

Moorlands Schools Federation

Space to Grow for any Tomorrow



28 November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the latest edition of the **Fed Times**, brought to you by the wonderful team and pupils here at **Marvellous Moorlands**.

I can't believe that when we return to school on Monday it will already be December! We'll be busy preparing for all the wonderful festive events that make this time of year so special in the life of a busy school, as we officially enter that magical time of year when every surface seems to become 40% glitter, 30% tinsel, and 100% festive chaos!

If you haven't already pinned up our list of Christmas events somewhere handy, now is the perfect time to do so—there are lots of exciting activities and celebrations ahead. We've checked our list twice and December really has crept up this quickly!

A big thank you to our amazing PTA for organising another fiercely contested Quiz Night, and to the staff team for generously giving their time to take part. It was lovely to hear that so many of you attended and helped raise funds to support the ongoing development of our outdoor areas. Read the PTA section to find out more.

Congratulations as well to our sports teams, who have been out and about representing the school in various tournaments - be sure to read on in this edition to find out how they got on. A special mention also goes to our young drummers for

their captivating concert in the Junior Hall this week. With talent like that, we definitely have some budding stars in our midst - perhaps even the next big Christmas number-one!

Have a lovely weekend, and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday for the start of our festive fun.

Kind regards

Louisa Sellars

Executive Headteacher

Dec	
3	Year 5 WEMA Christmas Celebration
3	Moorlands mixed C Team Cup football match vs WASPS C Team
5	EYFS September 2026 School Tour
8&9	EYFS Nativity performances
9	Moorlands vs OPJS Football Match
10&11	Year 1 Nativity performances
12	Moorlands Christmas Jumper Day
12	Rocksteady concert at 9am
15	Year 2 The Great Fire of London exhibition
16	Christmas Services at St Luke's
17	Junior Christmas Lunch
18	Infant Christmas Lunch
18	Class Christmas parties
18	Junior Choir performance after school
19	Last Day of Term 2
Jan	
5	INSET DAY – School closed
6	Term 3 starts—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	97.3%	96.6%	95.8%
Absence Percentage Authorised	1.9%	3%	2.91%
Absence Percentage Unauthorised	0.8%	0.4%	1.33%
Persistent Absence Percentage	4.9%	7.1%	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



Ladybirds and Bumblebees have had a very busy start to Term 2, learning about different celebrations from around the world. We learnt about Bonfire Night and Guy Fawkes and created our own firework paintings. We did an amazing job remembering all the soldiers during our two-minute silence, and then made our own poppies using sponges. We also discovered how Hindus celebrate Diwali by lighting diva lamps and creating colourful Rangoli patterns in their homes. The children enjoyed designing their own Rangoli patterns using tissue paper. Later this term, we will be learning about Christmas and the Nativity story in our RE lessons. Our focus book this term has been *Billy's Bucket*. We have enjoyed retelling the story and thinking creatively about what we would like to find in our own buckets. We are also working hard practising our Christmas songs, ready for our grown-ups to enjoy.



Mrs Flynn, Miss Yoxon and the Year EYFS Team

Year 2

A spark of curiosity has spread across Year 2 as we have begun to delve in to our new topic – *The Great Fire of London*. To uncover our topic the children began the term with a WOW day that had everyone stepping into the shoes of Thomas Farriner to bake our very own tasty bread rolls. Thankfully all the children were very safe and Moorlands School wasn't subjected to the same fate as the poor bakery on Pudding Lane!



To really transport us all back in time, our WOW day was followed up by a fantastic fiery workshop. Acting as the characters of Thomas Farriner, Samuel Pepys and King James - Year 2 were led on a historical tour through the key sites of the fire (St Paul's Cathedral, the River Thames and Pudding Lane) all within the four walls of our Infant hall. Having familiarised ourselves with the location of London, in Art the children have been working hard to create some fantastic 3D models of houses that look as though they have been pulled right out of 1666!

The children's enthusiasm for our History focus has even found its way into our Maths learning where we have been learning about money. Using their own pounds and pence in explore time, many bakeries have been established selling bread and pastries in exchange for the correct coins.

With strong enthusiasm and an eagerness to share their learning, all of our children are working hard towards creating some fantastic projects across art, writing and music - all to be shared with the adults in our upcoming exhibition. We cannot wait for the grown-ups to see what they have in store for you all!



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

Year 4

For the next two terms, in Year 4, we will be immersing ourselves in the world of the Ancient Greeks. To launch our topic, children were invited to dress up as an Ancient Greek. We spent the day doing activities relating to things the Ancient Greeks are famous for. We had a go at some Olympic sports; we tried to complete one of the world's oldest Maths puzzles; and we learnt about mythology and famous mythological creatures which we later turned into theatre masks. We finished the day sampling some classic Greek foods.



