

# Moorlands Schools Federation

*Space to Grow for any Tomorrow*



**20 December 2024**

Dear parents and carers

In the blink of an eye we have come to the end of the Autumn Term and what a wonderful end to the term it has been.

Christmas time in school is one of my favourite times of the year and this year has been truly magical. The PTA Christmas trees have been sparkling and shining since the beginning of December and look truly magnificent. Thank-you to the site team for doing such a wonderful job putting them up. We would also like to say a **HUGE** thank-you to the PTA for funding our pantomime performances which were enjoyed by both the pupils and staff.

We have performed Christmas songs both in and out of school: the Reception and Year 1 performances, the whole school carol service, the Rock Steady Concert and Year 5 singing in The Pavilion. All wonderful and festive and enjoyed by everyone.

This week we have enjoyed our Christmas lunches prepared by Anna and the catering team. They do a fabulous job of preparing, serving and clearing up the lunches and it would not be Christmas without this fabulous Christmas event. In true Moorlands Christmas style my Christmas pudding and turkey costumes made an appearance much to the delight of all.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy holiday whatever your plans and thank-you for your continued support for our amazing school. We look forward to welcoming you back on 6 January 2025 ready to start the Spring Term.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.**

**What do Santa's helpers learn in school?**

The *elf*-abet!

*Louisa Sellars*

*Executive Headteacher*

Dec	
20	Last day of School
Jan	
6	Children Back to School
8	Moorlands B v Bathwick Football match
9	Y6 Fun Science Light Workshop
10	Moorlands A v St John's Football match
13	Moorlands Girls v Widcombe Football match
30	Year 5 Space workshop
Feb	
3	SEND Families Coffee Morning
8	Parent/ Carer Forum– Safer Internet



## Absence and Punctuality

Please report absence by phone using the office absence line ONLY: 01225 421912, Option 1. Please DO NOT use Class Dojo to communicate absence.

Please ensure that your child is on time for school. You may drop off between 8:35am and 8:45am.

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

DfE guidance states that pupils are identified as persistently absent if they miss 10% or more of their possible sessions. Our persistent absence levels are shown here against the national average:

	INFANTS	JUNIORS	NATIONAL AVERAGE
Attendance Percentage	97.32%	95.37%	94.5%
Absence Percentage Authorised	2.23%	3.92%	3.9%
Absence Percentage Unauthorised	0.44%	0.71%	1.6%
Persistent Absence Percentage	5.65%	11.30%	15.2%

There are **190** days in a school year which leaves **175** days to spend on family time, shopping, appointments and other things.



# Pupil Premium Funding

## Have you heard of **Pupil Premium Funding**?

Many children from families who receive certain benefits are entitled to a sum of money, called the Pupil Premium, paid to school to help to support their learning and provide them with some fantastic additional opportunities.

Schools can choose how to spend the Pupil Premium but at Moorlands we use it to enhance education in a number of ways. These may include:

- **Providing additional support in class**
- **Contributing to the cost of educational visits**
- **Paying for musical instrument tuition**
- **To give the children extra opportunities such as additional trips.**

**All children who currently qualify for free school meals based on their family circumstances are entitled to pupil premium. This applies if you receive any of the following benefits:**

- Universal credit (provided you have a net income of £7400 or less)
- Income support
- Income-based jobseekers' allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less
- Children who are or have been in care, and children who have a parent who is or was in the armed forces, are also entitled to pupil premium.

**While all children in the infant school receive universal free school meals, this is different from qualifying for free school meals. Only children whose families meet the criteria above and who apply for Free School Meals will be able to benefit from Pupil Premium funding.**

**If you think your child might be eligible for Pupil Premium Funding, please contact the school office (01225 421912 or [office@moorlands-school.com](mailto:office@moorlands-school.com) )**

## Staffing Updates

We would like to share with you some important staffing updates for Term 3. Two valued members of the Moorlands team are moving on to new opportunities at the end of Term 2.

Theresa Haliwell, who works in our wonderful catering team, has been successful in securing a new opportunity and will be leaving Moorlands at the end of Term 2. It's not been an easy decision to make and Theresa is sad to leave after eight years at Moorlands. Theresa's new role has different hours (that is to say, very early!) and she is looking forward to being back in bed just as lunch service starts at Moorlands!

After nearly 14 years working as part of the site team at Moorlands, Matt Moore will be leaving at the end of Term 2. It's been a difficult decision for Matt and he is very sad to leave Moorlands, but he has found a new opportunity and a chance for something new in a different context. Matt visited children in classrooms this week to say goodbye.

We wish Theresa and Matt all the very best for the future; they will both be missed at Moorlands and we are certain that they will both bloom and grow in their new opportunities!

# Year 1

We are super proud of the Year 1 children this term for their perseverance and continued engagement in the Nativity. Throughout Term 2, they have learnt the story of the Nativity from the Christian religion. In addition to this, they have been practising their oracy skills by projecting their voices as they say their lines. They have learnt the Makaton signs to each Christmas song and been able to perform to three different audiences!

