thursdays at Marleigh
7:45 – 8:30am
(from Autumn 2)

TRIP DETAILS

- **Wednesday 10 March 2027**
- OVO Arena Wembley
- Travel by coach (full day/late evening)
- We will join thousands of children for a rehearsal and a spectacular evening performance.

COST

Total cost is £50 per child.

We will pay 50% of the cost for each pupil who is eligible for Pupil Premium (PP).

HOW TO SIGN UP

Places are limited, so if your child would like to take part, please book their place via **BromCom now.**

A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY!

Term dates 2027-28

We have published our term dates for the next academic year, visit our website for more details.



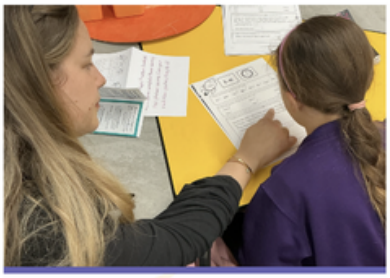
Catch up on the latest news...



SOMETHING TO SAY: AN IMPORTANT DAY OF SAFEGUARDING LEARNING



LADYBIRDS CLASS EXPLORE ART AND THE SEASONS AT THE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM



FAMILIES COME TOGETHER FOR A FANTASTIC PHONICS WORKSHOP!



Ladybirds Class

What an exciting few weeks we have had in Year 1! We had a fantastic day at the Fitzwilliam Museum, where we explored some amazing artworks and made links to our learning about the seasons. The children were wonderful explorers, looking carefully, asking thoughtful questions and spotting signs of the different seasons in the paintings.

In History, we were lucky enough to welcome a special visitor who shared her memories of being a five-year-old child in the late 1940s. We loved hearing about what school, toys and everyday life were like nearly 80 years ago and comparing her childhood experiences with our own.

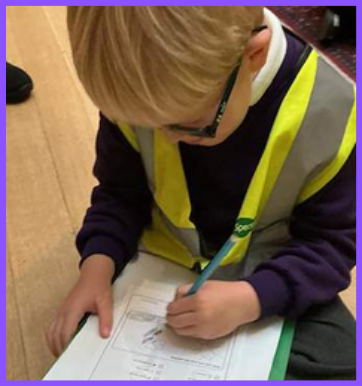
In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of addition using part-whole models. We have been exploring how numbers can be split into parts and put back together, helping us to understand fact families and the relationships between numbers.

Our English learning has taken us into space! Inspired by Astro Girl, we have been busy researching, writing and creating our very own non-fiction fact books about space. We have learnt to use contents pages, subheadings and interesting facts to help our readers discover more about the Sun, Moon, planets and astronauts.
We have also been working hard on our phonics and handwriting, learning new spelling patterns, practising our letter formation and becoming more confident, independent readers and writers. In Science, we have continued exploring seasonal changes, thinking about what happens to the weather, trees and daylight as autumn arrives.

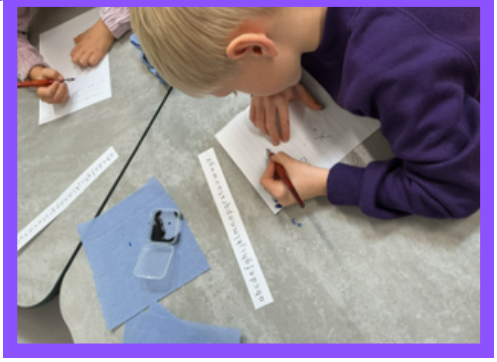
We are incredibly proud of how much the Ladybirds have grown in confidence and independence since September. They have worked so hard, shown lots of curiosity and enthusiasm, and thoroughly deserve a lovely half-term break!











Dragonflies Class

We have had a busy and exciting time in Dragonflies, enjoying lots of wonderful learning experiences!

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of number bonds to 10 and 20. We have enjoyed using practical activities, games and different strategies to help us recall these facts quickly and confidently. We have also been exploring how addition and subtraction are connected through fact families. One of our favourite activities has been learning to play Strike It Out, a fun and challenging maths game that encourages us to use our addition and subtraction skills, think strategically and explain our mathematical thinking.

