

Moorlands Schools Federation

Space to Grow for any Tomorrow



19 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

What a fantastic way to finish the autumn term! As the lights twinkle and the sound of festive songs fills our school, it's the perfect time to look back on a term packed with learning, laughter and lots of sparkle.

Our children have worked incredibly hard and filled the school with energy, creativity and kindness. From brilliant classroom learning and exciting trips/visitors, to festive performances, parties and celebrations and our 'Christmas at St. Luke's' services, there has been so much to smile about. I am incredibly proud of everything our pupils have achieved.

A huge thank you to our wonderful staff for making the magic happen every day, and to our families for your ongoing support — especially during this busy and joyful time of year. You truly help make our school such a special place.

As we head into the festive break, I hope you enjoy a well-earned rest, plenty of fun, and some cosy moments together. We can't wait to welcome everyone back in the New Year on **Tuesday 6 January 2026**, refreshed and ready for more adventures in learning!

Wishing you all a very happy, sparkly festive season and a joyful New Year.

Warm festive wishes,

Louisa Sellars

Executive Headteacher

Jan	
5	INSET DAY—School Closed
6	Term 3 starts—Children back to school
8	Year 6 Fun Science workshop
13	Girls B Team Cup Match vs Saltford B Team
14	Year 5 We the Curious trip
14	EYFS Longleat Amazing Animals visit
14	Girls Developments vs OPJS Football match
18	Mixed A/B team vs Combe Down League Football match
Feb	
1-28	LGBTQ+ History Month
3	SEND Coffee Afternoon 2.30pm
13	Last day of Term 3
23	Term 4 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	97.2%	96.2%	95.7%
Absence Percentage Authorised	2.1%	3.3%	3.60%
Absence Percentage Unauthorised	0.7%	0.5%	1.33%
Persistent Absence Percentage	4.9%	6.2%	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

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

Thank you to all the families at home for supporting our Nativity by helping your child learn their lines. We had so much fun - we clearly have natural performers in this cohort!

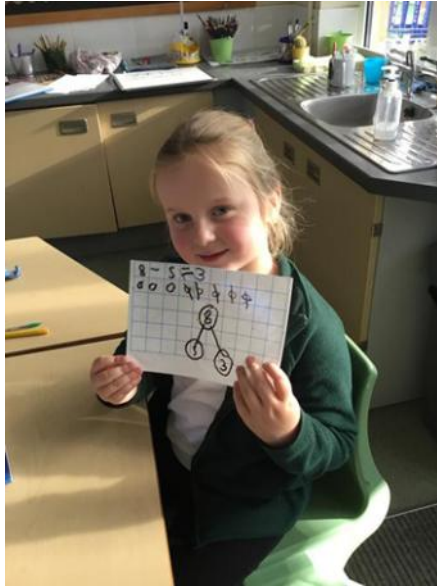
Alongside the Nativity, the children have been learning how to add and subtract using different strategies to support them. These strategies include using a number line and using a part whole model.

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

Our curriculum this term has been linked to History, where we have been learning about the change of toys over time as well as learning about the invention of the teddy bear. We have also been celebrating Disability History Month by reading the whole text 'Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You' by Sonia Sotomayor. We then created a picture of our brains with all the things that help us learn best.



Year 1



Miss Kennard, Miss Robberts and the Year 1 Team

Year 3

It has been an exciting term for Year 3 as we have been learning all about light and dark. We read 'How the Stars Came to Be' and wrote our own stories inspired by it. We also visited Wake the Tiger, where we explored the 'Christmas Sproutiverse' and saw how light is used in creative and exciting ways.

In class, we made shadow puppet theatres and learned how shadows are formed. In geography, we learned about the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and the capital cities of different countries. In PE, we enjoyed playing netball and practising our shooting technique. In music, we have been learning to play the recorder and performed in a whole school assembly.

In our final week, we have loved learning our Christmas song and performing it together.

Well done on a fantastic term, Year 3, and bring on Term 3!



