

Moulsham Infant School

Motivate, Inspire, Succeed

January newsletter— 2nd February 2026



Parent's evening is coming up—please see the office if you did not complete the online form so that an appointment can be arranged and returned to you.



Important dates

6th Feb– 9.15

Willow class assembly and open morning.

2.45 Year1 Art Gallery

Afterschool clubs finish until after half term

10th Feb– Parents evening 5-8pm

12th Feb– Parents evening 4-7pm.

16th Feb– Half term

23 Feb– Back to school. After-school clubs recommence.

5 March– World Book day

6 Mar– 9.15
Cherry class assembly and open morning

January has been a very busy month and it seems like a long time since we started the new term.

The children continue to be very busy, working hard and as a team in each class.

This half term Year 2 went back in time and had an amazing day working with History off the page, learning more about The Great Fire of London. Year 1 have worked with a local artist and are looking forward to sharing their work this Friday at the Year 1 Art Gallery. EYFS spent time in a visiting planetarium learning about stars and planets. As well as these all year groups had an exciting workshop learning Circus Skills—kindly arranged and funded by SMILE. Alongside all these activities the children continue to follow the curriculum—please see year group pages for further information on what they have been learning.

Hazel and Holly classes have both had their class assemblies and we look forward to Willow classes on Friday and then the EYFS classes after the half term break.

Class assemblies are an opportunity for visitors to come into school to see the classes share some of the work they have been doing. The class and visitors are then split into 2 groups—half doing an activity in the classroom with the teacher and the other half sharing books—children's workbooks and story books in the reading café. Later next term the Year 1 children will work together as 3 classes to perform in the Year 1 assembly—lots to look forward to!!

We would like to welcome Marie Innes who has joined our LSA team working in Year 2.

SCHOOL DINNER

From this week –2 Feb 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 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.

Thank you SMILE.

On Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th January SMILE paid for the children to have a Circus skills workshop.

The children worked in class groups and during the workshop were learning how to spin plates, balance feathers and roll flower-sticks.

These skills were great for concentration, hand-eye co-ordination and perseverance. Well done to the children.

PE days

We are going to continue asking the children to come into school dressed in their PE kit on PE days.

This change has had a huge impact on time spent learning rather than changing so is obviously beneficial to the children and hopefully reduces loss of kit.

Please can I just remind you that the children should wear plain dark joggers and they should be wearing their school jumper or cardigan—not a tracksuit top or hoodie.

Thank you

Things from home

Please can parents check that children DO NOT bring things in from home that are not needed. We have started to get a lot of small toys and collecting cards being brought in from home. Children are then taking them out into the playground, where they are sometimes lost or misplaced.

Children have also been bringing things in to give to their peers—this can sometimes cause issues and staff are not sure whether this is something you as parents are happy with or even know about. It is lovely that children are happy to share but please can this be done out of school.

Hairbands

We seem to have had an increase in an assortment of hair decorations recently.

Children are encouraged to wear their hair up (for obvious reasons and always tied up for PE days).

However we seem to be seeing a lot of novelty hairbands—ones with ears, unicorn horns etc. These unfortunately are causing some distractions in the class.

Please could you ensure that children wear plain hairbands and not novelty ones—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 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.

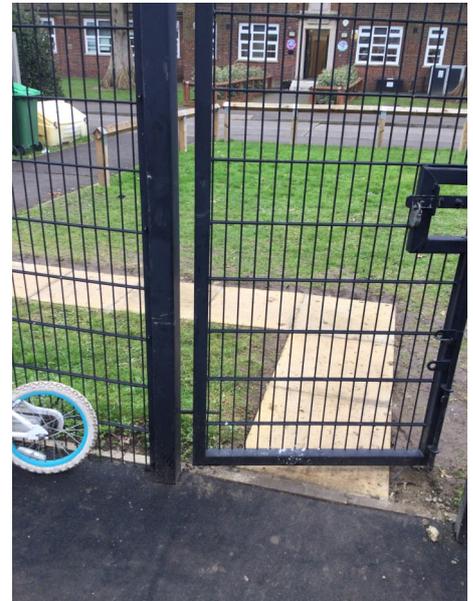


Scooter storage

As you are aware we have an area where it is safe to leave scooters. We have been asked if bikes can also be left in this area. This is fine but please do not put them in the storage pods as these are designed specifically for scooters—thank you.

