

Moorlands Schools Federation

Space to Grow for any Tomorrow



26 September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

We are delighted to welcome you and your children back for another exciting school year here at Marvellous Moorlands! We hope that your Summer break was both restful and joyful.

As we begin this new chapter, we look forward to working together to support your child's learning, growth, and well-being. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community.

It is lovely to see the children's smiling faces again and I've enjoyed hearing about all the fun and exciting adventures that have been had.

I am pleased to report that at the start this new school year, we have already enjoyed 4 weeks full of exciting new things to learn, made lots of new friends and had lots of fun along the way.

Many of you have asked me about the comprehensive tree works that are happening on site at the moment. Each year the school has to have a tree survey to assess the condition of the trees on site and to identify any works that need to be completed to keep them safe. Following on from the survey, a number of trees were identified as needing work to ensure they were safe. The work ranged from felling to removal of deadwood or limbs which is the work that has been taking place this week.

Let's all continue to work together, follow our LEARN values and make this our best Marvellous Moorlands year yet! [Follow this link to also take a look at our whole school Vision, Values and Aims document.](#)

Oct	
1-31	Black History Month
1	Y5&6 BANES Cross Country
2	Free School Meal For All PTA School Disco
6	Newbridge vs Moorlands Football match
8	School Photographer– Individual photos
9	Times Tables & MTC Year 4 parent workshop, Junior Hall at 3:30pm
10	EYFS September 2026 School Tour 'Hello Yellow' World Mental Health Day - uniform and an optional yellow accessory
13	BANES Netball Tournament
14&16	Y1-Y6 Home School Partnership meeting
15	EYFS September 2026 School Tour
17	Show Racism the Red Card - non uniform day, everybody invited to wear red
20	St John's girls vs Moorlands girls A Football match
22	Y1 Rosh Hashanah Festival
22	Y3 Trip to Cheddar Caves
23	School Council, Eco Warrior and librarian Elections
24	INSET DAY—School closed
24	End Of term 1
Nov	
3	Children back to school Term 2

Have a lovely autumnal weekend and see everyone back on Monday to start all over again.

Kind regards,

Louisa Sellars

Executive Headteacher

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	97.3%	96%	94.8%
Absence Percentage Authorised	1.8%	3.4%	3.7%
Absence Percentage Unauthorised	0.9%	0.6%	1.5%
Persistent Absence Percentage	8.3%	14.6%	13.5%

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





EYFS



Wow, what a busy first few weeks we have had in Ladybird and Bumblebee class. We have been very brave and settled into our new school and routines. This is only our second week of being in school **ALL** day. We are very tired but have had lots of fun! This week, we have been sharing photographs about our families and what makes us special, unique and different. This links to our learning theme, '*Marvellous Me*'.

We have been learning lots of sounds during our Phonics lessons with the help of 'Fred the Frog'. We have been practicing writing our names, the new sounds we have learnt, and our numbers, remembering to use our tripod grip. We have also been learning some Makaton signs to help us sign our nursery rhymes, so far, we have learnt 'The Wheels on the Bus' and 'Humpty Dumpty'.

We are enjoying our explore time, especially the mud kitchen and using the sand and water. We have worked hard to keep our classrooms tidy by putting the toys away when we have finished with them.

During lunchtime, we have been enjoying yummy, cooked dinners and choosing tasty puddings. We have especially loved playing on the big playground! We are looking forward to learning more about each other and making lots of new friends.



Mrs Flynn, Miss Yoxon and the EYFS Team

Year 3

What a fantastic start to the year it has been for Year 3! Moving up from the Infants is a big change, but the children have settled in so well and should be incredibly proud of themselves.

Our focus on the Stone Age has captured everyone's imagination. We've been busy researching Cheddar Man, building Stone Age shelters, trying our hand at hunter-gathering, creating tools and even enjoying a campfire inside our classroom "cave." The children also produced some incredible cave paintings and it really feels like we've stepped back in time!

