

Moulsham Infant School

Motivate, Inspire, Succeed

February newsletter— 27th February 2025



Look out over the next couple of nights to see if you can see the planets aligning.



SCHOOL DINNERS

From next week – **3rd March** we will be **week 2** of the menu. Please ensure your child brings a packed lunch if they have not ordered a hot meal. Please inform the office if there are any changes to your child's choices.



Please remember to name all your children's clothes – then we can return them.



This includes food products with nuts in them, such as Nutella and cereal bars.

Please ensure there are no nut products brought into school.

We hope you have all had a good half term break. It was lovely to welcome all the children back on Monday and they have already settled back into school routines. As always we have some busy weeks coming up. Next week is international week—further information can be found within this newsletter. We also have World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. A letter went out before the half term break with information about this. The following week there will be a Book Fair that will run after school on Thurs 13th, Friday 14th, Mon 17th, Tues 18th and Wed 19th from 3.20pm. World Book day vouchers can be used towards the cost of the books—however the free world book day books that vouchers can be exchanged for will not be available. Purchasing books through the book fair is beneficial for the school as any commission we make can be used to purchase books for the school.

On Friday 14th we will be celebrating Science week—there will be an experiment set up in each classroom that the children will take part in across their year group. Friday 21st March is comic relief day, the children can wear red noses / a splash of red with their school uniform—eg red socks, tights, hair bands etc. There will be collection buckets on the door / gate at the start of the day to raise money for this valuable cause. On the same day the Year 2 children will have their Aviation Day to coincide with the History work that they are doing this term.

This week I have heard lots of very excited children talking about the fact that they have or might get to see some of the planets in the evening—it is wonderful to hear this excitement and awe and wonder. This fits so well into the space work that the children in EYFS have been learning about.

We are still finding there a lot of children who are coming in late at the beginning of the school day. The start of the school day is so important for the children. Please endeavour to be in school on time. Thank you.



A message for the children— we hope you had a great half term holiday, it is lovely to see you all back refreshed and ready for the next half term.

Shehadeh Anell

REMINDER

Snack brought in from home, should be fruit or vegetables. Fruit strings and similar fruit based items like these are not acceptable and the children will be asked to take them home and given a snack from school.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.



Recycling Bin to raise funds.



This week we have had our Recycling bin positioned in the turning circle area. We were unable to carry on with the system that we did before when we had collections twice a year, however having a bin that can be used at any time will probably be more convenient to parents as it can be used at anytime in the year rather than waiting for the arranged times to drop off. There are clear lists on the bin that state what can be donated and items not to be left in the bin. We will also attach further information from the company at the end of this newsletter. The bin is accessible at all times during the school day but also during weekends and holidays. The company who empty the bin will be regularly emptying it so hopefully there will always be space for items to be left.

For every kg of items donated the school will receive 40p. We will keep you informed through the newsletter as to how much we raise. We are going to use the money raised to buy some Den making kits for playtime and lunchtimes.

Class assemblies

So far this term Cherry and Oak classes have performed their class assemblies. As EYFS classes these were their first class assemblies and both classes did brilliantly. It was wonderful to see how confident they are becoming and the enjoyment they showed working together as a class was very clear.

After the assembly the class split into 2 groups with half going to the reading café where they can share a book with their visitors and look through some of their school work, as well as having a drink and biscuit.

The next class assembly will be from Tulip class on Friday 7th March at 9.05am. Then on the 21st March at 2.15pm the Year one classes will work together to perform The Bee Musical as the year group.



Open afternoons

These are another opportunity for parents / carers to come into school to spend time in the classroom with their children. The purpose of these sessions is to give parents an insight into how we teach, how learning can be adapted and made purposeful for all children, and of course to engage with the children while learning in school.

Towards the end of this half term, EYFS classes will hold two open afternoons, Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th March at 2.30pm. You can come to either of the afternoons—similar activities and teaching will be demonstrated on both afternoons. There is no need to book the session you are coming, we will just ask you to sign in at the school office.

Younger siblings are welcome to attend but please be aware they are your responsibility whilst in school.

