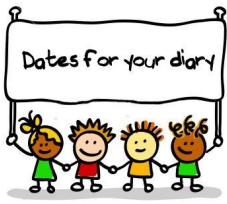


# Moulsham Infant School



Motivate, Inspire, Succeed

October newsletter— 23rd October 2025



## Important Dates

**Nov 3rd**—return to school.

**Nov 3rd**- Clubs re-start

**Nov 4th**— Drumming workshop for EYFS

**Nov 13th**—Year 2 open afternoon at 2.30pm

**Nov 14th**— Children in Need

**Nov 20th**—Year 1 open afternoon at 2.30pm

**Wk beg Nov 24th**— Last week of school clubs

**Nov 27th**—EYFS open afternoon at 2.30pm

**Dec 10th**— Y2 Christmas Play 2.30pm

**Dec 11th**— Y1 Christmas play 2.30pm

**Dec 12th**— EYFS Christmas Play 2.30pm

**Dec 15th**— Smile Christmas Market

**Dec 17th**— Christmas Dinner

**Dec 19th**— Christmas class parties and Santa visit.

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

**5th Jan**—term starts

## Reminder—Next week is Half term—have a great week.

So—what a very busy half term we have had.

The children have had a busy, hard working half term. It is wonderful to see how well our new EYFS children have settled into school and their daily routines. This also applies to the key stage 1 children who have adapted well to the changes of being in a different year group.

Earlier in the term we were extremely lucky to have a visit from Kes Grey who is a local author, who is an ex pupil of the Moulsham schools. There is some further information later in this newsletter that Mrs Keogh has put together. Thank you to Mrs Keogh for co-ordinating the day of Kes' visit.

As stated in the previous newsletter Mr Fenech is retiring and his final day as caretaker will be November 5th. I am sure the children and parents would like to join the staff in wishing him a happy and enjoyable retirement.

Mrs Hector has also accepted another job and will be leaving us. Her last day will be Friday 14th November. We wish her all the best in her new role and I would like to thank her for all her hard work over the years. Mrs Fletcher is also leaving—her final day is tomorrow. We wish her all the best too.

After the half term break each year group will have an open afternoon when parents/ carers can come into school to take part in an activity. This is an opportunity for the children to share some of their learning with you and gives you an insight into how children are taught. We look forward to welcoming you in for these sessions.

Finally we would all like to wish you a restful half term and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 3rd November.

## It's still 2 months away but.....

The children have been working on **Christmas Card** designs that can be made into cards and other gift ideas. These will be sent home with information as to how you can order.

Thank you to **SMILE** for organising this to raise valuable funds for our project to enhance the children's experiences in school.



## SCHOOL DINNER

As you know, our menu is on a 3-week cycle.

After half term we will be on Week 3 of the menu.

If your child is not having a meal from school, please provide them with a packed lunch.



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

**THIS SCHOOL IS NUT FREE**



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

**Attendance for September** This winners of the best class attendance are as follows:-

**EYFS - Tulip class at 99.4%**

**Year 1 - Chestnut class at 97.6%**

**Year 2 – Hazel class at 98.1%**

**Well done to these 3 classes.**

The school's overall attendance for September was 96.7%



**THANK YOU**

We would like to say a great big thank you to the children in Year 1 and 2 who have been so sensible at the start of the school day, by waiting at the bottom of the steps until the adults ask them to come in. This makes the start of the day so much safer.

It is also lovely that so many children are now saying good morning as they come in—this makes a lovely start to the school day

**Office hours**

The school office is open from 8.35 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

Outside of these hours, please leave a message on the school answerphone.

**On the school site**

Please do not cycle or scooter when coming onto the school site as this poses a risks to pedestrians—especially to the children.

This includes adults and children. Please push scooters / bikes when coming through the school site.

Thank you

**Parking for Dovedales**

Can we please remind you that for safety reasons parents are **not** permitted to bring their cars into the staff car park when dropping off or collecting from Dovedales.



**Family Support Worker**

Sarah Mansell, our Family Support Worker is in school every Wednesday. To make an appointment to meet with her please contact the school office.

**School Nurse**

Our school nurse Louise Skeicher can be contacted on 0300 2470014.

**Reminder– Dog free site**

We would like to remind parents that dogs are not permitted on site. This covers all areas of the school grounds including entrances, pathways and surrounding green spaces.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**Important Information**

Please remember all newsletters, important dates, forms and other information are available on our website at [www.moulsham-inf.essex.sch.uk](http://www.moulsham-inf.essex.sch.uk). Reminders and information will also be posted on the school's FB page

SMILE also post reminders about upcoming events on their Facebook page, just search for SMILE Parent's Group.



**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.

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.