Alongside the Nativity, the children have been learning how to add and subtract using different strategies to support them. These strategies include using a number line, bar model and using a part-whole model.

In Design and Technology, we have been looking at joining techniques. We have applied this learning by making puppets. The children were able to evaluate the three techniques during the first lesson and then used this to decide what technique they used to create their own puppet. It has been wonderful to see the children using their designs to create their puppets.

We have been looking at word classes this term during our English lessons. These include adjectives and nouns. I wonder if your child can tell you what they are. The children have also been writing instructions of how to make a puppet. It's been a fantastic learning opportunity for the children to write for a purpose as they confidently knew how to make puppets because of their DT lessons. We have also been looking at the famous 'Old Bear' stories, and have thoroughly enjoyed listening and seeing what cheeky Little Bear gets up to. It's been a lovely text alongside our 'Toys' theme this term.



# Year 1

Our curriculum this term has been linked to History, where we have been learning about the change of toys over time as well as learning about the invention of the teddy bear. We really appreciate your support in sending in photos of your old toys from your past. The children have started to learn about the core concept, 'technological advancements' which we revisit in Term 4.

We've also particularly enjoyed participating in the British Value of democracy. We have now elected our new Eco Warriors and School Councillors using real life ballot boxes. We've also taken part in learning about Disability History Month, understanding the importance of being different and unique, knowing what makes us special.



*Miss Kennard Miss Shopland and the Year 1 Team*

# Year 3

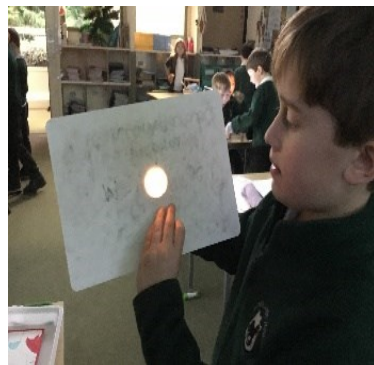
## Music Festival

The Year 3 children were fortunate enough to be invited to attend the WEMA Schools Music Festival at the Roper Theatre. After listening to fantastic performances from different instrument groups, we ourselves became the performers and joined the orchestra with our boom whackers and voices.



## WOW Day

This term, the children have been learning about 'Light and Dark' as part of our Science theme. We started by going to the darkest place in the school, the PE cupboard! We've had lots of fun experimenting with light by learning how our eyes see, different light sources and what makes objects transparent, translucent and opaque.



## Geography

We have been using atlases to find out about countries and their capitals in Europe. We have also been using the compass points to navigate our way around the school.



*Miss Robberts, Miss Murphy and the Year 3 Team*

# Year 5

Another busy term for Owls and Kestrels!

In Year 5, we have fully embraced learning about the Aztecs. We can tell you all sorts of fun facts, including why the Aztec empire was so successful, but we particularly enjoyed finding out about how the children were treated and why the priests believed in human sacrifice. We wrote as historical tour guides, using our skills to describe the beautiful city-state of Tenochtitlan. Then we discovered that there used to be a chocolate bar called 'Aztec', which was discontinued. We enjoyed creating persuasive adverts to re-launch the Aztec bar. We've even written about the Aztec timeline in haiku form!

Our Aztec art has taken the form of sculpture. We have used different techniques to sketch then create texture and pattern. We hope you like our quetzal birds (made out of foil) and Aztec stele (made from clay). We celebrated all things Aztec with a visit from One Day workshops where we re-enacted key moments from the time.





# Year 5



Added to our usual curriculum, we have been practising a selection of Christmas songs in preparation for a concert at Bath Pavilion. The children have astounded us with their commitment and enthusiasm in performing these so beautifully.

The Year 5 team would like to wish you a lovely break and we look forward to seeing you next year!

*Mrs Ponsford, Miss Eden and the Year 5 Team*



## PTA News!

### What is coming up?

We have a number of exciting events and initiatives on the horizon to help us reach our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary fundraising target, including the following:

- The fab 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary **walking and cycling challenge**, inviting children to walk 750 miles between them – see details on the year group WhatsApps.
- A special “**beer and curry night**” on Friday 31 January (TBC), hosted by Mark B and Dhundi. Home brewed beer and homemade curry: what more could you want?! More info soon.
- It will be **DISCO** time in February – a huge favourite with the kids!
- We will hold the **Moorlands Bake-Off** around Easter, and a **PTA picnic** in May.
- And then, the biggest event of them all – **Campout** – on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Please, please volunteer at one or more of these events if you can: we need your help, and many hands make light work. Thank you!

Finally, please look out for a wonderful 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary **fundraising thermometer**, designed and built by Mathias, which will be on display soon!



**Calling all cyclists!** To celebrate Moorlands @ 75, Mr Cainen and I will be leading a **75-mile sponsored bike ride** around the Bath countryside on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May**. We would love to have as much company (and fundraising potential) as possible! Please speak to either of us to register your interest or learn more. Further details will be circulated in due course, but for now just save the date!

