

Moulsham Infant School

Motivate, Inspire, Succeed

March /April newsletter— 2nd April 2025



Wishing everyone a lovely holiday and Happy Easter.



This half term seems to have flown by and it seems impossible to believe that when we return after Easter we will be in the final term of this academic year. This also means that we will be starting to plan and prepare for next year, welcoming new families for their induction meetings and visits etc. Every year the year seems just go quicker and quicker!!! Some of you will already know that yet again our Moulsham family continues to grow. I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Chapman is expecting her first baby. Her baby is due at the end of July—exciting times ahead for the Chapman family.

As most of you will also know Mrs McDonagh is presently on maternity leave. I met with Mrs McDonagh earlier in the month and she has decided that she will not be returning at the end of her leave as she wants to spend time with Archie as he grows up. We are obviously really disappointed that she won't be returning but completely understand her reasons. She will be greatly missed and I would like to thank her for all her work and commitment to the school over the years she was here.

As you will all be aware this month—yesterday, 1st April saw the official launch of HIVE, our newly formed multi academy trust. We will be working with the other schools within the trust regularly.

Yesterday also saw the launch of some cross school student working. Two pupils from each of the schools joined a virtual meeting to introduce themselves and say a little about their school. I was immensely proud of Evie and Blake from Year 2 who represented MIS and did a fabulous job. We are looking forward to having a monthly meeting in this way so the children can become familiar with the other schools within the MAT.

As we come to the end of the week we also need to say farewell to Miss Horler from our LSA team as she is leaving to work back in the dentistry field. We wish her all the best, but know we will continue to see her with the work she does as Chair of SMILE.

Have a great Easter break and see you back on 23rd April.



A message for the children— well done to you all—a very busy half term with lots of hard work. Enjoy the holiday—don't eat too many Easter eggs. Look forward to seeing you back ready for the Summer Term.

SCHOOL DINNERS

When we return after the holiday we will be **week 1** 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 SCHOOL IS
NUT FREE



THANK YOU

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

Please ensure there are no nut products brought into school.

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.

The bin has already been emptied a couple of times, so we are looking forward to hearing how much we have raised so far. As said on the previous newsletter we are raising money to buy some more den making equipment for the children to use at playtimes and lunchtimes

If you go to put stuff in the bin and find it is full, please let us know as we will let them know and they will come and empty it.



Comic relief

On Friday 21st March the school had a 'splash of red' to mark 40 years of Comic Relief.

Thank you to everyone who added to our donation pots. We raised £157.91.

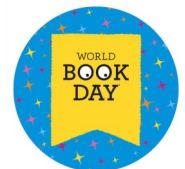


Book Fair

To mark World Book Day we held a book fair in school, where children could use their world book day vouchers.

A big thank you to Mrs Livingstone for organising this and to all the parents and families who supported.

Please see the message below from Mrs Livingstone.



Message from Mrs Livingstone—Reading subject leader

'I just wanted to say a massive thank you for your enthusiastic attendance at the book fair we had in school. Not only did your children choose some wonderful books to read, which I hope they are enjoying at home. But thanks to your purchases you have managed to help raise an amazing **£470 in rewards for the school** which we can spend on Treasure Books for our library.

The school council have been tasked with compiling a wish list, with the help of their classes so we can spend them next term.

Thank you again for your ongoing support in helping to resource the school with valuable reading resources.'

Mrs Livingstone

Class assemblies

This term our EYFS classes had their first experience of performing a class assembly. Each class performed brilliantly and it is always a very proud moment for us to be able to share this time with the children and their visitors. Obviously the assemblies take a lot of organisation and preparation from the staff as well as the children, however they are a really valuable experience for the children and over the time the children are in school it is wonderful to see the children's confidence and skills increase.

Next term the Year 1 classes will do their class assemblies. 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.

Towards the end of the year the Year 2 classes will work together to perform their Leaver's assembly—always a very emotional one!!!



Open afternoons

It has been wonderful to welcome so many parents and visitors to open afternoons this term. These sessions offer you the opportunity to spend valuable time with your child / children in the school setting and to see what happens in the classrooms and how children learn.

We know children will regularly come home and answer the question—what have you done today—with nothing, or I can't remember or we just played today (however children learn so much through their play). Please try to come along to these sessions so you have the valuable opportunity to join in with the children and their learning / play. We fully understand that it may be tricky to come to these sessions, any family member is welcome to come in as long as parents have given them permission, and it would be very helpful if you could let the office know someone else is visiting, as we may not recognise them.

As always as a school we have to be vigilant with safeguarding, which we know you understand.

We look forward to welcoming more visitors after the Easter break.



WOW travel

As you will have seen in a recent letter this is something new that we have started in school. When the children come into school in the morning they register on the interactive board or class i-pad how they have travelled to school that day. Every month the children work towards earning a badge for active journeys to school.