In English, we've been exploring the story of *Ug: Boy Genius of the Stone Age* which is all about a Stone Age boy who is fed up with everything being made of stone. The children have loved using this book to inspire their writing.

We've also started learning to play the recorder and have already mastered our A and B notes. Neighbouring classes have even commented that our playing sounds lovely – so far!

It has been wonderful to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic about their learning. We can't wait to see where the rest of the term takes us!



Miss Murphy, Miss Grace and the Year 3 Team

Year 4

The school year has only just begun, but the children have already been busy and engaged in a wide range of exciting learning.



As an immersion into our science topic for the term, *States of Matter*, we explored the changes between solids, liquids and gases in a number of curious — and sometimes rather messy — ways!

The children worked in teams on several challenges, starting with a task to protect an ice cube from melting for as long as possible. With a variety of creative methods and materials, one group even managed to keep their ice cube intact for the entire school day!

Another highlight was the chocolate nest challenge, where the only options for melting chocolate were body heat and inventive uses of friction. While this did leave a few messy hands, both classes enjoyed creating their own treats while deepening their understanding of how solids can change into liquids.



In art, our focus this term is on sculpture and exploring 3D forms. We began by learning about Kenyan artist Magdalene Odundo, looking closely at her ceramic sculptures and the way she uses sketches as part of her design process.

Taking inspiration from her work, the children headed out to the playground with chalks to experiment with capturing 3D shapes in 2D. They explored how different colours and shading could create contrast and the impression of depth in their sketches.

Looking ahead, the children will be developing their skills further by experimenting with soap carving, exploring the use of shadows, and designing sculptures with recycled materials. We can't wait to see their creativity shine through in the pieces they produce.

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

Year 6

Our new Year 6 are already Leading by Example and showing enthusiasm for this term's learning on Evolution and Inheritance: how will humans and animals adapt to fit the modern world?

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to 'We the Curious'. In the fossil workshop, we got to handle real fossils, including woolly mammoth vertebrae and a dinosaur bone, but the highlight was probably the fossilised turtle poo! A great time was had exploring a crooked house, making giant bubbles, using 'invisibility' blankets, walking through a typhoon and creating animations. We are especially proud as the children's engagement in the workshops and behaviour around the exhibits was praised by the 'We the Curious' staff.



In class, we became archaeologists by making our own fossils, and we stretched our maths brains by working with numbers all the way up to 10,000,000. In English, we got creative by writing a house advertisement for a home in *Skellig*, imagining what it would be like to live there. We also enjoyed learning about funk in music, learning all about the genre and even trying out some groovy disco dance moves!



Miss Bone, Mrs Ponsford and the Year 6 Team

Sports Updates

Moorlands are embarking on another year of sporting opportunity for our children. A huge thank you to our football coach Mr Gunning, who oversees all of our football fixtures on a voluntary basis and who has once again committed to entering multiple boys and girls teams into both league and cup competitions this year. We are incredibly fortunate to have our football led by somebody so skilled, enthusiastic and organised.

A huge thank you also to Kathy Ball, who has agreed to facilitate our netballers attending their tournaments again this year. Kathy also gives up her time on this voluntarily for us so we are also greatly indebted to her.

During week four of this term, some of Moorlands' budding sports stars had an opportunity to try a variety of sports at a multisport festival, kindly run by the Bath Rugby Foundation up at Odd Down Sports Complex. Mr Solly took a team of children, who engaged superbly in all of the activities and appeared to return to school on a real high. All of the children involved represented the school extremely well and gave their best throughout the sporting feast of activities.

Here's to another academic year of sporting opportunity for all, learning how to win and lose graciously on a sports field, improving leadership and teamwork skills through sporting opportunity and loads and loads of fun along the way.



Mr Solly and Miss Murphy The PE Team.