Please be aware that this area is for use by children from the Infant School—Moulsham Juniors have their own storage facilities on their site for children in the Juniors.

Thank you for your support in this matter.



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 .

Children can attach one small keyring to their book bag.

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 — December



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

EYFS - Tulip—98%

Year 1 - Hawthorn— 96.2%

Year 2 – Hazel— 97.8%

Well done to these 3 classes.

Total attendance for school for December was 93.37% - down from 96.65% in November.

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

10 mins 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.

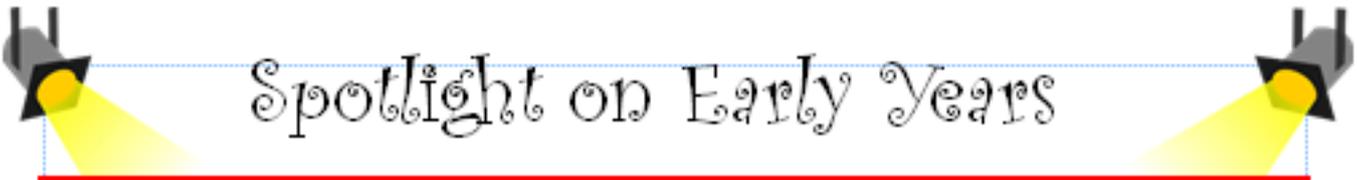
'Jones second hand uniform' will next be open for business on Thursday 5th February.

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 socks and underwear so any donations that are no longer used / fitting please pass to the office to replenish our stocks.

Many thanks

The title 'Spotlight on Early Years' is written in a decorative, cursive font. It is flanked by two spotlights on the left and right, which are shining yellow beams of light onto the text.

Spotlight on Early Years

Year group update

When we returned to school in January, we began our new theme, 'Let's Explore', with a particular focus on our solar system. On January 13th, the Planetarium visited our school and we had lots of fun looking at stars and planets. We also learned about the International Space Station and how astronauts live when they are on it. In Literacy, we read 'Beegu' and 'The Smeds and the Smoos'. We had many discussions about friendships and respecting other people's beliefs and views. We created aliens and rockets, using a variety of materials, and also experimented with colour mixing. We also took part in World Religion Day and enjoyed exploring artefacts from different religions. Towards the end of term, we will be reading 'Rosie's Walk' and using this as a basis for retelling stories.

Best wishes,
Mrs Keogh

What are we learning next?

Mathematics

Perceptual subitising (seeing the amount without counting).

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

Part whole relations (numbers within numbers).

Counting, ordinal numbers, one more than, one less than.

Number bonds and partitioning.

Comparing amounts, identifying equal and unequal amounts.

Literacy

Learn Phase 3 phonemes and graphemes, as well as 'tricky' words.

Continue to develop blending and segmenting skills.

Use a capital letter to begin a sentence.

Use a full stop to end a sentence.

Use a pencil with increasing control.

What we can do at home to help.

Mathematics

Play dice games for recognising amounts without counting.

Play games which involve finding the missing amount e.g. begin with 5 toy cars, hide 2. Can your child work out how many are hidden by using their knowledge that 3 add 2 makes 5?

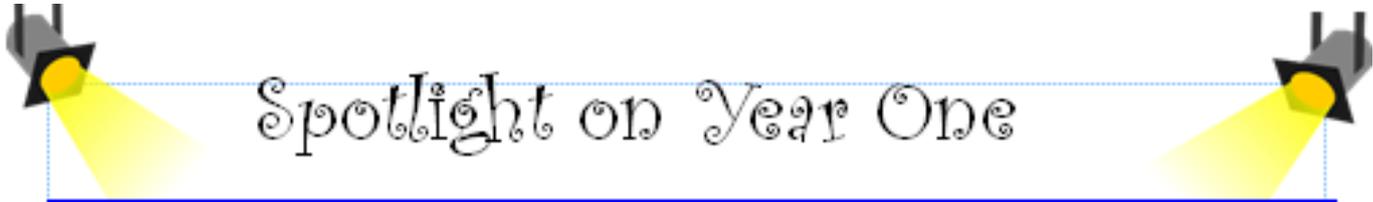
Play dice games using two dice to practise equal and unequal amounts.

Literacy

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

Read with your child, practising blending sounds.