*Kit Brown*

*Moorlands Federation PTA Chair*

# Sports and PE

## \*\*\* PE KIT UPDATE/REMINDER: Optional white T- shirts \*\*\*

Children in years 1-6 can either wear a house colour T-shirt (plain and not branded) or a **white T- shirt**. EYFS children should wear white T-shirts for PE.

Please also remember:

- Black or grey shorts or tracksuit bottoms
- Suitable trainers (i.e. not 'fashion' trainers. PE trainers should offer adequate support for your child)
- For the colder months, children should wear their school fleece, jumper or cardigan. Children should not wear non-uniform hoodies, jumpers or sweatshirts
- For the sunnier months, children should bring a hat to school

On days when children take part in an after school sports club, children should wear uniform to school and change into kit during club time. If the club coincides with a PE day, children should wear their PE kit, as detailed above, and change into their club kit after school if they need to.

### **Moorlands Mile**

It has been wonderful to see so many children enjoying the Moorlands Mile. Please do encourage your children to take part in this. Every Tuesday and Thursday (between 8.30 - 8.40am) we open our school gates five minutes early to give children the opportunity to do the Moorlands Mile on the top playground. School grown ups will be on the top playground to support the children with running at this time.

Research shows that starting the day with exercise can boost a child's productivity and can provide them with an increase in focus for between four and ten hours!

To ensure that we are all making the most of the Moorlands Mile, classroom doors will not open until 8.40am.



Look forward to seeing you there!

*Miss Murphy and Mr Solly - PE Team*

# Sport at Moorlands

## Elves Extra Busy This Christmas

Both our lunchtime and after school Street Dance clubs gave some fantastic performances at the end of Term 2. The beautifully choreographed dances involved the children acting as wind up elves before dancing to a mash up of Christmas songs and winding back down again.

A few pictures of the dancers elfing to spread the Christmas cheer:



## Football Friendly

Mr Gunning arranges many friendly matches through the season to give extra opportunities for our multitude of footballers. Below is a photo of our Year 6 team who played in a friendly against Oldfield Park Juniors on 26 November. As always, our football teams continue to do us proud.



*Miss Murphy*  
*PE Lead*

# Disability History Month



## Disability History Month

At Moorlands, we have worked hard to ensure our curriculum is more diverse and inclusive all year round. However, every November and December we focus on celebrating difference and look at how we all have a responsibility in promoting inclusion and equality. Unfortunately, even if we have the privilege of growing up in a home that values difference and accepts people for who they are, society has a long way to go before difference and acceptance become engrained in everything that we do. This is an area that we need to develop, not only as a school community, but throughout society. We need to actively be part of the change we wish to see.

This year our theme for Disability History Month is 'Minds of all Kinds' which celebrates hidden or invisible disabilities, embracing our neurodiversity. We want to help children understand themselves, who they are and how they feel, as well as develop an understanding of the way others are and feel. This gives us the opportunity to celebrate the different ways we learn, emphasising metacognition, our inclusion promises and the tools we have in place for children to achieve their best. We also want to empower children with the skills and confidence to challenge discrimination, prejudice and stereotypes.

By the end of the month, we want children to understand what inclusion, equality and diversity mean and how we all have a responsibility to ensure that these words are associated with how people feel at Moorlands. We want children to see and celebrate all the ways that we are so different, and as a school, we want to be part of the change on how society views difference. Hopefully through Disability History Month, we can nurture an environment where we celebrate how we are all different and how we all have something valuable and unique to add to society.



# Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

## Introducing Maia, our MHST link



My name is Maia and I'm an Education Mental Health Practitioner.

I am part of the BaNES Mental Health Support Team (MHST). This is a school-based service, delivered by the NHS.

MHSTs provide low-intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) interventions - these are usually 6-8 sessions for children struggling with worries or low mood.

CBT is based on the idea that our thoughts, feelings, and behaviours are all connected. By learning to change our thoughts and behaviours, we can start to feel better.

To enquire about support from the MHST, please speak to Elizabeth Hebditch (SENDSCO / Inclusion Lead) who can make a referral on your behalf.

If your child is referred to our team, we will contact you to arrange an initial assessment for them. Following this, we will work together to come up with a plan of how best to help your child.

<https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/banes/mhst/>



**Term Dates**  
**2024 – 2025 Academic Year**



Term	Start date	End date	INSET
1	Monday 02 September 2024	Friday 25 October 2024	Monday 02 September 2024
2	Monday 04 November 2024	Friday 20 December 2024	Monday 04 November 2024
3	Monday 06 January 2025	Friday 14 February 2025	
4	Monday 24 February 2025	Friday 04 April 2025	Monday 24 February 2025
5	Tuesday 22 April 2025	Friday 23 May 2025	
6	Monday 02 June 2025	Tuesday 22 July 2025	Monday and Tuesday 21 July 2025 22 July 2025

**Bank and Public Holidays 2024/2025**

Christmas Day – 25 December 2024
Boxing Day – 26 December 2024
New Year's Day – 01 January 2025
Good Friday – 18 April 2025
Easter Monday – 21 April 2025
May Day – 05 May 2025
Spring Bank Holiday – 26 May 2025
Summer Bank Holiday 25 August 2025