

Moorlands Schools Federation

Space to Grow for any Tomorrow



23 October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

As the Autumn leaves change colour and begin to fall and the days grow shorter, it's a natural time for reflection and what a term it has been. From the excitement of new beginnings in September to the many achievements we've celebrated along the way, this has been a busy, rewarding and tiring eight weeks for our school community.

Our pupils have shown great resilience, enthusiasm and kindness as they've settled into routines, taken on new challenges and supported one another. The Moorlands staff team have continued to work tirelessly to create a safe, inspiring, and nurturing environment for all and I'm deeply proud of what we accomplish together. Thank-you for the continued support of you, our families, working in partnership with us to ensure we bloom and grow as a community.

As the nights get longer and we head into a well-deserved break, I hope everyone takes time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the season's slower pace. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next term, refreshed and ready for the opportunities ahead.

Kind regards

Louisa Sellars

Executive Headteacher

Oct	
24	INSET DAY—School closed
24	End Of term 1
Nov	
3	Children back to school Term 2
4	Y6 Life Skills Trip
5	Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop
6	Y5 Aztec Workshop
10	Moorlands Girls B Team vs Combe Down football match
12	EYFS September 2026 School Tour
13& 14	Y4 Holburne Museum trip
14	PTA Quiz night
19	Current Y2 cohort Tour for Y3 2026
19	Moorlands vs St. John's mixed friendly football match
20	Football Festival— Odd Down Sports centre
20	EYFS September 2026 School Tour

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	97.2%	96.5%	95.8%
Absence Percentage Authorised	1.9%	3%	2.91%
Absence Percentage Unauthorised	0.9%	0.4%	1.33%
Persistent Absence Percentage	4.1%	7.9%	13.5%

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



Year 1

Year 1 have been very busy this term, exploring our exciting new topic 'Fairytales'.

We began the topic with a fantastic WOW Day where everyone came to school dressed as their favourite fairy tale character, what a magical start to our learning!

To continue our fairy tale theme, we learned the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children retold the story from memory and created their own story maps. Using these maps, they wrote short narratives, focusing on using capital letters and full stops.

We have also enjoyed exploring poetry. We learned and performed 'On the Ning Nang Nong' by Spike Milligan, a very funny poem that had us all giggling! We created actions to go with the words and even performed it to the whole school during our poetry assembly.

In Science, we've been learning about the seasons. The children have learned lots of new scientific vocabulary, including shower, hail, frost, rainbow, thunder, lightning and storm. We have also carried out a scientific investigation, collecting rainwater using our own handmade rain gauges.

In Maths, our focus has been on place value. We have practised counting forwards and backwards to 100 and understanding one more and one less. We explored how number patterns work for example, if we know one less than 4, we can work out one less than 14 or 44!

During Explore Time, the children have shared some fantastic independent learning. They have designed, labelled, and created their own nonsense worlds, built bridges strong enough to hold the Three Billy Goats and the troll, and completed lots of other creative challenges.

In RE, we have been learning about the Jewish festival of Rosh Hashanah. The children learned how to play the shofar, made a class synagogue, and even cooked and tasted some delicious challah bread. What a wonderful way to bring our learning to life!

In History, we've been exploring our families and creating family trees. The children have learned that every family tree looks different and that's perfectly okay! We have also been celebrating Black History Month where we read the story 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin. Our learning challenge was to reflect on what special things we would pack in a suitcase if we were going to a faraway place.

It's been such a busy and exciting term for Year 1, and we are so proud of how much the children have achieved. They have shown curiosity, creativity, and confidence in all their learning. We can't wait to see what our new topic will be next term!

Year 1



Miss Kennard, Miss Robberts and the Year 1 Team

Year 2

WOW! It has been a busy few weeks here in Year 2 as the children have settled into their new classes and proven themselves as shining examples of our engage and enjoy values - immersing themselves into our new topics with great enthusiasm.



Unpacking our science focus, 'Everyday materials,' we have been thinking about the suitability of materials for different purposes. Stepping into the role of naval engineers, the Hedgehogs and Squirrels had a *splashing* time testing the absorbency and floatation of different objects. After some shared prediction and investigation the children used their scientific findings to create their own waterproof tin foil boats!



In our Maths the children have been showing off all that they have remembered from Year 1 as we revisit our important number facts. The teachers have all been so impressed with how they have settled into more independent learning across Year 2, and we have had lots of fun finding innovative ways to practice our mathematical skills – you might've noticed some of our wonderful learning sprawling across the playground.