This is the March badge that 256 children have been given this week because they have walked, scooted or cycled for at least part of their journey to school one day a week.



These are the top 3 classes for March—percentage of class reaching the goal of 1 active journey a week.

1st—Willow class 84%

2nd—Hazel class 80%

3rd—Rowan class 66%

Next month the children can work towards a different badge—our aim is to increase the percentage of children in each class.

Parking on the school site

Please be respectful and mindful of where and how you park.

We have yet again had reports of individuals being rude and aggressive over parking. This really is not acceptable.

We are extremely lucky to have parking facilities for parents within the school site —many schools in the area do not have these facilities. Please do not abuse them.

Also the turning circle is a **one-way system**. No vehicle should be parked at the edge of the turning circle the wrong way, to leave the site without going all the way round. This is extremely dangerous and could cause a serious accident.



Reminder

Please remember we are a non-smoking site - that means anywhere within the school gates.



Scooting or cycling to school

Please make sure that when on the school site at start and end of the day when it is very busy, that scooters and bikes are **pushed not ridden** to ensure that pedestrians are safe.

Also please enter the storage area via the path—not across the grass. The grass is going to become damaged if it is constantly ridden / walked across. Thank you

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 / in sight 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.



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 children's 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.

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 after school on **Thursday 3rd April**.



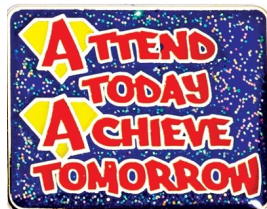
Request for spare clothes

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

Attendance — February



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

EYFS - Oak —96.16%

Year 1 - Magnolia — 97.13%

Year 2 – Holly —97.18%

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

Total attendance for school for February was 95.51%- down from 96.25% in January

Attendance — March



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

EYFS - Tulip —96.06%

Year 1 - Chestnut —95.71%

Year 2 – Hazel —96.29%

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

Total attendance for school for March was 95%- down from 95.51% in February.

School Attendance

As you may be aware school attendance is a national priority for all schools across the country. It is also one of our school's areas for development from our most recent Ofsted inspection. Tracking attendance and absence has always been a priority at MIS. You may be aware that part of the system we have in place is communicating with parents about children's attendance and any concerns we have about this. The golden percentage for attendance has always been 95%. Therefore when we carry out half termly monitoring, we contact parents to keep them updated. If you do not receive a letter you know your child's attendance is not a concern.

[When do we contact parents with regards to attendance?](#)

Attendance of 95% or above will not receive any communication as this is the desired percentage.

Attendance between 93-94.9% are identified as being a group to be aware of and monitor. No letter is sent.

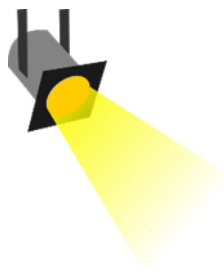
Attendance between 90 - 92.9% - a letter from the class teacher is sent out to inform the parents that their child's attendance is at a level that is of concern and is at risk of becoming persistent.

Attendance below 90% is classified as persistent absenteeism. Therefore this will trigger a more formal letter from the school office. These letters that are sent out follow a template that we are required to use.

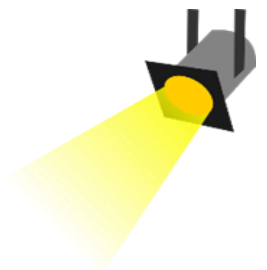
[Some frequently asked questions](#)

My child has been in school everyday this half term but I have still been sent a letter - this is because the percentage is across the academic year so if attendance was low at the start of the academic year it will take time to increase over the course of the year.

Are authorised absences still counted as an absence? - yes, authorised absences are still an absence as the child is not in school. Therefore medical appointments are counted within absences.



Spotlight on Early Years



Year group update

Once again, we have reached the end of a very busy term, packed with lots of excitement! We learned about different countries during International Week; took part in experiments during Science Day; planted seeds and bulbs; cooked pancakes and beans on toast; dressed up for World Book Day; and have had lots of parents visit our classrooms. We are currently waiting for our beanstalks to grow!

Next term, our learning will be based around the theme 'Amazing Animals'. Our main texts for the term are Monkey Puzzle, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, and Sharing a Shell. Talk4Writing is an approach that we regularly use with the children to teach storytelling skills. We will use Monkey Puzzle to practice this, so look out for lots of oral storytelling from your child! When we read 'Sharing a Shell', we will focus on personal, social, and emotional skills. We will also learn about the life cycle of a butterfly and will take care of caterpillars in our classrooms.

Mrs Keogh

What are we learning next?

Mathematics

Cardinality, ordinality and counting. Subitising in increasingly complex arrangements. Considering when to subitise and when to count. Composition of numbers. Using double dice frame and tens frame.