Miss Murphy, Miss Grace and the Year 3 Team

Year 5

It's been a pleasure to be part of the Year 5 team this term as our learning has focused on the Aztecs. The learning has culminated in thinking carefully and taking lots of evidence into account when answering the question "Were the Aztecs savages or civilised?".

Alongside our history learning, we have concluded our science learning about properties of materials as the children designed and made their own filters. They filtered dirty water effectively and the children seemed pleasantly surprised at the results!

A highlight of our term was definitely the Christmas Celebration performance at The Forum—thank you ever so much to all of the families for getting the children to the performance and for being in the audience. We were delighted to have another opportunity to perform one of the songs at the St Luke's services.

Thank you for all your support this term—we wish you a pleasant and restful Christmas.



Mr Cainen, Miss Eden, Miss Harry and the Year 5 Team

Music at Moorlands

It's been a busy time for music at Moorlands this term as we have seen, and taken part in, lots of performances. Of course we celebrated singing as a school (in two halves!) at the St Luke's Services, which were a joy to be part of, but there have been lots of other performances too.

Children who learn a range of instruments had the opportunity to perform to the rest of the school in an assembly that showcased a range of talent from across the school. Woodwind, brass and the piano were represented in some wonderful solo and group performances.



On Thursday, our Junior Moorlands Choir gave a wonderful performance of Christmas music to an enthusiastic audience of families and staff. They performed all of their songs off by heart, with fantastic enthusiasm and great musicality.



Additionally, they visited First Steps nursery and gave a lovely performance to the children in the pre-school room - a very different, but equally appreciative audience!

Music at Moorlands

The children (and adults!) were thrilled to have the chance to see this term's Rocksteady concert, which featured children from Year 1 to Year 6, and music ranging from 'Ghostbusters' to a pop hit by NSYNC!



Music lessons available!

Music lessons are available at Moorlands in singing, piano, drums, guitar, violin, woodwind and brass.

[Contact the school office to find out](#)



Mr Carr-Jones -music lead

Christmas at Moorlands

We have had a very special Christmas time at our school, full of joy, celebration and togetherness.

We celebrated **Christingle with St Luke's Church**, which was a lovely and meaningful experience for everyone. Our **EYFS and Year 1 children did a wonderful job in their Nativity play**, and we are very proud of them for their confidence, singing and acting.

We also enjoyed a beautiful **Christmas service at St Luke's Church**. A big thank you to the **volunteers who walked with us and supported us** – we really appreciate your help.

Back at school, we enjoyed delicious **Christmas lunches cooked by our wonderful chefs**, which everyone loved. We also had great fun watching a **Christmas pantomime**, kindly paid for by our **PTA**, and we are very grateful for their support.

To finish the celebrations, the children enjoyed **Christmas parties in their classes**, filled with games, laughter and festive cheer and of course a visit from Santa.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas celebrations so special. We wish all our families a **very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



Moorlands School Federation

PTA News

Festive greetings from the PTA!

Thank you for being a part of our events and initiatives this school year so far - with your help we have raised over £2,000, all of which will go towards enhancing the children's experience at Moorlands. One of the things we funded took place just this week: the pantomime! We hope the children all enjoyed it. We have also been pleased to help out with kitting out the new play zones, and work continues on the pond project - as you can see from the pics, the pond itself has now been dug! We cannot wait to see the pond in action, hopefully by Spring-time, giving the children a wonderful natural learning resource and enhancing biodiversity on the school grounds.

Do look out for PTA events and initiatives in the new year, including the wonderful Bake-Off and legendary Campout.

Finally, I mentioned in the last Fed Times that we expect to hold our (very informal) AGM in the first few months of 2026. **Please consider putting yourself forward to join the very friendly committee or become the Chair.** I would be very happy to talk to anyone who is thinking about it and wants to know more - just drop us a line at Moorlandsschoolpta@gmail.com. Likewise, the Campout crew would be pleased to hear from parents who would like to be involved in organising that event - again just email us for more info.

We hope you have a wonderful festive period and an excellent 2026!



Kit Brown PTA-Chair

Donations



PLEASE DONATE

MOORLANDS INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL



GoodHub



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