Practise writing words and short phrases, forming letters correctly, leaving spaces between words and including capital letters and full stops.

The title "Spotlight on Year One" is centered at the top of the page. It is flanked by two spotlights, one on the left and one on the right, both pointing towards the center. The spotlights have yellow beams of light. The title itself is written in a decorative, cursive font.

Spotlight on Year One

Year group update

What an exciting start to 2026 we have had in Year 1! The children have thrown themselves into our new topic, "The Castle the King Built," which links beautifully with our history, geography, art and DT learning. We began by discovering some of the most famous castles in the UK, comparing their features and learning what makes each one special. The children were particularly captivated by our virtual castle tour—it really brought the topic to life! In geography, we have been locating the four countries of the UK on a map and sharing our own experiences of visiting these places.

In art, we explored portraits of royalty before beginning our own self-portraits, drawing inspiration from artists such as Picasso and Andy Warhol. The children have shown wonderful creativity and enthusiasm. Their writing has also been impressive, especially as they planned and began drafting their own castle-themed adventure stories. We have placed a strong spotlight on handwriting this half term, encouraging careful letter formation. If you have any concerns about handwriting, please feel free to discuss them at parents' evening.

In Maths, we have continued to strengthen our understanding of place value—recognising tens and ones, ordering numbers to 20, and using number lines confidently to count on. In RSH, our focus has moved to healthy living, and we have talked about helpful routines such as regular bedtimes and making healthy food choices. PE has been a real highlight too. Indoors, we have been creating simple sequences in gymnastics, and outdoors (when the weather allows!) we have been developing football skills. The circus workshop run by SMILE was a huge hit, with the children enthusiastically practising a fantastic range of skills.

A brilliant start to what will be a super 2026!

What are we learning next?

In Year 1 we have an exciting few weeks of learning ahead! In Design and Technology, the children will be designing and creating their own castles using a range of junk-modelling materials. They will be applying all the features they have learnt about—such as towers, battlements, drawbridges and moats—while exploring how to make their structures strong and stable.

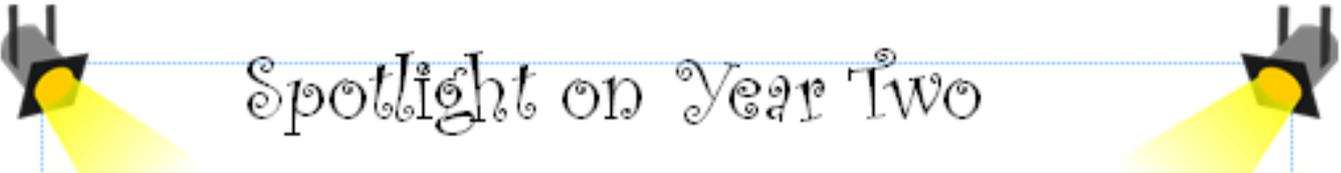
In Maths, we will continue to build confidence with number bonds to ten and use this secure knowledge to help develop bonds to twenty. These foundations will support the children as they practise their addition and subtraction skills through a range of practical and written activities.

Our English work will focus on planning and writing our own stories, encouraging children to use more exciting vocabulary, time connectives, and imaginative ideas to bring their writing to life.

We are also looking forward to our Art Gallery event on **February 6th**, where the children will proudly share the artwork they have been creating. This week we have a special workshop on Friday with artist **Leonie Fisher**—we are very excited and grateful for her support, and all will be revealed at the gallery!

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. Regular phonics practice—including spotting graphemes and tricky words in books, signs or labels—will really help build confidence. Talking through their ideas first and helping them plan what they want to say will also deepen their understanding. You might enjoy exploring our topic vocabulary together too—words like *tower*, *moat*, *battlements*, and *drawbridge*—as the children learn more about castles. In maths, practising number bonds to ten—and then applying them to bonds to twenty—will strengthen their understanding of the part-whole model and support their number line work. Thank you for your continued support!

The title 'Spotlight on Year Two' is centered at the top of the page. It is flanked by two spotlights, one on the left and one on the right, both pointing towards the center. The spotlights have yellow beams of light that illuminate the title. The title itself is written in a decorative, cursive font.

Spotlight on Year Two

Year group update

Year 2 have had an exciting and busy start to 2026. We started the term with a fantastic Great Fire of London Day brought to us by the History off the Page company. The children were immersed in London life, learning some of the trades of the time and discovering even more about how the Great Fire impacted London. We would like to say thank you to the parents who volunteered to help on the day—we hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did!

