

# Moorlands Schools Federation

*Space to Grow for any Tomorrow*



**23 January 2025**

Dear Parents/Carers

Here we are half way through the first Spring half-term and I am pleased to say that everyone has settled back in to school life beautifully.

You will know from Mr Cainen's Dojo post that we are focusing on '**Taking Pride in our Learning at Moorlands**'. We are looking specifically at our **uniform**, our **PE kit**, our **presentation** and our **attendance and punctuality**. Thank-you for supporting us to show pride in these key areas.

We have identified three of our LEARN values to celebrate how we are taking pride in all that we do. They are **ACHIEVE YOUR BEST, ENAGAGE AND ENJOY** and **NEVER GIVE UP**. Well done to those members of the school community who have received certificates and I look forward to seeing who will be chosen in the remainder of the term.

***'Take pride in how far you have come and have faith in how far you can go.'***

I hope that you have a relaxing weekend and see you back in school on Monday morning ready to start a new week.

*Louisa Sellars*

*Executive Headteacher*

Jan	
27	A Team vs Josh's Catholic Primary Football Match
30	Year 5 Space workshop
31	PTA Beer and Curry Evening
Feb	
1	LGBTQ+ History Month
3	SEND Families Coffee Morning
3-9	Children's Mental Health Week
4	Mixed Inclusive Friendly vs OPJS Football Match
11	Parent/Carer Forum– Safer Internet
11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
11	A Team vs OPJS Football Match
13	PTA Disco
14	Zoo Lab Workshop - EYFS
14	Last Day of Term 3
24	INSET DAY
25	Children back to School

## 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%	95.1%	94.5%
Absence Percentage Authorised	2.5%	3.8%	3.9%
Absence Percentage Unauthorised	0.5%	1%	1.6%
Persistent Absence Percentage	7.6%	12.5%	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) )**

# Taking Pride in our Learning at Moorlands



This term at Moorlands, we are focusing on **Behaviour and Attitudes**, encouraging children to take ownership of their learning, take pride in everything they do and develop motivation to succeed.



We will concentrate on three of our key LEARN Values:



<b>Learning Disposition</b>	Enjoy learning
<b>L.E.A.R.N Value</b>	<b>Engage and enjoy</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feel proud of all your achievements</li> <li>• Feel your neurons connecting</li> <li>• Imagine your intelligence growing by the minute</li> <li>• Use what you have learned in real life</li> <li>• Know you can do it if you have input and you practise</li> </ul>	



<b>Learning Disposition</b>	Keep improving
<b>L.E.A.R.N Value</b>	<b>Achieve your best</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep reviewing your work</li> <li>• Identify your best bits</li> <li>• Improve one thing first</li> <li>• Try to be better than last time</li> <li>• Don't compare yourself to others, only yourself!</li> <li>• Take small steps</li> </ul>	



<b>Learning Disposition</b>	Don't give up
<b>L.E.A.R.N Value</b>	<b>Never give up</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work hard</li> <li>• Practise lots</li> <li>• Keep going</li> <li>• Try new strategies</li> <li>• Ask for help</li> <li>• Start again</li> <li>• Take a brain break</li> </ul>	

## Pride in Presentation

We want to support the children to make their learning look its best and present it in a way that does justice to its quality, boosting confidence and increasing pride.



## Pride in Punctuality and Attendance

We are proud of our attendance at Moorlands. We will continue to drive improvement in attendance and punctuality; being school on time every day is the best way to ensure maximum progress in learning. As a minimum, children's attendance should be 96% and we should be aiming for all attendance to be as close to 100% as possible.

School day timings:  
8:45am - 3:15pm

Gates open in the morning at 8:35am and in the afternoon at 3:10pm.



## Pride in Uniform and PE kit

We want the children to come to school in full uniform, looking smart and ready for the day, and on PE days, to wear the correct PE kit. Our uniform information is on our website here: <https://www.moorlands-school.org/page/?title=Uniform&pid=37>



The PTA Uniform shop has lots of affordable uniform available.



## Pride in our Partnerships

We are grateful to families for encouraging the children to take pride in everything they do at school.