Children love to share this time with you in school, and it is always great to hear them talking to their visitors about their work and what they are learning.

We look forward to welcoming lots of you in school on these afternoons.



International Week, 3rd—7th March

Over this week each class will be focusing on one country and basing some of their learning around it.

EYFS—Oak France

Tulip Romania

Cherry India

Year 1—Sycamore Brazil

Magnolia Sweden

Chestnut Italy

Year 2—Holly Kenya

Willow Egypt

Hazel Turkey

Rowan China



School packed lunch during International week

The school pack lunch has been adapted for this week to have an international flavour and to give the children the opportunity to have foods from some of the countries that are being learnt about in the classrooms.

In the lunch bag next week there will be

Mini vegetable spring roll - China

Mini onion bhaji - India

Cheese and tomato pizza—Italy

Apricot fruit bag - Turkey

Pain au chocolate—France



On Friday afternoon (7th) the children will all go round to visit each of the classrooms so they will have a flavour of all the countries that are being looked at across the school.

Thank you to Mrs Freeman for organising the setting up of our International Week and co-ordinating across the classes.

Social Media groups

Whilst these groups are a useful way for parents to share reminders, and social matters. Please ensure that any concerns regarding your child's education are discussed directly with the school (via the school office or directly with your child's teacher / Headteacher) as per our complaints policy.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Mobile phones

Please adhere to our policy in school that when visiting school for open mornings / afternoon and event days **mobile phones must not be used whilst in the school building**. You will be challenged by staff if you are seen to be using your phone in school. The only exception to this is that during a class assembly / school production we allow you to take photos / videos. As always stated at these events we ask you not to post anything that has other children in them.

Thank you.



KS 1 Assemblies

Over the school week the children in KS 1 take part in a daily assembly. This is a time when the children in the 7 classes come together. Each day there is a specific type of assembly. Monday either Mrs Landa -Arrese or Mrs Palmer leads an assembly focusing on our school values or a specific matter that is pertinent in school at that time. Tuesday's assembly is led by one of the teachers and covers a variety of topics including religious festivals and topical matters in the world we live in. Wednesday assembly is led by different Subject Leaders, raising the profile of subjects in school and sharing different aspects of the work being covered in school. On a Thursday, Miss Bowyer leads a singing assembly—it has to be said this is probably the favourite of the week! On Fridays we have a Celebration assembly, when we celebrate achievements from that week. Children may come home with a sticker from this assembly as all staff nominate children to be recognised for something they have done that week.

Over the week in assemblies staff also vote for the class that they feel are the most focused and set the best example to others. The class that receives the most votes is given a certificate and are given a bee to keep in their class.

How many bees do each class have so far?

Sycamore—2

Magnolia—3

Chestnut—1

Holly—3

Willow—3

Hazel—2

Rowan—2

How many more bees can each class collect?



These bees are waiting for a class to buzz off to!!



Backpacks

Reminder—backpacks **should not** be brought into school. We do not have the facilities to store backpacks safely in the classrooms or cloakrooms. Children should bring their reading book and reading diary into school in a book bag—these are then stored in trays in the classroom and PE bags are hung on the childrens pegs. Both book bags / reading folders and PE bags are available to buy in the school office.

Thank you.

Achievements Board

As you will hopefully know we have an achievements board in the corridor by the hall.

If your child receives a certificate for an activity they do out of school please encourage them to bring it in so we can take their photo and added to the board.

We feel it is very important to recognise and celebrate all children's achievements.

Attendance — January



This winners of the best class attendance are as follows:-

EYFS - Tulip —96.69%

Year 1 - Magnolia — 96.91%

Year 2 – Rowan —97.54%

[Well done to these 3 classes.](#)

Total attendance for school for January was 96.25%- up from 95.02% in December.

Children late to school

The number of children arriving late for school every day still continues to be very high (approximately 20+ children every day).

Please remember that the school day starts at 8.45 am (door/gate opens at 8.35am). Children miss the start of their learning if they are not in school at this time.

Frequent lateness adds up to a considerable amount of lost learning.

