

Moulsham Infant School



Motivate, Inspire, Succeed

November newsletter— 28th November 2025



Christmas is round the corner..

Important Dates

Dec 1st— Christmas postbox available

Dec 3th— National 'Elf Day. Children to wear hats or Elf ears if they wish

Dec 2nd— SMILE— Females and unisex gifts.

Dec 10th— Year 2 Christmas play 2.30pm.

Dec 11th— Year 1 Christmas play 2.30pm.

Dec 12th— SMILE children's gifts

Dec 12th— EYFS Christmas Play 2.30pm

Dec 15th— SMILE Christmas Market

Dec 17th— Christmas dinner day.

Dec 19th— Christmas parties and Father Christmas visit.

Dec 22nd— Jan 2nd— Holiday.

Jan 5th— Spring term starts -Children return.

Jan 6th— Yr 2 History off the page

Jan 13th— EYFS Planetarium

This half term has already been so busy. The Year 1's did a local visit to John Shennan to look at the environment and find treasures as well as having a fabulous Brickies workshop, which involved building a house and considering eco-friendly living. EYFS children took part in a Djembe Drumming Workshop run by Dan Sceats of the Essex Music Hub.

Each year group has now had their open afternoons. These afternoons give parents and visitors the opportunity to come into school and see the children learning and the chance to take part in activities that the children do on a daily basis. It is always wonderful to welcome parents into school.

On Wednesday 19th a group of our Year 1 children went to Melbourne Stadium to represent the school in the annual Teddy 'lympics. This is an inter-school competition and it introduces children to working in a team that represents the school. Then on Tuesday 25th a small group of children represented the school in an All in one event. Well done to all the children that were involved in these events, you all did an amazing job for MIS. Also many thanks to Mrs Robinson who organised these events and to all the staff who accompanied the children on them.

We have welcomed many potential new families to our new parent EYFS tours over the last few weeks. Parents visiting have commented on how well the present EYFS children have settled into school routines and how independent they are in the classroom and outdoor learning environment. Thank you to our EYFS team for all your hard work and commitment to our youngest children in school.

We are now on the countdown to Christmas. SMILE are busy organising the Christmas market for the children—this is always one of our favourite events in the school year. Watching the children head to the hall with their list, bag and tokens to buy their presents is really magical. This event can only happen with the support from parents donating gifts and SMILE organising it. Thank you to all of you.

SMILE also have a treat organised for the children in the New Year, when all the excitement of Christmas is finished. We look forward to sharing that with you nearer the time.



SCHOOL DINNER

Next week (1st Dec) 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 includes food products with nuts in them, such as Nutella and cereal bars.

THIS SCHOOL IS
NUT FREE



Attendance—October



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

EYFS - Oak—98.1%

Year 1 - Hawthorn—95.3%

Year 2 – Holly—98.1%

Well done to these 3 classes.

Total attendance for school for October was 96.4% - slightly down from last month (96.7%).

Children late to school

Since September we are noticing that the number of children late to school in the mornings has increased dramatically.

Please remember that the school day starts now at 8.45 am (door/gate opens at 8.35am). Children will be missing 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

Admissions for EYFS September 2026

Applications for reception places for September 2026 must be made to Planning and Admissions by **15th January 2026**. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions
Late applications made after the closing date are considered after those made on time, which reduces a parent's chance of being offered a place at their preferred school.



Year 2 transfer to MJS

To apply for a place for your child (Year 3) at MJS for September 2026 you must apply by 15th January 2026. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions Late applications made after the closing date are considered after those made on time, which reduces a parent's chance of being offered a place at their preferred school.