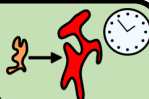
Legendary Lining Up



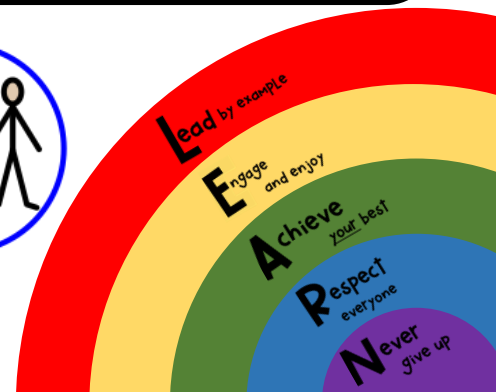
Moorlands Manners



Terrific Transitions



Wonderful Walking





# EYFS

Wow, what an amazing start to a new term. The children have settled back really well and are loving our new theme, Amazing Animals. Our new Power of Reading text this term is *Croc and Bird* by Alexis Deacon and the children have enjoyed sequencing the pictures and talking about the different characters. We have also been writing lists of our favourite animals, creating a zoo in our small world area and have been learning to make butterfly pictures using paint and folding the paper. It has been fantastic to see the children using their imaginations and being extremely creative.

In maths, we have been recapping the numbers to 10 and thinking about different ways to make them. We have also started looking at repeating patterns and how to complete a pattern using colours and shapes.

We have started learning about Sikhism in our RE lessons and been practising our balls skills during PE. The children have been working hard to move a tennis ball with increased control by dribbling it with their hands.

The children are now in their new phonics groups, based on their knowledge of the sounds and their blending.



*Mrs Boyce, Miss Webb and the EYFS Team*

## Year 2

We finished last term with a bang! What a superb exhibition the children created for both adults at home and the rest of the school to enjoy! It was absolutely wonderful to see the exhibition come to life and watch the children confidently talk about their Great Fire of London learning. They were able to share acrostic poems, 3D models, shadow art work, mini history books and a variety of writing. Thank you to everyone who came to see the exhibition; we were so proud of the Hedgehogs and Squirrels!



What a fantastic start to Term 3 we have had! The children are so excited about our new topic **India**. We launched our topic with a WOW morning where the children got to have a go at some Bollywood dancing, smell and discover a range of Indian spices, look at Hindi writing, explore and find India on the world map and create Rangoli patterns.



In art this term we have been looking closely at artists who have drawn the Taj Mahal and we have had a go at carefully drawing it using our symmetry skills! We will also be modelling diya lamps and recreating a drawing from the Singh twins this term.

In Science we are thinking all about our bodies and how to help keep them fit and healthy. We have been sorting food into groups and thinking about what a healthy plate of food looks like.

We are excited for our Indian music workshop later on this term where the amazing WEMA is going to come in and immerse us in a morning of Indian music, dance and drumming! Well done Year 2, another great start to the term!

*Miss Swift, Miss Harris, Mrs Waterhouse  
and the Year 2 Team*



# Year 4

We've had a busy start to Term 3 already in Year 4. Our DT project for the term got off to a tasty start as we sampled and assessed a number of different types of biscuits, thinking about the flavours and textures, as well as what the packaging looks like and who it might be targeted at. We followed this up in Week 2 with a first round of baking biscuits. The children had a fantastic time, each with their own roles through the process. They used their recipes to help them gather their equipment and ingredients, weighed everything out and created some fantastic looking and tasting biscuits. Next, we'll be looking to see how we could adapt our recipe to make our biscuits even better!



Alongside this, in History we have been learning about the Battle of Marathon, practicing our phalanx formation as Greek hoplites, and learning how this, alongside some clever tactics, helped lead the Athenians to victory against the Persians.

In Science, we have started exploring the fascinating topic of what sound is and how it is created. The classes enjoyed exploring how sound travels in vibrations by beating a drum and watching what happened to rice on the surface of it, and then discussing how the sound travels through the air to our ears.

*Mr Carr-Jones, Miss Mandziuk and the Year 4 Team*

# Year 6

We have had a very exciting and fun start to Term 3 in Year 6. We welcomed in 'Forensic Frank' from Fun Science, who hosted a workshop about Light! We learnt about how to see the light of a laser beam using a fog machine, how light travels through fibre optic wire (just like electricity), and how light diffracts with our diffraction glasses.

The children were fabulous role models for Moorlands and really showed the LEARN value of 'Engage and Enjoy'.



We also launched our topic for the term - 'Under the Canopy' - on our first day back. We are learning about South America (particularly the Amazon Rainforest) in geography, and taking inspiration from Henri Rousseau in Art and Design. During our 'WOW' Day, the children spent some time researching the human and physical features of South America, which they then presented to the rest of the class.