Fortunately, Fox class were not hit by Storm Claudia and were able to attend their 'Going Greek' workshop at the Holburne Museum. Sadly, Otter class's trip has had to be postponed. It is a shame that we are not able to share photos from both of our trips. At the Holburne, the children got to explore the galleries looking for ancient Greek influences in the artwork. After this, they took inspiration from the artwork seen in the museum to paint their own Greek inspired plate featuring a mythical creature.



Year 4

In Art this term, we have been exploring tint and shade, and how these techniques can help make our paintings appear more three-dimensional.

Otter Class made the most of our rained-off trip day by diving deeper into this topic. The children experimented with a range of painting techniques, using different utensils to see how each tool created unique textures and effects. They were fascinated by how many variations they could achieve simply by adjusting pressure, direction or the amount of paint.

Across both classes, the children have also been using tint and shade to sketch and paint objects from around the classroom. They looked closely at where the light fell, where shadows formed, and how blocks of colour could be used to build the illusion of depth.

We hope you enjoy seeing the wonderful pieces they created as part of this exploration.



Miss Mandziuk Mr Carr-Jones and the Year 4 Team

Year 6

Victorians: Villainous or Victorious?

Merlin and Osprey classes stepped back in time for a truly spectacular Victorian Immersion Day! Dressed as Victorian children, we experienced what life was really like in a strict Victorian classroom. Our day began with very stern Victorian teachers who made sure we all stood up straight and spoke politely! We practised our best copperplate handwriting on chalkboards. Those who made a mistake found themselves wearing the infamous dunce hat! We recited our times tables aloud and sang the National Anthem with great pride, just as children would have done over a hundred years ago.

Later, we explored the wonderful world of Victorian toys, learning how children entertained themselves long before screens and electricity. We even had the chance to design and make our own traditional toys—spinning thaumotropes and cup-and-ball games. We began to ask the big question: were the Victorians victorious or villainous? It was a fascinating, fun-filled day packed with laughter, learning, and a little bit of old-fashioned discipline: a great way to bring our history learning to life.

Our trip to Lifeskills in Bristol was fascinating and informative. Everyone had the chance to make an emergency phone call based on real-life scenarios. We were complimented on the excellent behaviour of the children; they were a credit to Moorlands.



Miss Bone, Mrs Ponsford and the Year 6 Team

Sports Updates

The Moorlands Girls A football team became champions of the whole of the Bath area at the BANES football tournament on 13th of November. Having narrowly lost their first group match, the girls were naturally disappointed but at Moorlands they know that they 'Never Give Up' so they bounced back with a resounding 5-0 victory in their next game against Newbridge. They continued to win all of their matches right up to the final and then controlled the final with composure, skill and wonderful teamwork to win 2-0 and to become the champions. There have been a lot of very good Moorlands football teams over the past few years who have got close but have fallen at, or near, the final hurdle so this is a superb achievement especially considering that the girls conceded only one goal during the entire tournament. This was a whole squad effort, with Ella virtually unbeatable in goal, Olivia being an impenetrable wall in defence, Chloe and Lily dominating the midfield and with Amirah scoring goals with clinical precision up front. The whole squad will now represent Moorlands at the County Finals in the New Year so huge congratulations to them and a big thank you to Mr Gunning for all of the coaching that has gone into their success.



Sports Updates

The boys squad, who represented Moorlands at the BANES football tournament at Odd Down Sports Complex, was one of the strongest squads we have ever taken. They played some wonderful football in the group stages, progressively getting better as they got into their rhythm. They scored 14 goals and only conceded one, with convincing wins over Newbridge and St John's, moving them with ease into the quarter-finals. Some of the attacking interplay between the midfielders and striker was an absolute pleasure to watch, something noted by many of the neutral observers. Moorlands dominated the quarter-final, only to be denied by some exceptional defending and goal-keeping by St Stephen's, leading to a score-line of 0-0 after extra time. The dreaded penalty shootout, where often the team who has played the best during the match fails to progress, was the undoing of Moorlands this time. Understandably, the boys were devastated at the manner of their departure from the tournament, especially when they knew that they had a great chance of reaching the final this year. However, the way that they responded to this gut-wrenching finish made me feel extremely proud of them. They still shook hands with the opposition and they still showed respect for everyone around them; their maturity shone through in adversity. The leadership that Henry Scott showed as captain was the ultimate example of this maturity.