Another highlight has been our D&T project, exploring children's understanding of levers and linkages to create some fantastic and functional moving monsters! Considering their brief, the children thought carefully to create designs, collect peer feedback and assemble their monsters to produce their very own system of levers and linkages. It's been so wonderful to see how the Hedgehogs and Squirrels have approached all our learning with such excitement and engagement so far – we can't wait to see them get stuck into everything that is yet to come!



Mrs Cook, Mrs Waterhouse, Miss Brown and the Year 2 Team

Sports Updates

Moorlands vs Combe Down – Home Match on Thursday 2 October

Moorlands got the month off to a fantastic start with a confident **5–1 win** against Combe Down. The team showed great teamwork, determination and strong defensive play throughout. It was an excellent performance and a brilliant start to the season.

Moorlands vs Newbridge – Away Match on Monday 6 October

Moorlands continued their strong form with a **4–2 victory** over Newbridge. The match was fast-paced and competitive, with excellent passing, communication and teamwork helping to secure the result. Every player contributed to a well-deserved win.

BANES Netball Tournament – Monday 13 October at Ralph Allen School

Our Moorlands Netball team performed superbly at the BANES tournament, finishing third out of nine groups. This was an outstanding achievement, especially as most of the team were younger players. They demonstrated real resilience, skill and positive teamwork in every match they played.

Moorlands vs St John's (Bath) – Away Match on Monday 20 October

In rainy conditions, the Moorlands girls played with great determination and teamwork in a closely fought match, narrowly losing **2–1** to St John's. Despite the result, the players showed excellent effort and sportsmanship throughout.

Moorlands vs Saltford Primary – Away Match on Tuesday 21 October

The team did us proud, beating Saltford Primary in a nail-biting game that went into extra time. With the score level at **6–6**, three extra minutes were added, and Moorlands scored twice to take a thrilling **8–6 victory**. It was a fantastic finish to an excellent month of netball. Well done to everyone involved.

Street Dance Performance – Tuesday 21st October

Our Street Dance group gave a fantastic end-of-term performance, showcasing their creativity, rhythm and teamwork. Everyone was thoroughly impressed by the energy and confidence on display. A wonderful celebration of their hard work this term.

A huge well done to all our teams for their effort, teamwork and enthusiasm throughout October. You represented Moorlands brilliantly.



Sports Updates



Mr Solly and Miss Murphy, The PE Team.

PTA News

Hello from PTA Towers!

Well done for getting through to the end of the first term! It has been a busy time for us. After the well-attended **Reception picnic**, wonderfully organised by PTA Secretary **Mags Wood**, we welcomed almost all the schools' children to the legendary PTA Disco, where a small amount of sugar might have been consumed and a lot of fun was definitely had! Huge thanks again to **Lynne Kennard** and **Alex Pearce** for their incredible organisation of the event, to everyone who volunteered on the day, and to the teachers and other school staff for their massive support.

Not only did the Disco raise well over £1,000, it also helped ensure almost perfect attendance. Whilst attendance is always important, there was an additional upside on Disco day because it was also "Census Day": attendance levels that day form the basis for the schools' funding from Government next academic year. Win, win!

Thank you to everyone who has bought Christmas cards and other items featuring their child/ren's decorations. I know it feels a bit early to be buying festive merch in October, but by doing so you are ensuring we get the biggest commission available to us. Thanks to **Mags** for dealing with this so seamlessly!

Finally, you might have seen posters at the school entrances advertising the upcoming **PTA Quiz**, on **Friday 14 November**. Having been to several over the years, I can confidently say it will be brilliant: inventive questions courtesy of Dave Houghton; cool tunes from Simon Willey; expert compering by Simon Jessop; imaginative decoration of St Luke's Hall thanks to Dannii Gray and her team; and some of the best sausage and veggie sausage rolls I've had the pleasure of consuming, thanks to the marvellous culinary skills of Maddy Jessop and Vicky Bentley. Oh, and there will be beer from Abbey Ales, craft 'Moorlands' cider from the orchards of Tom and Roz Kingham's family, and all the other usual alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages! So what are you waiting for? Get a crack team together and buy your tickets!

Not only have we been raising money, we've also been putting it to good uses. First, the pond project continues apace. All of the fencing is now installed (see pics), so the next stage is finalising the design of the pond and then digging it. Many thanks once again to all of the volunteers for giving up time on weekends to get the unglamorous fencing work done, and to Phil, Vivienne and Dhundi for their leadership.