In English we have been learning about Amelia Earhart and her incredible achievements. The children have worked hard to produce their own leaflets about this amazing woman. We have been so impressed with the quality of their writing!

In maths we started the term learning about money, particularly the value of coins and how to make different amounts. We have now moved on to multiplication and division. Again we are so impressed with how hard the children are working in their maths lessons. Well done Year 2!

Mrs Palmer

What are we learning next?

In maths we are continuing to revise addition and subtraction strategies. We are now starting to learn about multiplication and division. It would be really helpful for the children if they were confident to count in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. We have started to introduce times tables to them so any help you could give with this will be helpful to them.

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. We are continuing to practise using our phonics knowledge and we are learning new spelling rules. 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 that we have recommended previously, also has times tables games. These are a great way to help make learning more fun. Please also continue to play the Number Bonds, Doubling and Halving games as the revision of previously learnt skills is important. [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 read stories to your child too as we know listening to stories is beneficial to their reading development.

Please encourage your child to write whenever possible. Notes, lists, cards etc are all a good way of practising handwriting and spelling.



We need your vote!

We have made an application to 'Tesco Stronger Starts' which has been successful. Voting has already commenced in store until the end of March.

Our application is listed as:

*Moulsham Infant School (Hive Family of School)
Moulsham Growing Strong Minds*

A nurturing project promoting mental and physical wellbeing in infant school children through play, movement, mindfulness and healthy habits for lifelong resilience.

The project with the highest number of votes across the region will receive £1500, second place £1000, and third place £500.

Please see below the list of stores taking part in our project and where you can vote:

2327 Chelmsford 1 Superstore CM2 6QT
2330 Chelmsford 2 Superstore CM2 9XW
2684 Great Baddow Express Express CM2 8YX
4827 Springfield Express Express CM1 6GL
5196 Chelmsford Broomfield Road Express Express CM1 4DP
5408 Chelmsford Interchange Express Express CM1 1GZ
6629 Chelmsford Moulsham Street Express Express CM2 0JA
6724 Waterhouse Lane Express Express CM1 2RY

To vote, you will need to make a purchase of any value within store. You will receive one token per transaction. It is not necessary to purchase a carrier bag to receive a token.



Support for Families Event



Hosted at Moulsham Junior School
Wednesday 11th March
Pop in anytime between
9am to 11am

We'd love for you to join us at our
Support for Families Event!

There will be wonderful organisations on hand to share helpful advice and support for families with pre-school, infant, and junior school aged children.

We'll have refreshments for everyone to enjoy, and a special presentation from SPACE (Supporting Parents and Carers in Essex)

Pre-school children are more than welcome – as long as they bring well-behaved adults along! 😊



FREE WEBINARS FOR PARENTS/CARERS

of primary aged children to support with
mental health and wellbeing

Provided by your Mental Health Support Team
@essexmhst_and_setcamhs

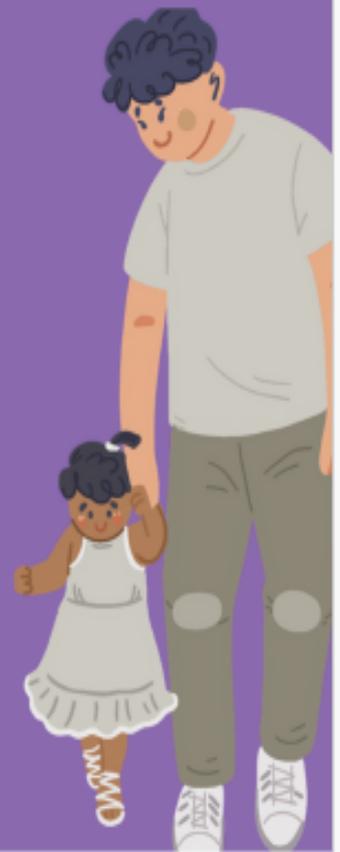
bit.ly/3MaR1wJ



Coming up in February...

Understanding ADHD in Primary
Aged Children
11th February 6:30 pm

Supporting Your Child with
Challenging Behaviour
24th February 10 am



Striving to provide the best care by the best people



NHS
North East London
NHS Foundation Trust