This is my last tournament at Moorlands and I can say that without doubt, this team played the best football I have ever witnessed by a Moorlands football team; sometimes in sport, you don't get what you deserve. An apt quote, which I have always loved to use within my sports coaching: 'Failure is the Springboard to Success.'

A huge thank you to Orson's dad, James, for all of his coaching expertise and tactical help at the tournament. An equally huge thank you to Mr Gunning for all of his coaching input this year and so many years before. He continues to give countless hours of voluntary time to our children's development.



Sports Updates

The Girls B Team had a fantastic win over Combe Down Primary and for some of this team it was their first competitive match for the school. After goals from Addy and Evie B, they secured a 2-1 victory and Mr Gunning described it as a fabulous team effort. With a lot of younger players in this team, the Moorlands conveyor belt of footballing talent is still looking very healthy indeed.



Mr Solly and Miss Murphy, The PE Team.

Disability History Month

Disability History Month 20th Nov – 20th Dec

At Moorlands, we work hard to make sure our curriculum is diverse and inclusive throughout the entire year. Each November and December, we take extra time to celebrate difference and reflect on the part we all play in promoting inclusion and equality. Even when children grow up in homes that value diversity and acceptance, we know that society still has work to do before inclusion becomes the norm. As a school, and as a community, we want to be part of that change.

This year, our theme for Disability History Month is 'Different Journeys, Same World.'

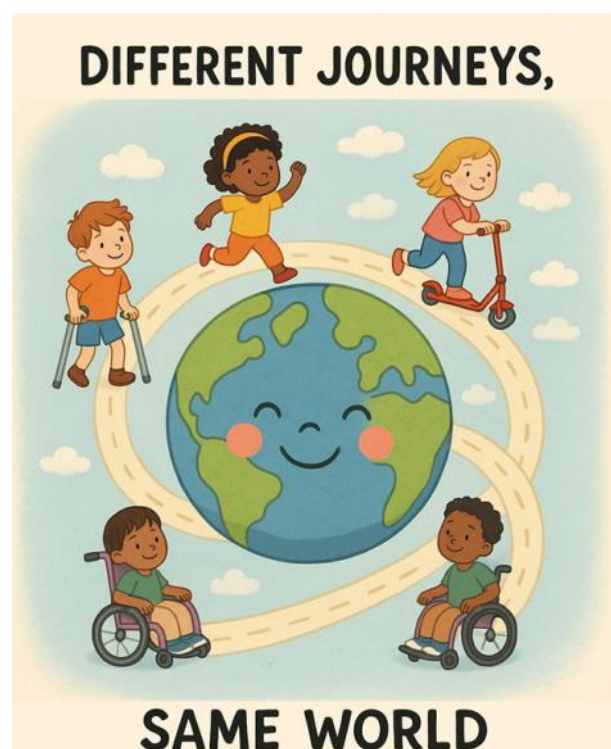
This theme invites children to explore the many ways people move, learn, communicate and experience the world. Using our whole-school text *Just Ask!* by Sonia Sotomayor, we will help pupils understand that everyone's path is different and that every journey is valued.

Across the month, we will be supporting children to:

- Recognise different strengths and ways of being
- Understand themselves and others with empathy and respect
- Celebrate the different tools and approaches we all use to learn
- Challenge discrimination, prejudice and stereotypes with confidence

By the end of the month, we want every child to have a clear understanding of inclusion, equality and diversity, and to see themselves as active contributors to making Moorlands a place where everyone feels they belong. Disability History Month gives us the chance to celebrate our differences, highlight every child's unique journey, and show that we all have something important to bring to the world we share.

*Miss Robberts—Reading
Subject Lead*



PTA News

Autumnal greetings from PTA Towers!

PTA Quiz

Earlier this month we hosted another fantastic **PTA Quiz** at St Luke's Church Hall. The evening was a big success, raising in excess of £500 and providing an unusual opportunity for attendees to showcase their architectural skills by creating towers made of just old newspaper and Sellotape – a genius quiz round courtesy of our quizmaster duo of **Dave Houghton** and **Callum Stoodley**. You can just about make out some of the structures in the pics!

Huge thanks to them both for the time they devoted to curating a really innovative and fun quiz. Many thanks also to **Simon Willey** for sorting out all the sound equipment and treating us to a quality music round; **Dannii Gray** for transforming the venue into a fun, inviting space; **Maddy Jessop** and family for making delicious sausage rolls; **Cate Khursandi**, **Emma Paulett** and **Alex Pearce** for their shift behind the bar; and **Ais Corbett** for all the behind the scenes work co-organising the event with me. Just as with other PTA events, it really was a team effort. Thanks, too, to the staff team for giving up their time on a Friday evening to support the PTA (and congratulations for avoiding the wooden spoons this year...).