### Collection Arrangements

Please remember to inform us of any changes to pick up arrangements—this can be done in several ways



- send it in to office email
- Call the school office
- Speak to one of the adults at drop off

We will not allow children to leave our care with someone we are not expecting to pick up—in this case we will have to call to ensure it is ok.

### Parent Helpers in School

We are always keen to welcome parent/ grandparent helpers in school. Please ask in the office about this or speak to your child's teacher.



### Achievements out of school

If your child has a certificate / award from an activity they do out of school eg—swimming, football etc, that they would like to share with us in school, they can bring it in and we will take a photo of them with it that can then be added to our achievements board.

### Correspondence

When emails, letters, messages are sent into school please can parents ensure that the child's first name, surname and class is stated in the correspondence. Thank you

### Social Media groups

These groups are a useful way for parents to share reminders, however any concerns regarding your child's education must be discussed directly with the school (via the school office or directly with your child's teacher /

### School Code and Values

The children will continue to follow the Moulsham Code and work to live by our core values - Independence, Curiosity, Ambition, Resilience and Empathy (I CARE).

These values are incorporated into every aspect of life in school, including the cube jar reward. They are also the focus of assemblies in school for KS 1.

### Drop Off 8.35 a.m. – 8.45 a.m.

Children can arrive at any time between these times. If parents stagger their arrival time this will reduce the amount of people waiting and congregating on the site.

Please ensure that children stay at the **bottom of the steps** or preferably away from the steps until the door is open. Even if the Junior school bell is ringing. This is for your children's safety as children can easily be hurt if everyone is trying to get up the steps at the same time. Also the yellow railings should not be used as a climbing frame—thank you.

There is always at least two members of staff on each entrance to welcome the children and there are members of staff in the corridor to help children if they are unsure. At **pick up time** please stand back from the exits so that the staff and children can see where their grown-ups are waiting. Thank you.

### Car Park & Parking on the school site

Please can all parents and visitors be mindful of how and where they park on the school site. The site is very busy at the start and end of the school day. Ultimately, safety has to be a priority to other drivers and pedestrians.

Cars **should not be parked** on grass verges or where they block entrances or exits.

Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

### Late Arrivals/Collections


If your child arrives at school after their entrance has closed please bring them to the office and sign your child in. Children will be recorded in the register as late and if they arrive after 9.05 a.m., they will be recorded as an unauthorised absence for the morning session.

If your child is collected late from the school office, you will be asked to sign them out.

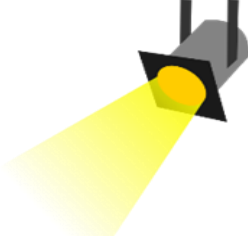
It is **not acceptable** to have your children collected by older siblings from MHS unless it is an emergency and by prior arrangement.

School finishes at 3.15p.m and this is the time the children must be picked up.





# Spotlight on Early Years



## Year group update

As we come to the end of the children's first half term at school, we would like to congratulate them on how well they have settled in and become a part of Moulsham Infant School. They have learned lots of new skills and made many new friends. In September, we read *The Little Red Hen* and learned how to act it out. We baked bread and the children took part in Harvest Assembly. Most recently, we have been reading *Leaf Man*, discussing the changing seasons and using the abundance of leaves in our playground to create many different art and crafts projects. As the term draws to a close, we will learn about Diwali and how it is celebrated. Next term, we will take part in a drumming workshop, learn about Bonfire Night, read *The Gingerbread Man*, bake gingerbread, learn about the Nativity Story and Christmas, as well as begin practising for our Christmas Production! There is a very busy term ahead but it will be lots of fun! Have a lovely half term.

*Mrs Keogh*

### What are we learning next?

#### Mathematics

Counting, cardinality, ordinality.

Comparing amounts – more than, fewer than.

Understanding that a whole is made up of smaller parts.

Recognising that the parts can be combined in different ways – commutativity.

Recognising 3D shapes.

#### Literacy

Continue to learn Phase 2 phonemes and graphemes, as well as 'tricky' words.

Continue to develop blending skills, read in small groups.

Write short words and phrases.

### What we can do at home to help.

#### Mathematics

Play games that involve counting .

Look at different ways of sorting toy (up to 10).

Build towers of lego blocks using only two colours. How many different ways can you build a tower of 10/6/4 ?

Look at food containers i.e. tins, cereal boxes etc. Sort them by their properties.

#### Literacy

Complete Phonics homework which is posted on the school website each week.

Read with your child, practising blending sounds.

Practise writing short words, forming letters correctly.



# Spotlight on Year One

## Year group update

Year 1 have made a brilliant start to the year, settling in beautifully and embracing all the exciting learning opportunities with enthusiasm and curiosity. While there's still plenty of COOL time and outdoor learning to enjoy, the children have also been working hard on developing their writing skills, creating lovely four-sentence stories about cute woodland creatures and learning how to use capital letters, full stops, and descriptive language.