School Policies: Privacy Notice

Dear families

[Please follow this link to our website to read the Privacy Notice for Pupils and Parents](#)

This privacy notice applies to all schools within The Partnership Trust and is covered by the Trust's Data Protection Policy. Individuals have a legal right to be informed about how we use their personal information. This Privacy Notice explains how we collect, store and use personal information. It is intended for pupils and parents (including carers or guardians who we refer to in this privacy notice as 'parents') and we encourage all to read it. We have produced a separate privacy notice for the school's workforce and a shorter, simpler notice for pupils themselves. Our aim is to always provide clear information about the personal information we are using and why we are using it. We have tried to keep the language in this privacy notice as simple as possible, however if anything is unclear or if you have any concerns then please contact the school office.

Moorlands School Federation

PTA News

Hello from the PTA!

We hope your children have all settled (back) in at Moorlands after the summer break. A particularly big welcome to all of the new Reception children. We hope they (and parents) enjoyed the welcome picnic we organised after school on Friday 19th September. The weather played ball and the lollies seemed to go down a treat!

We are excited to see you at one or more of our upcoming events – starting with the one that many kids most look forward to – the famous **DISCO on Thursday 2nd October!** Thanks very much to **Lynne Kennard** and **Alex Pearce** for organising it, and to all of you who have **volunteered** to help: like many of our events, it can only go ahead when people get involved.

Looking slightly further ahead, we have our equally famous **PTA Quiz on Friday 14th November** at St Luke's Church Hall. There will be a brilliant quiz, set by legendary quizmaster Dave Houghton, home made sausage and veggie sausage rolls, local beer and more. It's always a lot of fun. Please mark your diaries and come along: tickets on sale in a few weeks' time.

In other news, we are excited to report that work is progressing on the pond project. The permanent fencing is nearly complete, and then attention will turn to the pond itself. The PTA is contributing major funding to this, along with a grant from Wessex Water. We hope it will be complete in time for spring 2026. In due course, it will be a central part of outdoor learning. Many thanks as ever to the pond project team, spearheaded by **Phil Wyatt, Vivienne Darby and Dhundi Bhusal**, who are putting in a huge amount of work on this. We are also funding the purchase of several new picnic benches for outside junior classrooms, to enable outdoor learning as an extension of the classroom. They will be made of recycled composite material, guaranteeing a long lifespan.

Finally, a word on **volunteering** more generally. We really need your help. We cannot rely on the same people each time. Even just the odd half-hour here and there would be a massive help. In addition to events, **we would love one or two more people to get involved with the wonderful uniform shop** – mainly sorting uniform from time to time and helping to move it into position for 'shop openings'. It can be done whenever suits you, and for however long – there are no fixed times. Please drop us a line if this is something for you – moorlandsschoolpta@gmail.com. Thank you!

Kit Brown PTA-Chair



Community Governors wanted!

Help to play a vital role in education.
Moorlands Schools Federation in Bath is looking for
Community Governors to help shape the future of
their young people.
No connection with the school is needed as long as
you live or work in Bath. See moorlands-school.org

Community Governors wanted: Help to play a vital role in education.

Moorlands Schools Federation in Bath is looking for two enthusiastic and committed community governors to join its friendly governing body.

- ✎ Help to play a vital role in education
- ✎ Volunteer your time to make a difference
- ✎ Boost your CV
- ✎ Training provided
- ✎ Insight into how a school operates
- ✎ Share your skills in legal knowledge, finance or procurement and contracting services*
- ✎ No direct connection with the school is required

*not essential

What does a Governor do?

The role of the Local Governing Body includes:

- Helping to set and review the school's strategic direction and development plan.
- Holding the headteacher and school leaders to account for the education performance of the school and its pupils
- Helping to oversee the financial performance of the school, making sure its money is well spent.

It is not essential to have an understanding of the education system as training and support is available.

If you are interested, or know of anyone who is interested, or would like to find out more, please contact Sarah Savidge, Clerk to the Governors via email ssavidgegov@moorlands-school.com for an application form.

Moorlands Schools Federation is an infant and junior school based in the south of Bath catering for children from the local community aged between 4-11 years. The school is part of a local Multi Academy Trust, The Partnership Trust, and, as part of its governance structure, has a local governing body made up of volunteer governors from the school, parents and wider community.