In Art, we have been exploring the work of artist Faith Ringgold and learning how she used story quilts to tell stories through pictures, colours and patterns. Inspired by her work, we created our own story quilts, combining illustrations with colourful patterned borders. Each quilt is unique and special in its own way, but when displayed together, they create a wonderful celebration of our creativity and individuality!

In English, we have been reading our class text, The Bear Under the Stairs. We used the story as inspiration to become authors ourselves, planning and writing our own imaginative stories following a similar structure. The children have enjoyed creating their own characters, developing their ideas and bringing their stories to life!
To celebrate the end of our History topic, Schools in the Past, we travelled back in time for an afternoon of traditional school activities! The children experienced writing with pen nibs and ink, discovering just how different writing was before modern pens. We also had great fun learning to play traditional games, including marbles, pick-up sticks, yo-yos and ball-and-cup games.

It was a wonderful hands-on experience that helped the children appreciate how school life has changed over time. There was plenty of laughter, perseverance and some very impressive new skills on display!

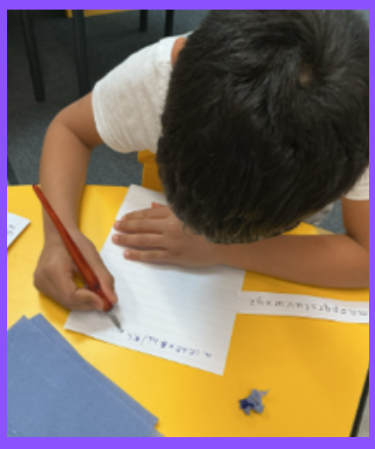
Well done, Dragonflies, for all your hard work and enthusiasm this half term!

Dragonflies Class













There is no car parking available at or near this event



Learner reviews

You can now log into your MCAS (My Child At School) account and book a 10 minute meeting with your child's teacher to discuss their progress. If you have any issues logging into your account please email the office.

Monday 9 Nov	Badgers Year 6, 08:30-11:30 Ladybirds Year 1 , 08:30-16:00
Tuesday 10 Nov	Hedgehogs Year 4, 08:30-11:30 Owls Year 5, 08:30-16:00 Squirrels Year 3, 08:30-11:30
Wednesday 11 Nov	Squirrels Year 3, 13:00-16:00
Thursday 12 Nov	Caterpillars Nursery, 08:30-12:00 Dragonflies Year 2, 08:30-16:00
Friday 13 Nov	Butterflies Reception, 08:30-16:00

Class Assembly Dates

Take a note of your child's class assembly, it will start at **9am** so please come to the entrance by the office after drop-off to ensure a timely start.

Badgers	Wednesday 11 November
Owls	Wednesday 18 November
Hedgehogs	Wednesday 25 November
Squirrels	Wednesday 2 December



Marleigh Primary Academy
Elevating Expectations

Key dates 2026-27

Half term (26 - 30 Oct)	**Halloween Trail**
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
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 & Child Workshop Y3&4. Times Tables 3:15-3:45pm Christmas Dinner

ANGLIAN LEARNING

Marleigh Primary Academy
Elevating Expectations

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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**

ANGLIAN LEARNING

Marleigh Primary Academy
Elevating Expectations

ANGLIAN LEARNING

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

Term dates 2026-27

Marleigh Primary Academy
Elevating Expectations

Friday 23rd October	Last day of Autumn 1
Monday 26th - Friday 30th October	Half Term
Monday 2nd November	INSET
Tuesday 3rd November	First day of Autumn 2
Thursday 17th December	Last day of Autumn 2
Friday 18th December	INSET
Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January 2027	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4th January	INSET
Tuesday 5th January	First day of Spring 1
Friday 12th February	Last day of Spring 1
Monday 15th - Friday 19th February	Half Term
Monday 22nd February	First day of Spring 2
Thursday 25th March	Last day of Spring 2
Friday 26th March - Friday 10th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 12th April	First day of Summer 1
Monday 3rd May	May Bank Holiday
Friday 28th May	Last day of Summer 1
Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June	Half Term
Monday 7th June	First day of Summer 2
Friday 2nd July	INSET
Wednesday 21st July	Last day of Summer 2

ANGLIAN LEARNING