Charity collections

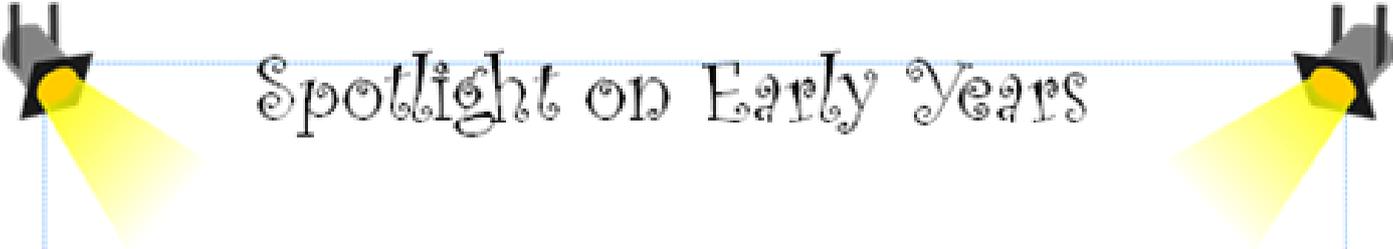
As you are aware every year we support certain charities and then we choose a main charity for our Christmas collections at the year group productions. This year we have chosen the Little Edi Foundation as our main focus. We always choose a local charity and one that impacts children within our community. Collection boxes will be out at the end of each of the productions for any contributions that you would like to make.

Harvest—Little Edi Foundation were very grateful for all our contributions.

Poppies—we are waiting for a final total for this.

For Children in Need we raised £ 289.97.

Thank you for helping us to support these vital charities.



Spotlight on Early Years

Year group update

This half term, our theme is **Winter Stories** with a particular focus on understanding that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways. We learned about Bonfire Night and how to stay safe during fireworks. We also discussed Remembrance Day and why people wear poppies at this time of year. The children exhibited great empathy during these discussions and even took part in a one minute silence. As part of our focus on Literacy, we learned the story of the Gingerbread Man and made lots of artwork related to this. However, the most exciting part was baking gingerbread and eating it. The children thoroughly enjoyed this activity and were sure to eat their gingerbread men before they ran away! We are now beginning to learn the Christian story of Christmas and are busy learning songs and practising lines for our performance on 12th December. This will definitely be a very busy term but also lots of fun.

Best wishes,
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.

Leave spaces between words.

Use a full stop.

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 ?

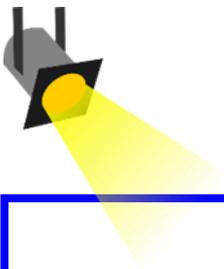
Look at food containers i.e. tins, cereal boxes etc. Sort them by their properties.

Literacy

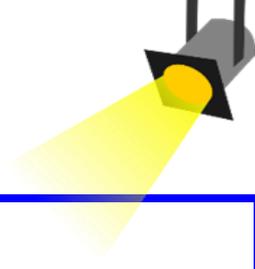
Complete Phonics homework which is posted on the school website each week.

Read with your child, practising blending sounds.

Practise writing short words, forming letters correctly.



Spotlight on Year One



Year group update

We've had an exciting and busy start to the year!

We wrapped up our '**Look What We Found in the Woods**' topic with a wonderful walk in our local area. The children loved collecting natural treasures, and a big thank you goes to the parent helpers who joined us on our quest to find the perfect conker! In English, we built on this experience by creating short **non-fiction booklets** all about woodland treasures. The children worked hard to include facts and illustrations, and the results were fantastic!

Our new theme, '**From Wheels to Sleigh**', launched with a fabulous visit from the team at Lookers Ford. They brought a fleet of vehicles for the children to explore! Pretending to drive, playing with the controls, and (of course) honking the horn were definite highlights.

In **Maths**, we've been focusing on core Year 1 concepts such as **part-whole models**, using a **number line**, and finding **number bonds to ten and within ten**. These are key skills we'll keep revisiting throughout the year. We hope parents enjoyed the **Year 1 Maths taster session** during last week's Open Afternoon—thank you for coming!

Our **Art and Computing** themes have gone hand in hand: exploring **colours, tints and shades** in Art, and using **lines and shapes** in Computing for digital painting. These foundational skills will support future creative projects.

In **Science**, we've been learning about **seasonal changes**—our recent weather has certainly helped with this! We're now studying trends by keeping a **daily weather chart**, which the children are really enjoying.

We can't wait to see where our learning journey takes us next as we move towards the festive season!

Mrs Mobbs

What are we learning next?

Next, Year 1 will dive into some fantastic new learning adventures as we head towards the festive season! In English, we'll begin planning and writing our own imaginative stories inspired by *The Little Red Sleigh*, bringing plenty of Christmas magic into our writing.

In Maths, we'll build on our number skills by tackling addition and subtraction, then move on to exploring shape and pattern with a seasonal twist—perfect for spotting symmetry in decorations!