In maths, we've been exploring key Year 1 concepts such as greater than, less than, more and fewer, and using the number line to support our understanding—this is all taught in a very practical way, giving children lots of hands-on experiences to help them grasp these important ideas.

In science, we've started to think about what we observe in the natural world, identifying and naming parts of a plant, and in computing, the children have begun using simple programs to build their keyboard and mouse skills during their weekly lessons.

Hawthorn Class have also been enjoying their weekly Forest School sessions with Mrs Sloan, which have been a wonderful opportunity to explore nature and develop teamwork and resilience. In art, we've been learning about colour, identifying primary colours, mixing secondary colours, and experimenting with shades and tints, which will help us build our artistic techniques throughout the year.

Music has been a fun part of our week, with the children learning the song "Hey You!" and using chime

### What are we learning next?

Next half term, we're looking forward to building on the fantastic progress the children have made so far. In phonics, we'll continue to develop their knowledge by introducing Phase 5 graphemes. This will help children recognise alternative spellings for familiar sounds and begin to apply these confidently in their reading and writing. As their skills grow, we'll support them in writing longer stories, introducing them to the planning process so they can begin to organise their ideas and structure their writing more independently. In maths, we'll be moving on to early addition and subtraction. Children will be introduced to the part-whole model and continue using number lines to support their understanding. These practical tools will help them visualise number relationships and build strong foundations for future learning. Our topic learning will be centred around the theme "*Look What We Found in the Woods!*" and we'll kick things off with a local walk to discover natural treasures. This will inspire lots of creative thinking and exploration across the curriculum. In Geography will focus on our local area, where children will create simple maps and begin using positional lan-

### What we can do at home to help.

There are lots of simple and fun ways you can support your child's learning at home next half term. Practising phonics regularly will make a big difference—try spotting graphemes in books, signs or labels around the house, and encourage your child to use them in their writing. Help them talk through their ideas first and support them in planning what they want to say. You could go on your own nature hunt and talk about seasonal changes you notice together. In maths, using everyday objects to explore addition and subtraction—such as toys, snacks or coins—can help reinforce the part-whole model and number line work. Thank you for your continued support!



# Spotlight on Year Two



## Year group update

Year 2 are continuing to work hard. We are all really enjoying the Great Fire of London topic and have produced some super writing pretending to be Samuel Pepys. The children especially enjoyed staining the paper to make it look old and creating an old-fashioned front cover for our diaries. Our DT projects are nearly complete and they are definitely something to be proud of!

In maths we have been starting to learn new strategies for addition and subtraction. We have been ensuring we are confident with skills such as number bonds to ten, as these help us with our mental addition and subtraction strategies.

For the last two weeks of English, we have been enjoying the book 'The Night Gardener' by The Fan Brothers. It is a thought-provoking book with interesting illustrations and the children have really enjoyed sharing it in English lessons.

We are continuing to enjoy the additional challenge that year 2 brings—well done to all of the

## What are we learning next?

In maths we are continuing to work on addition and subtraction strategies for Year 2. This includes using number bonds and thinking about how we can use what we already know to help us.

It is always helpful to children if they can consistently be exposed to everyday maths skills of time and money. In school children learn to tell the time using an analogue clock, starting with o'clock and half past. With money, we learn about the different coins and notes, and how to give change.

We will continue to send home a reading book and a library 'treasure' book every week. We read every day in school. Next half term we will be starting the next phase of phonics which involves us learn-

## What we can do at home to help.

The Hit the Button website contains lots of great interactive games that can be played on a tablet or computer. On here you will find Number Bonds, Doubling and Halving, plus many more maths skills. If possible, please encourage your child to regularly practise these skills. [Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds](#)

It would be very helpful if you could please try to show your child how to read an analogue clock—starting with o'clock and half past. Even just exposing them to hearing you say what the time is at different parts of the day will help them to start to understand this quite tricky concept. Please also try to expose them to how money works, and if possible, the value of different coins and notes.

Please continue to hear your child read regularly. Please do continue to read stories to your child too as we know listening to stories is beneficial to their reading development.



On 30<sup>th</sup> September, we were visited by children's author, Kes Gray. Kes attended Moulsham Infant school 60 years ago and will be launching an exhibition at Museum of Chelmsford entitled **Oi Chelmsford! Kes Gray: Chelmsford Born and Read (29th Nov 2025 – 21st Jun 2026)**.

Through interactive exhibits, toys and illustrations, [this exhibition](#) celebrates the author's best loved book characters and shares how his childhood experiences across Chelmsford have influenced their adventures.

During Kes' visit, six of our Year 2 children had the opportunity to interview him, and you will be able to see this interview at the exhibition. **Well done to Gabrielle, Hugo, Bert, Jasper, Ada, and Rudi.**



Kes entertained us all by reading some of his well-known books, as well as his new book *Oi Dinosaurs!*