Second-hand uniform

A huge thanks to Rose, Michelle and Andreea for volunteering to sort through the stack of second-hand uniform that is currently on our books. It is not the most glamorous of work, but it is a really important part of enabling us to offer high-quality uniform to parents and carers – a 'win' for both the environment and people's wallets. They made amazing progress this week. Please keep an eye out for announcements on WhatsApp groups about the next chance to pick up uniform from the community room.

Xmas jumpers Giveaway

We hope you have managed to pop into the Community Room to check out (and maybe even contribute to) the array of Christmas jumpers for the children to wear! Thanks very much to **Lucy Tarallo-Fox** for organising this great eco-friendly initiative.

Easyfundraising

You will probably have seen a message this week on WhatsApp groups about the Easyfundraising app. Please sign up – it will take you just a few minutes and is a very easy way of fundraising for the PTA! Thanks to our Treasurer, **Jo Shaw**, for getting this going.

PTA News

New picnic sets!

Keep your eyes peeled over the next few weeks for the brand new picnic sets being placed outside junior classrooms, all funded by the PTA. They will make for great extensions of the classrooms when the weather improves, enabling yet more outdoor learning. We have also agreed to fund some play equipment for the school's new playzones initiative – we will share more info in due course – and work continues on the exciting pond project, again funded largely by the PTA.

Campout 2026!

The lovely campout crew are starting to think ahead to our marquee event in June next year: Campout 12! **Can you help?** The team would love to hear from anyone who is keen to join the crew or just learn more about what is involved: please just email us at moorlandsschoolpta@gmail.com and we will pass it on to the crew, or speak to any of them in the playground.

Looking ahead to the AGM

We will be holding our AGM in the first quarter of 2026 – probably February or March, date TBC. It is likely that at least one or two existing committee members will be looking to step down; and I would like to step down from my position as Chair, having served for almost 2 years and having been Treasurer for a few years before that. Accordingly, **we will be looking to elect a new Chair and committee members.** Please consider putting yourself forward for these rewarding roles. Being Chair is not as onerous as you might think, especially because (unlike many PTAs) the organisation of most events is devolved to others in the parent community. I would like to remain on the committee, if elected to do so, and so would be very happy to have a proper handover period to a new Chair and provide whatever support is required.

If you are interested in learning more, please just speak to any of us at pick-up/drop-off, or email us at moorlandsschoolpta@gmail.com. Thank you!

In the meantime, we wish you a fantastic festive season!



Kit Brown PTA-Chair

Music at Moorlands



On Monday, we were treated to some wonderful performances by drummers who learn with Mr Calvert by children from Year 2 to Year 6. As well as showing great courage to get up and perform, they showed the benefits of hard work and practice.

Music lessons are available at Moorlands in drums, guitar, piano, singing, brass, woodwind and violin. If your child would like to learn a musical instrument, please contact the office to find out about lessons.

Mr Carr-Jones, Music Lead

HCRG Group Sleep Webinar



School Aged Health Service (5 – 19 Years)



School Aged Health Service – Sleep Webinar for Parents of Primary School Aged Children

Details

A School Aged Health Service webinar designed to support parents and carers of primary school-aged children who's children are experiencing sleep difficulties.

This session will provide practical tips, strategies, and guidance to help improve your child's sleep and overall wellbeing.

Register

Wed, Dec 03
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM GMT
Online event

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/5790fdee-e503-4e90-8b01-4589edb20ec1@2c2b1ee0-a8a1-49e6-a820-5ce4890cf466/registration>

Neil Long

Specialist Community Public Health Nurse 5-19yrs

B&NES Child and Family Health, School Aged Health

HCRG Care Group

Kemphorne House, St Martin's Hospital, Clara Cross Lane, Bath, BA2 5RP.

Single Point of Access: t: 0300 247 0055 Lines open 09.00 – 17.00 Monday – Friday e: hcrg.bathnesspa@nhs.net



Christmas at Moorlands

Moorlands Schools Federation

Space to Grow for any Tomorrow

Comprising:
Moorlands Infant School
& Moorlands Junior School

Executive Headteacher:
Miss Louisa Sellars



Friday 14 November 2025

Dear Moorlands Families

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT MOORLANDS 2025

Christmas Events

Please find attached a list of the Christmas events we're planning this year. Please note as always, that these events, are subject to change.

Affordable Schools For All: Gifts

As a school and staff team we continue to be conscious of pressures on family budgets at this time of year. To save any discomfort, we want to make it very clear that there is no expectation for families to bring in any gifts for staff. Children who want to may simply send a hand-made card or note of thanks – words of kindness have a huge impact and are greatly appreciated. If children would like, they will be able to use resources in school to make a card or note.