PTA News

The other main items we have funded recently have been 10 new picnic sets, made of 100% recycled plastic, to be placed outside the junior classrooms. These benches will be treated like an extension of the classrooms, enhancing outdoor learning opportunities. Look out for their arrival soon!

Have a great half-term and see you the other side.



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.



Community Governors wanted!

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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

Donations for Forest School

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

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,

Mrs Flynn and Miss Merrett

Forest School Team

Donations for Outdoor Play

As a school, we are always looking for ways to improve the experiences we offer our children and in recent months our focus has been on enhancing the quality of our lunchtime provision.

Over the past year, we've spent time exploring what works well in other schools and thinking carefully about how we can make playtimes even better here at Moorlands. With a dedicated playtime team in place, we are committed to developing our outdoor environment so that all children have access to rich and meaningful play opportunities throughout the day. Our School Council has also been involved in this work, with a particular focus on improving the calm areas of our school.

We are fortunate to have a brilliant outdoor space that the children already enjoy. To enrich their experience further, we are developing a range of play zones that children can move between during lunchtime. These zones are designed to promote creativity, collaboration and imaginative thinking, while also offering calm spaces where children can take a break if they need to.

We are incredibly proud of our Moorlands community and very grateful for the support we receive from our parents and carers. Your generosity with donations in the past has been invaluable and we are once again asking for your help to equip our new play zones.

If you are able to donate any of the following items, we would be most appreciative:

- **Small World Play:** LEGO, dinosaurs, toy cars, people and animal figures
- **Mud Kitchen:** Wooden pallets, saucepans, baking trays, colanders and utensils
- **Calm Zone:** Children's books, comics, fidget toys, puzzles, colouring pencils, crayons, and card or board games
- **Role Play:** Dressing-up costumes, old telephones and old computer keyboards
- **Wheels Zone:** Bikes and scooters
- **Outdoor Play:** Watering cans and child-friendly gardening tools (e.g. spades, trowels)
- **Free Play:** Tennis and badminton rackets, tennis balls and shuttlecocks

We kindly ask that all items donated are in good condition and safe for children to use. For example, bikes and scooters must be in working order and suitable for school use.

If you would like to donate, there will be two drop-off opportunities:

- **Tuesday 4th November**, 3:30–4:15pm at the Orchestra Hall
- **Thursday 6th November**, 3:30–4:15pm at the Orchestra Hall

We want our children to be active, to have fun, and to leave Moorlands with happy memories of their playtimes. As always, the children's voices will continue to shape everything we do.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Miss Murphy-PE and Outdoor Play Lead

Mrs Waterhouse -School Council Lead

Celebrating the Moorlands Parental Community

We are delighted to share some very exciting news that we are starting a new feature in our FedTimes, and this feature is all about celebrating our wider parental community and linking this with our school LEARN values.



Olivia and Moorlands are very proud of her Daddy for using **'Never Give Up'** - one of our school LEARN values. Mr Feather as an amateur cyclist, recently beat the **world champion** cycling up a very big hill!



Mr Feather was the only rider out of 1,189 to beat Tadej Pogačar in a 15km hill climb in Slovenia. All the amateur riders were given a six-minute head start by Pogačar, who some commentators believe is the greatest rider to compete in the sport, in the Pogi Challenge charity ride. Pogačar is a four-time Tour de France winner and current world champion. Olivia was inspired and now has her own PBs in some very fast laps on the scooter or bike around the playground at lunchtime!

If you or your children at Moorlands have any celebratory items to share with the Moorlands community, that links to one of our LEARN values, please do email the office so that we can include it in our FedTimes!

The FedTimes is shared by the class teachers with every class to show the purpose of 'writing' is ultimately for it to be 'read' so we hope you enjoy reading all the information too.

We are also starting an important piece of work on **Careers** and inspirational role-models for our children at Moorlands, so please do be on the look out for opportunities to come and share more information about your job role with us.

Sleep and Emotional Health and Wellbeing



Bath & North East
Somerset Council



School Aged Health Service Webinars for Parents

The School Aged Health Service is offering free webinars focused on Sleep and Emotional Health and Wellbeing for parents and carers of primary school-aged children. These sessions will provide information and practical tips to help children build healthy sleep habits and emotional resilience.

To sign up, please scan the QR code below. These webinars are also available to view afterwards via the School-Aged Health Service website under 'Helpful Advice':

Sleep Webinar



Date: **Weds 3rd Dec 25**

Time: 13:00-14:00

<https://baneschildandfamily.co.uk/services/school-aged-health-service-5-19-years>

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
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

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