5 mins late every day = 3.4 days in a year

10mins late every day = 6.9 days in a year

15 mins late every day = 10.3 days in a year

20 mins late every day = 13.8 days in a year

30 mins late every day = 20.7 days in a year

Second hand uniform

Second hand uniform is available to buy through the school office or every first Thursday of the month the stock is on sale from the little room next to the Forest Room.

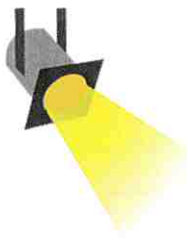
'Bates and Jones second hand uniform' will next be open for business on Thursday 6th March.

Request for spare clothes

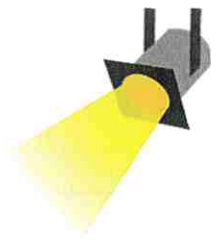
If your child borrows clothes from our spare clothes stock in school, please can you wash and return them as soon as possible.

We are running short of supplies—especially underwear and tights so any donations that are no longer used / fitting please pass to the office to replenish our stocks.

Many thanks



Spotlight on Early Years



Year group update

Towards the end of last term, we celebrated World Religion Day and had lots of fun learning about other people's religions and beliefs. Cherry and Oak Classes welcomed their families into school to watch their class assemblies, and I am sure that you will join me in saying how well they did and how very proud we are of them. As we speak, Tulip Class is in rehearsal mode for an assembly on Friday!

This term, our learning will be based around the theme of 'Come Outside'. We will begin with a week of poetry. The second week will be International Week, followed by Mr Wolf's Pancakes, Jack and the Beanstalk, and finally, Easter. On 25th and 27th March, we will run open afternoons with a focus on writing. On the morning of 31st March, we are inviting one parent/carer from each family to visit our classroom from 8.35 to 10.00. We will run a second similar session next term.

Mrs Keogh

What are we learning next?

Maths

Perceptual subitising (seeing the amount without counting).

Conceptual subitising (seeing the subgroups within a larger amount).

Focus on equal and unequal groups when comparing numbers.

Understand that two equal groups can be called a 'double' and connect this to finger patterns.

Sort odd and even numbers according to their 'shape'.

Join in with verbal counts beyond 20, hearing the repeated pattern within the counting numbers.

English

Read words with two or more digraphs, longer words, compound words, words ending in -ing, words with 's' in the middle.

Secure reading of words ending in 's' and 'es'.

Secure spelling of all 'tricky' words.

Demonstrate an understanding of what has been read to them.

Know how to use non-fiction books to find out specific information.

Continue to develop segmenting skills.

Write a sentence, using a capital letter at the beginning and a full stop at the end.

Use a pencil with control.

What we can do at home to help.

Maths

Play games with dice.

Choose an odd amount of toys to share between two teddies. Who has more/fewer? How do you know?

Play a game where you hold up the same number of fingers on each hand, saying what the double is e.g. double 2 equals 4.

Sort out unequal amounts of toys into pairs. Talk about why one toy does not have a partner.

Count how many steps it takes to walk to the car, go upstairs, walk around the garden etc.

English

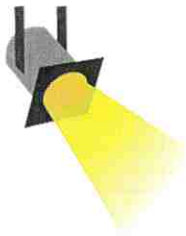
Visit the library and borrow some books about plants and animals.

Talk to your child about their book and ask questions to ensure they understand.

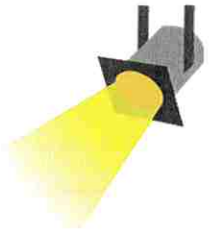
Ask your child to draw pictures and annotate them (could start with just the initial sound in the word).

Help your child to write short words and sentences e.g. cat, dog, bat, cat on a mat; dog on a log; The cat is on the mat.

Help your child to write letters correctly and to develop a tripod grip i.e. holding the pencil between thumb, forefinger and middle finger.