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of their young people. Find out more →



Donations for Forest School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to share with you an exciting and ambitious project that we are currently developing here at Moorlands – the creation of our very own *on-site Forest School area*! Our vision is for every child, from Reception through to Year 6, to benefit from regular Forest School sessions as a vital part of their learning journey.

Forest School is a child-centred, inspirational learning process that offers children regular opportunities to develop confidence, resilience, and independence through hands-on experiences in a natural setting. It encourages holistic development by allowing children to take supported risks, engage in creative play, learn practical skills, and build a connection with the natural world. Forest School not only supports emotional wellbeing and social development but also complements classroom learning by fostering curiosity, problem-solving, and teamwork.

We are currently in *Phase One* of this project and are working to establish a welcoming woodland circle, complete with log seating and a fire pit for safe outdoor cooking and learning experiences. Miss Merrett, our Forest School Lead, is currently undergoing her Forest School training and is beginning to take small groups of children out for sessions this term.

As we begin to build this space, and develop this opportunity for our pupils, we are reaching out to our wonderful parent community for help – whether that be through donations of resources, lending your expertise, or offering some of your time to help bring this area to life.

We would be very grateful for donations of any of the following items for Phase One:

- Plastic bowls
- Plastic plates
- Large serving spoons
- Small eating spoons (plastic)
- Washing up bowl
- Chopping boards (plastic)
- Enamel mugs
- Dutch Oven

Looking ahead to Phase Two, we are hoping to create a *mud kitchen* – a hands-on, imaginative space where children can learn through messy play and creativity. For this next phase, we would greatly appreciate donations of:

- Bamboo fencing
- Wooden pallets
- Old sink – metal
- Old pots, pans, bowls and kitchen utensils
- Old shelving (preferably metal)
- Digging tools for children
- Buckets

Donations for Forest School

Please ensure that any donations are in good condition, are not broken, sharp or made of glass. All donations need to be suitable for use in an outdoor space by children.

Additionally, we are looking for *volunteers* who may have some spare time, DIY skills, or tools to help us build and create these spaces – particularly a simple structure for the mud kitchen. If you have expertise in this area or just a willingness to lend a hand, we would love to hear from you!

To donate items, please drop them off at one of our two donation points (inside the labelled plastic box) at either the Octagon *or next to the bike shed at the Junior site* at your convenience. We will leave a labelled box for your items.

If you can assist with the building and development of the Forest School area, please contact the school office via email with the email title 'Forest School'.

Thank you in advance for your generosity, enthusiasm, and support as we grow our Forest School together.

Warm regards,

Miss Flynn and Miss Merrett

Forest School Team

VOLUNTEER AT MOORLANDS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!
WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Moorlands School is looking for dedicated individuals to join us in our mission to make a positive impact in our school community.

Contact us today to learn more about this exciting volunteer opportunity.

PLEASE ENQUIRE

<https://forms.office.com/e/Ri4dAqJshs>





Term Dates



2025 – 2026 Academic Year

Term	Start date	End date	INSET
1	Monday 01 September 2025	Friday 24 October 2025	Monday and Tuesday 01 September 2025 02 September 2025 Friday 24 October 2025
2	Monday 03 November 2025	Friday 19 December 2025	
3	Monday 05 January 2026	Friday 13 February 2026	Monday 05 January 2026
4	Monday 23 February 2026	Thursday 02 April 2026	
5	Monday 20 April 2026	Friday 22 May 2026	
6	Monday 01 June 2026	Tuesday 21 July 2026	Monday and Tuesday 20 July 2026 21 July 2026

Bank and Public Holidays 2025/2026

Christmas Day – 25 December 2025

Boxing Day – 26 December 2025

New Year's Day – 01 January 2026

Good Friday – 03 April 2026

Easter Monday – 06 April 2026

May Day – 04 May 2026

Spring Bank Holiday – 25 May 2026

Summer Bank Holiday 31 August 2026