Our DT lessons will be hands-on and creative as we investigate how vehicles move before designing and building our very own moving models. Science will keep us curious as we continue tracking the changing weather and looking for patterns in our daily chart. In History, we'll journey through time to discover amazing inventions in transport and even dream about what the future might hold—flying cars, anyone?! PE will keep us active and energetic with dodgeball and hockey, developing teamwork and core skills. It's going to be a busy, creative, and fun-filled few weeks packed with discovery, imagination, and festive cheer—what a brilliant way to end the term!

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 keep your own weather chart and even measure how much rain falls! 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!

The title 'Spotlight on Year Two' is written in a decorative, cursive font. It is flanked by two spotlights on the left and right, each casting a yellow beam of light towards the center. The entire title is enclosed within a dashed blue rectangular border.

Spotlight on Year Two

Year group update

Year 2 are continuing to work hard on being super learners! We are still learning about The Great Fire of London in history lessons and we are really looking forward to our experience day at the start of January. Over the past couple of weeks we have started to think about the Christmas Production—Not Such a Silent Night! Children are busy learning the songs in their music lessons and are looking forward to sharing this with you on 10th December!

In maths we have been continuing to work hard on addition and subtraction strategies. We have enjoyed using manipulatives to help us fully understand what we are doing and why we do it. For the rest of this term we are going to be investigating and learning about 2D and 3D shapes.

In English we have been learning about journey stories. These are stories where the main character goes on a journey and has to deal with some problems along the way. We have really enjoyed the story of Harvey Slumfenburger's Christmas Present, where Father Christmas forgets to deliver Harvey's present and has to go on a tricky journey to ensure it is delivered in time for Christmas morning. The children are currently working on writing their own versions of this story.

Well done to all of Year 2 for super learning!

Mrs Palmer

What are we learning next?

In maths we are continuing to revise addition and subtraction strategies for Year 2. We are moving on to 2D and 3D shapes.

Please continue to play the games listed to help develop confidence with number skills.

As mentioned last month, please try to help your child with the every day 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.

Within our English, we are continuing to embed sentence structure, spelling and handwriting.

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.

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 read stories to your child too as we know listening to stories is beneficial to their reading development.

Encourage your child to write where possible. This does not have to be onerous—notes, lists, cards etc are all a good way of practising handwriting and spelling.

Family Support /Pastoral

Sarah Mansell works two days a week, Tuesday and Wednesday. She has a wealth of experience supporting families in many ways.

Sarah will be sharing some valuable information through our newsletters to give guidance and support with matters that can be challenging.

Bedtime Routine for Children

Establishing a consistent bedtime routine is essential for helping children get the restful sleep they need for healthy growth and development. This information sheet provides parents with practical tips to create and maintain a successful bedtime routine for their child.

1. Why a Bedtime Routine Matters

- Helps children wind down and transition from the day to night
- Promotes better sleep quality and duration.
- Creates a sense of security and predictability.

2. Recommended Bedtime Routine Steps

- Set a consistent bedtime and wake-up time—even on weekends.
- Create a calming pre-bedtime environment (dim lights, quiet activities).
- Give a warm bath or shower.
- Encourage brushing teeth and using the bathroom.
- Read a story or listen to soft music together.
- Say goodnight with hugs, kisses, or a bedtime phrase.

3. Tips for Success

- Avoid screens (TV, tablets, phones) at least 1 hour before bed.
- Keep the bedroom cool, quiet, and dark.
- Limit sugar intake in the evening.
- Be consistent and patient—routines take time to establish.

4. Dealing with Common Challenges

- If your child resists bedtime, offer choices within the routine (e.g., which pajamas to wear).
- Use a bedtime chart or stickers as a reward system.
- Stay calm and consistent, even if your child protests.
- Avoid letting your child fall asleep with a tablet or in front of the TV.

5. When to Seek Help

- If your child consistently has trouble falling or staying asleep.
- If bedtime struggles cause significant stress for your family.





The 12 Safety Tips for Christmas

Presented by 'The 2 Johns'



"I Know them"

The Johns would like to invite you to join a complimentary online event. This will provide you with an introduction to a world that we, as adults, did not grow up in but your children are fully embracing.