Spotlight on Year One



Year group update

We have had a fantastic fortnight in Year 1. We used the book 'Planet Awesome' as a stimulus for our English, and the children have been fascinated by this text. They learnt fun facts about the earth, and have created their own non-fiction texts including headings, labels, captions and glossaries. We enjoyed some fantastic drama activities where the children had to 'freeze frame' in characters and imagine what they were thinking. It has been lovely to hear the children share their ideas with enthusiasm. In Science we have been learning about how plants grow, and we enjoyed observing how cress grew in different environments. The children were very surprised to find that the cress seeds started to grow without water or soil!! We explored the changing plant life around the school grounds, and identified the differences between evergreen and deciduous trees.

In PE we have been practising ball skills such as passing, defending and working in small teams. These activities develop the foundational skills that children need in order to play games like football all rugby in the future.

We finished the half term with a visit from Jamie from Brickies, the children enjoyed a fantastic workshop with more Lego than they could have ever imagined!! They were tasked with making an eco-friendly house, and they thought about all of the ways that we can help the environment through our daily lives, such as recycling, using solar panels and planting flowers to attract pollinators. The staff were all very impressed with the children's tidying skills when it came to put their houses away- colour coded and organised into categories, that was quite a task in itself!!

We are looking forward to continuing learning linked to our enquiry question 'can we change the world?'

Mrs Mobbs

What are we learning next?

English - we will be writing simple narratives, making sure that the children remember to use full stops, capital letters and finger spaces in every sentence. We will be using the word 'and' to connect ideas in a sentence. Later in the half term we will begin practising our Year 1 assembly, giving children the opportunity to develop their performance skills.

Maths - we will learn about place value, length, height, mass and volume.

Science - we will be learning about the weather, observing seasonal changes and we will be making weather vanes in DT.

Computing - we will use Scratch Junior to develop simple coding skills.

What we can do at home to help.

To support with **English** it is fantastic to encourage your child to write for a purpose- whether that is a shopping list, a recipe or a card for a friend. At this stage it is fine for children to make phonetically plausible attempts at spelling, and while children may still be reversing letters you can encourage them to check their work, asking 'does the letter look right?'

For our work on measures in **maths** is great to support at home through activities such as ordering toys, measuring lengths, and measuring out amounts in the kitchen. Encourage children to use mathematical language such as 'lighter, heavier, longer, shorter, more and fewer.'

To support our work in **Science**, keep a weather chart and discuss any seasonal changes that you notice. Watch out for the blossom buds on the trees when walking to school - talking about Science is a fantastic way to develop children's scientific thinking!

We will be learning about fitness in **PE**. Talk to your child about the exercise you enjoy taking part in, and encourage them to have a go! When they have completed any activity talk to your child about the changes they notice in their body, such as breathing faster, an increased heart beat.



Spotlight on Year Two



Year group update

Year 2 have had a busy few weeks! The Eden Oasis was a fantastic experience, giving the children the opportunity to get close to and learn about a variety of animals, including a very cute armadillo. We also had an excellent Kung Fu session which was very well received!

In maths we have been looking at multiplying and dividing. The children are working hard to learn different ways to calculate to solve a variety of maths problems.

We have enjoyed another new book in English called Extra Yarn. In the story, a little girl called Annabelle finds a mysterious box. It contains a never-ending supply of yarn which she uses to knit jumpers for friends and for buildings. Unfortunately, the box is stolen by the Archduke, however when he realises the magical box does not work for him, he throws it outside and it finds its way back to Annabelle. The children really enjoyed the story and have used their imagination to rewrite their own versions of it with new characters and something different inside their box. Super work Year 2!

Mrs Palmer

What are we learning next?

Maths - We will be finishing our topic on multiplication and division before moving on to think about length and height.

English—In the first few weeks of Spring 2, we will be looking at writing instructions. This will involve using imperative verbs such as 'cut, stick, mix etc.' and time conjunctions such as 'first, next, lastly etc.'

Science—Continuing with our topic of 'Animals, including humans', we are moving on to focus on animals, learning about offspring, life cycles and food chains.

History—We are going to learn about Amelia Earhart.

PE - Indoor PE will focus on fitness and outdoor PE will focus on tennis.

What we can do at home to help.