Additionally, we need to remind families about Trust and Department for Education guidance that we are bound by in terms of gifts and hospitality for staff members at school:

- **Staff are not permitted to accept cash or other monetary gifts (such as vouchers or gift cards)** – these items have to be respectfully refused and returned.
- 'Lavish' or 'extravagant' gifts or 'hospitality' (deemed as anything over £25 per giver) have to be recorded in the schools' gift register and approved by the Executive Headteacher.

Our priority is to ensure that neither staff nor families are put in an awkward position at a time of year when gifts have traditionally been given.

GoodHub



However, some parents have very kindly enquired how they can donate a 'gift' to school rather than staff and Goodhub allows us to do this. Goodhub is a UK-based fundraising platform that provides digital tools for schools and charities to create dedicated fundraising pages. If you would like to donate, please click here: <https://www.goodhub.com/go/moorlandsplaygroundupgrades> Projects will be decided by Executive Headteacher, in liaison with PTA. We are currently fundraising to improve our outdoor areas and specifically to replace the wooden structures in both playgrounds to provide an additional outdoor learning space and create shade and shelter.

Affordable Schools For All: Christmas Jumper Giveaway

Once again Moorlands Schools Federation PTA is running a Christmas Jumper Giveaway. **Donations of clean Christmas jumpers to the office are welcome now until the end of November.** The jumpers will be available to choose in the Junior Community Room on 27&28 November. If you are able to volunteer and help out on these dates, please email moorlandsschoolpta@gmail.com

Thanks very much for your support,

Katy Pearson
Deputy Headteacher



Chief Executive Officer: Mrs Emily Massey
The Partnership Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under No. 07728112
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office@moorlands-school.com
www.moorlands-school.org

Christmas at Moorlands

Christmas at Moorlands 2025



As we approach the festive season, we would like to let families know about the events we have planned. Some of these events have the chance for families to be involved, while some of them are happening just for children in school but we wanted to let you know about them. Thank you for your support.

All of November	Donations of pre-loved, clean Christmas Jumpers (all sizes welcome) - Office.
Thursday 27 & Friday 28 November	PTA Christmas Jumper Swap Shop open to swap or collect – Junior Community Room
Monday 1 December	Classes will start to put decorations up. PTA Christmas Trees are decorated. 🌲
Tuesday 2 December	St Luke's Christingle Celebration – in school, children only.
Wednesday 3 December	Year 5 West of England Music Alliance Christmas Celebration 6.20pm, The Forum. Families invited – see separate communication.
Monday 8 December	EYFS Nativity (option 1 - 2:30pm) Families invited to come and watch.
Tuesday 9 December	EYFS Nativity (option 2 - 9:45am) Families invited to come and watch.
Wednesday 10 December	Year 1 Nativity (option 1 - 2:30pm) Families invited to come and watch.
Thursday 11 December	Year 1 Nativity (option 2 - 9:45am) Families invited to come and watch.
Friday 12 December	Christmas Jumper Day ALL children can wear full non-uniform with optional Christmas Jumper. Rocksteady Concert Details for children involved will come directly from Rocksteady.
Tuesday 16 December	St Luke's Christmas Celebration Services (all children to wear uniform): Morning: Bumblebee, Dragonfly, Hedgehog, Kingfisher, Otter, Kestrel, Merlin (9:45am service, leaving school at 9:15am) Afternoon: Ladybird, Butterfly, Squirrel, Woodpecker, Fox, Owl, Osprey (1:45pm service, leaving school at 1:15pm) Each year group will sing a carol/Christmas song together with songs featuring all the children and some for everyone to join in with! We would be grateful for volunteer helpers to support with walking. Because there are two separate services, there will be space for a family audience. We appreciate that siblings will not all be at the same performance; unfortunately, it is not possible to combine them all. Thank you for your understanding.
Wednesday 17 December	PTA-funded Pantomime for whole school – in school, children only. Junior Christmas Lunch Non-uniform/optional Christmas Jumper for all children
Thursday 18 December	Infant Christmas Lunch Non-uniform/optional Christmas Jumper for all children Class Christmas Parties (afternoon) Organised party games, music (no party food) Non-uniform/optional Christmas Jumper – in school, children only. KS2 Choir Performance to families after school.
Friday 19 December	Last day of term. Non-uniform/optional Christmas Jumper.
Monday 5 January	INSET Day: School closed for all children.
Tuesday 6 January	Happy New Year 2026! First day back in school for all children.

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

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