Comparing numbers and understanding the magnitude of numbers.

Begin to understand measures of time e.g. minute, hour, day, week, month, year.

Begin to read 'o'clock' time.

Literacy

Anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories.

Write short phrases or sentences.

Form letters neatly and of a uniform size.

Little Wandle Phase 4:

Short vowels CVCC, CCVC e.g. went, lift, crack, frog.

Short vowels CCVCC CCCVC CCCVCC e.g. drink, string, scrap, sprint.

Longer words, compound words.

Begin to read automatically, without having to sound out.

What we can do at home to help.

Mathematics

Count larger amounts of objects, beyond 20. Draw your child's attention to the pattern of the numbers e.g. twenty – ONE, twenty – TWO etc.

Children sometimes mispronounce the endings of teen numbers e.g. saying 'forty' for 'fourteen'. Point out the difference.

Play Snakes and Ladders, discussing the value of the numbers.

Play lots of games with dice so that your child can subitise (recognise the amount without counting).

Practise counting in 10s to 100. Use this knowledge to compare numbers whose names sound similar e.g. 14 and 41. Use small objects e.g. dried beans, buttons, dried pasta shapes to compare the two amounts.

Practise the names of the months.

Talk about 'o'clock' time at relevant points in your child's day e.g. get up at 7 o'clock; eat lunch at 12 o'clock etc.

Literacy

Anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories.

Write short phrases or sentences.

Form letters neatly and of a uniform size.

Little Wandle Phase 4:

Short vowels CVCC, CCVC e.g. went, lift, crack, frog.

Short vowels CCVCC CCCVC CCCVCC e.g. drink, string, scrap, sprint.

Longer words, compound words.

Begin to read automatically, without having to sound out.



Spotlight on Year One



Year group update

March has been a busy month for us in year 1. Thank you for your support with helping children practice their lines, and producing costumes for 'The Bee Musical'. The children were inspired by the story of the bees, and planned and wrote their own stories. This week they have started to create non-chronological reports about bees. Just like their performance, their writing is quite un-bee-lievable! We had a fantastic morning on Science day, where the children explored three 'Wow' experiments. These involved effervescence, immiscible liquids and absorption – quite ambitious scientific concepts taught through fun experiments such as creating dancing raisins and using paper towels and coloured pens! The children began to use exploratory language to make predictions and to discuss their observations. In Science lessons we have been keeping a daily weather log, and we have been surprised (and delighted!) by how much sunshine we had in March! The children have started to make their own predictions about the weather, and have enjoyed discussing the changing seasons. We have explored our school grounds to look for signs of spring. In DT lessons the children designed and created weather vanes so they can identify the direction the wind is coming from.

In PE we have been developing early tennis skills. This has involved passing the ball between partners, exploring bouncing and rolling. The children have realised how important it is to keep their eye on the ball at all times!

In RE World Views lessons we have explored our senses, and discussed how people connect with their faith by using their senses. It is always impressive to hear so many questions and observations from the children during these lessons, and children are becoming more confident to share their own experiences.

After Easter we begin to think about the future and answer the enquiry question 'Where are we going next?'

Mrs Mobbs

What are we learning next?

In **English** lessons we will be planning and writing stories about a journey. Encourage your child to talk about themes in the stories they enjoy – for example Sonic and Frozen are also journey stories! We will be writing simple instructions, and you could support with this at home by either talking about instructions, focusing on imperative verbs (the 'bossy' words) and you could encourage your child to write a set of simple instructions for a familiar game or routine at home.

In **Maths** we will learn about multiplication and division. Please encourage your child to practice counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. Although they should learn these number facts, we also want to ensure they understand the concept of 'lots of' – children could draw out '6 lots of 2' to represent 2×6 .

In **Science** we will be learning about different materials and their properties. You can support with this learning by helping your child to name the different materials used to make common household objects (metal, wood, plastic).

In **Computing** lessons we will be collecting data and grouping information together on simple charts. You could encourage your child to begin data collection – such as asking members of your family to vote for their favourite fruit or colour from a selection.

What we can do at home to help.

Sing songs and play games practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. Explore fractions by talking about halves and quarters – a great excuse to make and slice some pizza!!

Continue to support your child with English by reading regularly. If your child gets stuck on a word or makes a mistake, encourage them to have another go and talk about how they can work out what the word is. Help to develop vocabulary by discussing the meaning of words they have not come across before.

Junk modelling is a great way to develop your child's creativity – in the second part of the summer term we will be building using cardboard boxes and tubes, so you could prepare for this by beginning a junk modelling project at home! In particular focus on the best methods.



Spotlight on Year Two



Year group update

Year 2 have had another busy half term! In English we have been enjoying the story 'Boundless Sky' where we follow a bird on its migration from England, across Europe and Africa until it reaches South Africa, before repeating the journey on its way back to England. The children have been fascinated with bird migration and have asked so many thoughtful questions about it. Using the illustrations as inspiration, the children have been learning about writing interesting descriptions of settings.