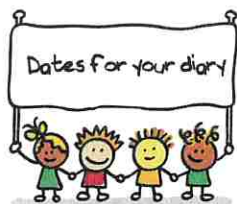
Maths—TopMarks website for maths games, including Hit the Button for learning timestables: Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds. BBC Bitesize Karate Cats Maths: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zjkphbk/articles/zf4sscw>

English – You could look at a recipe together and notice how the imperative verbs (also called bossy verbs) are used to give clear instructions.

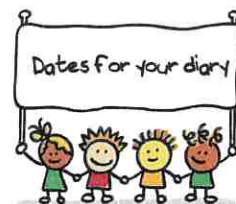
The BBC Karate Cats website is a good place to play games to help embed the grammar and punctuation skills needed in year 2. Karate Cats English - KS1 free game Spelling, grammar and punctuation - Improve literacy and comprehension - BBC Bitesize.

We continue to work on spelling and learning the 'tricky' words. This website has games that can help with this: <https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/tricky-trucks?phase=5>

Please continue to read regularly with your child at home. The Oxford Owl website gives information on supporting children at home, along with access to online books: Reading - Oxford Owl for Home.



Diary Dates



Mon 24th	Tues 25th	Wed 26th	Thurs 27th	Fri 28th	Sat 1st	Sun 2nd
Children return to school after half term						
MARCH 2025						
Mon 3rd	Tues 4th	Wed 5th	Thurs 6th	Fri 7th	Sat 8th	Sun 9th
International week- all week						
			World book day – dress up	9.05 - Tulip class assembly and open am		
Mon 10th	Tues 11th	Wed 12th	Thurs 13th	Fri 14th	Sat 15th	Sun 16th
			Book Fair	Science morning 2pm - Rock steady concert Book Fair		
Mon 17 th	Tues 18 th	Wed 19 th	Thurs 20 th	Fri 21 st	Sat 22 nd	Sun 23 rd
Book Fair	Book Fair	Book Fair		Comic relief 2.15 Y1 assembly to parents		
Mon 24th	Tues 25th	Wed 26th	Thurs 27th	Fri 28th	Sat 29th	Sun 30th
	2.30pm -EYFS open PM		2.30pm -EYFS open PM			Mother's Day
Mon 31st						
8.35-10.00am EYFS Parents in School						
APRIL 2025						
	Tues 1st	Wed 2nd	Thurs 3rd	Fri 4th	Sat 5th	Sun 6th
				Last day of term		

You can now donate unwanted
textiles in our
recycled clothing bank at:

KIDS JUST RECYCLE



School:
**MOULSHAM INFANTS
SCHOOL - TURNING
CIRCLE**

Let's recycle
today

Please donate pre-loved
wearable clothing, paired
shoes (tied together) and
household textiles to raise
much-needed funds for
your school.

Thank you!




















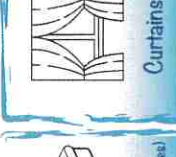




Tel: 020 3903 9933

email: enquiries@kidsjustrecycle.co.uk

We can't wait to collect your textiles donations to help raise money for your school. Here's a reminder of what we can and can't accept.

We accept good quality, reusable:

 Ladieswear	 Menswear	 Teenwear	 Childrenswear	 Babywear	 Coats/Jackets	 Hats/Scarves/Gloves	 Watches/Belts/Jewellery	 Handbags/Purses	 Towels	 Socks
 Footwear (paired & tied)	 Sportswear	 Nightwear	 Swimwear/Shorts	 Underwear/Lingerie	 Sleeping Bags	 Knitting Wool	 Bedding (Sheets/Covers/Cases)	 Curtains	 Original CDs/DVDs	 Soft Toys

We do not accept:

 Duvers (Inner)	 Pillows (Inner)	 Cushions (Inner)	 Personalised Clothing	 Dressing Gowns	 Camouflage Patterns	 International Costume	 Books	
 Animal Hair	 Worn/Fraying	 Make-up Staining	 Deodorant/Perfume Staining	 Bobbled Material	 Smoke/Odour	 Broken Zips	 Ripped/Broken Stitching	 Missing Buttons

Nor do we accept items that are damaged by:

Many thanks and happy recycling!