**TYPES OF FOOD THEY EAT:**

*In south America they speak 370 languages!*

**ALL ABOUT SOUTH AMERICA**

**Fun Fact**  
In South America  
They eat Guinea pigs

**Types of animals there**  
Jaguar, capybara, iguana, maned wolf,  
Guanaco

*(It is the Earth's fourth largest continent)*

**SOUTH AMERICA**

**POPULATION**  
THE population in south America 2025 is 436,892,266.  
**Largest City**  
The largest city in south America is Sao Pau in Brazil.  
**Main Trade**  
In south America they trade : bananas , coca , coffee , tobacco , beef , corn , sugar , wheat .  
**Currency**  
In South America the currency is the Argentine Peso.  
**Landmarks**  
Christ the redeemer , Angel falls.  
**Sports**  
Baseball , basketball , tennis , volleyball , beach volleyball , motor sports , cricket .  
**Animals**  
Capibara , snakes and jaguars.

**South America**

South America is very well known for having lots of animals such as Happy eagle , amazon river dolphin , jaguar , capybara , speckled bear , blue footed booby , maned wolf , marine iguana , guanaco , kod kod , guinea pigs and banned penguins.

There are 442 million people living in south America their languages are Spanish , English , German , Portuguese , Guarani , Italian , Quechua , Aymara , Dutch.

By Lola and Iani

We're so looking forward to the rest of a wonderful term!

*Miss Bone, Miss Carr and the Year 6 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, 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

On Wednesday 8 January, our Moorlands mixed football team won a match against Bathwick St Mary's 4-2. Despite the snowy weather, team spirits remained high. The children were particularly excited to share that one goal, which was scored by Ethan, was passed to every player before reaching the net.



On Thursday 9 January, our Play Leaders gave a whole school assembly about their role as leaders on the playground. During the assembly, the young leaders announced that they wanted to give children the option to create a whole school playlist for days when the speaker is on the playground as well as suggest games that could be played at lunchtime. Our team of over 40 play leaders are dedicated to making a difference around school and ensuring more active lunchtimes for all children

On Monday 13 January, the Moorlands girls football team played a close match against Widcombe, losing 3-2. As always, the team showed incredible determination, never giving up until the final whistle. Their teamwork and resilience were impressive, and they should be proud of their hard work and effort.

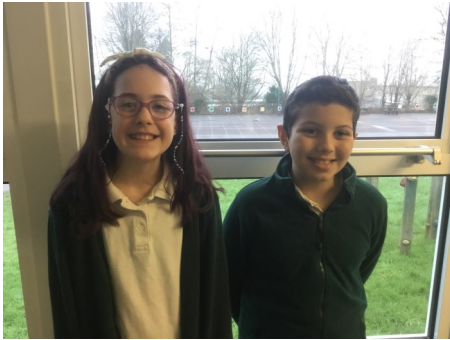




# Sport at Moorlands



On Wednesday 15 January, seven KS2 children took part in a ten-pin bowling tournament at Bath Sports centre. All the children embraced our 'Engage and Enjoy' value and showed great team work through supporting each other's' effort and perseverance. The team explained, "It was a really fun morning, despite the long walk back to school!" They should all feel very proud of themselves.



The Moorlands Girls football team won 2-1 in an away game against Oldfield Park Juniors on Monday 20 January. Battling through chilly weather, the team showed incredible determination and teamwork to secure the win. After the match, they celebrated with ice lollies.



*Miss Murphy*  
*PE Lead*

# Sport at Moorlands

On Wednesday 22 January, five of our finest gymnasts in year 5 and 6 represented the school in a tournament at Baskerville's Gym, comprising 18 teams and 120 gymnasts in total. Gymnasts rotated around various stations and had to perform a floor routine and a vault. Their combined score contributed to their team total and their individual marks.

All five of our gymnasts performed brilliantly and supported each other wonderfully well. With almost no gymnastics knowledge myself, it was a real pleasure to watch our team perform at such a high level largely due to all of the practice they do outside of school time.

Our team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 18 teams, which was a superb effort. The icing on the cake was the fact that Ashley Bray in Year 5 finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the individual category out of 180 competitors. The cherry on the cake was when Lily Jones from year 5 finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the individual category. Both of these gymnasts should be extremely proud of their results as should the whole team for their 3<sup>rd</sup> place team medals. A huge thank you to ex Moorlands pupil Vicky Baskerville and her whole team, who delivered such a memorable day for all of the children.



*Mr Solly*

*HLTA*

*Medical & First Aid Lead*

*PE Fixtures Coordinator*



# Upcoming Fixtures

Mon Jan 27th	3.30pm	Moorlands Mixed Football TEAM vs ST JOSH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY, HOME, BANES CUP
Tues Feb 4th	3.30pm	Moorlands Mixed Football vs OPJS, HOME
Tues Feb 11th	3.30pm	Moorlands Mixed Football Team vs OPJS, HOME, IML league match
Tues Feb 25th	9.30am- 12.30pm	Year 3/4 Football Tournament at Odd Down

*Miss Murphy*

*PE Lead*



# 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