They will give you tips on: -

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| The Internet Express | Gaming | The Exploiters |
| WhatsApp & Snap Chat | Screen time | Cliff Top Parenting |
| What to do if it goes Wrong | Sexploitation | Where can I Get Help |
| Indecent Images of Children | Stranger Danger | The Power of Influence |

The two Johns, yes, they are both named John and have spent many years working in the police in various overt and covert roles tackling online and offline child exploitation. They are regarded as experts in their field and annually work in hundreds of primary and secondary schools interacting with thousands of children, teachers and parents. They also regularly deliver lunch and learn sessions to parenting networks in the private sector.

Over the past fifteen years, the two Johns have been key speakers at numerous major events throughout the country. In Essex they are regularly commissioned by the Safeguarding Children's Board, Community Safety Partnerships and schools to deliver both staff training and bespoke sessions for large numbers of children. This includes their highly successful 'Walk Online Roadshow' which is delivered to many thousands of children annually.

The 2 Johns



'Keeping Children Safe'

Thursday 11th December
at 20:00hrs

(Scan the QR code to register)



EST E Safety Training

www.esafetytraining.org

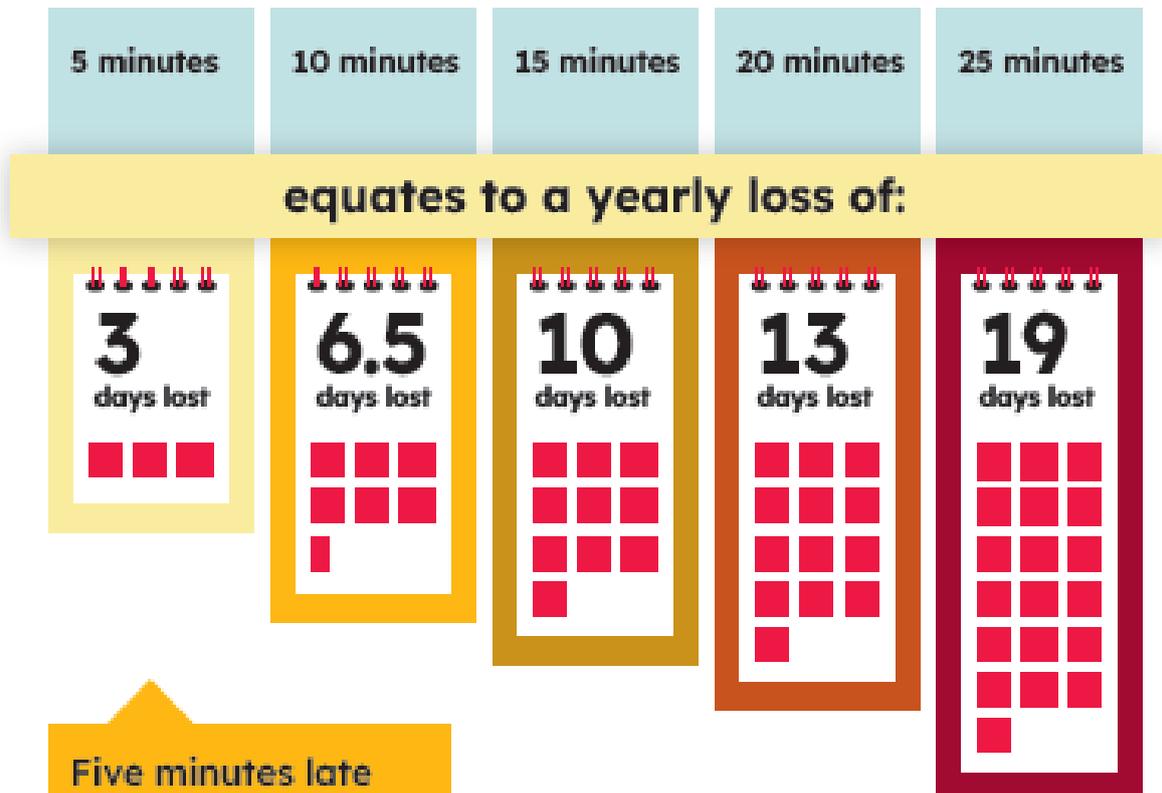


@JohnsThe2

HERO

Here, every day, ready and on time

Minutes lost per day



Five minutes late per day adds up to three learning days lost in a school year

If 15 minutes late each day you will miss two full weeks of school in one year

Poor timekeeping means less chance of success!



Where does your child sit on the attendance mountain?