In maths we have learnt about measuring and moved on to the topic of fractions. This can be a tricky topic for year 2 children but we have been impressed with their learning!

Our history topic has been about the history of aviation, with an additional focus on the achievements of Amelia Earhart. Again, this has been of great interest to the children who thoroughly enjoyed our Aviation Day on 21st March.

Alongside this, we have experienced International Week, World Book Day and Science Day. Definitely a very busy half term!

Mrs Palmer

What are we learning next?

Maths

We will be learning about telling the time on an analogue clock and then moving on to measuring capacity.

We will continue to work on consolidating and building on our learning in previously taught areas of maths, including times tables.

English

In English we will be looking at and writing nonsense poems.

We will also learn about the features of writing persuasively.

Science

Our science topic is plants. We will be learning about what plants need to be healthy and grow.

Geography

We are going to learn about hot and cold places.

PE

Indoor PE will focus on gymnastics and outdoor PE will focus on athletics.

What we can do at home to help.

Maths

Most children find it tricky to learn to tell the time. The more you can work on this at home, the better! Please focus on an analogue clock rather than a digital clock at this stage. You will find teaching clocks online including on TopMarks: Teaching Clock

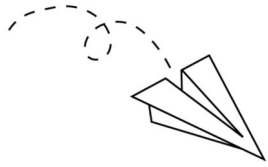
English

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 do 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



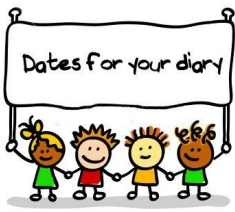
Year 2 Aviation Day



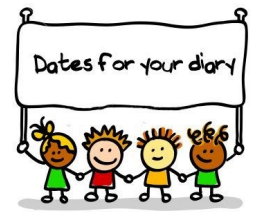
On Friday 21st March, Year 2 participated in Aviation Day! It was a super day linked to our history lessons about the history of flight and Amelia Earhart. Throughout the day the children investigated air resistance, using their problem-solving skills to work out the best materials to create a parachute. They also looked at the impact of the size and weight of materials when they made and flew their own paper airplanes. Their creative skills were needed when they designed and made their own kites which they then took outside to fly.

It was amazing to see so much curiosity and creativity throughout the day. Resilience was needed when their ideas did not necessarily work straightaway, meaning they had to adapt their idea and not give up. The day was a great success and we would like to thank our families for the donations of materials which helped to make the day so successful.

Mrs Palmer



Diary Dates



APRIL 2025

	Tues 1st	Wed 2nd	Thurs 3rd	Fri 4th	Sat 5th	Sun 6th
				Last day of term		
Mon 7th	Tues 8th	Wed 9th	Thurs 10th	Fri 11th	Sat 12th	Sun 13th
EASTER HOLIDAY						
Mon 14 th	Tues 15 th	Wed 16 th	Thurs 17 th	Fri 18th	Sat 19th	Sun 20th
EASTER HOLIDAY						
Mon 21st	Tues 22nd	Wed 23rd	Thurs 24th	Fri 25th	Sat 26th	Sun 27th
<i>Easter Monday</i>	NPD Children not in school	Children return to school.				
Mon 28th	Tues 29th	Wed 30th				
	2.30pm- Y2 open afternoon					

MAY 2025

			Thurs 1st	Fri 2nd	Sat 3rd	Sun 4th
			2.30pm- Y2 open afternoon			
Mon 5th	Tues 6th	Wed 7th	Thurs 8th	Fri 9th	Sat 10th	Sun 11th
Bank Holiday – no school				9.05 Sycamore class assembly & open am 12.30 Cherry parent lunch 7pm—SMILE Quiz		
Mon 12th	Tues 13th	Wed 14th	Thurs 15th	Fri 16th	Sat 17th	Sun 18th
				9.05 Magnolia class assembly & open am 12.30 Oak parent lunch		
Mon 19th	Tues 20th	Wed 21st	Thurs 22nd	Fri 23rd	Sat 24th	Sun 25th
		7-8pm New parent induction meeting		9.05 Chestnut class assembly & open am		
Mon 26th	Tues 27th	Wed 28th	Thurs 29th	Fri 30th	Sat 31st	Sun 1st
HALF TERM HOLIDAY						

JUNE 2025

Mon 2nd	Tues 3rd	Wed 4th	Thurs 5th	Fri 6th	Sat 7th	Sun 8th
Back to school	1.45-2.45 induction pm for new parents	1.45-2.45 induction pm for new parents	1.45-2.45 Pre School visit (1)	12.30 Tulip parent lunch 1.45-2.45 Pre School visit (1)		