

Moorlands Schools Federation

Space to Grow for any Tomorrow



23 January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Here at Moorlands Schools Federation, we are proud to be celebrating a fantastic start to 2026.

We are delighted that our wonderful school and community have been featured in the **Bath and Wiltshire Parent Magazine**. The article is a celebration of all that is great about Marvellous Moorlands. Be sure to have a read if you haven't already done so.

Huge congratulations also go to our **Girls' Football Team**, who were crowned **County Champions** last week after demonstrating outstanding teamwork, determination and sportsmanship. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the team on their journey to the final – from training sessions and transport to the fantastic cheerleading on the day. Read the full match report later.

These achievements highlight the talent and enthusiasm of our staff, pupils and community - a wonderful way to begin the year!

On a personal note, thank you for the many kind words and emails of support I have received over the past week following my letter sharing my decision to leave Moorlands. I am looking forward to enjoying our time between now and July, focusing on fun, learning and future plans both at school and home.

Jan	
26	Moorlands vs Wasps friendly Football match
Feb	
1-28	LGBTQ+ History Month
3	Moorlands Girls vs Saltford Football Cup match
3	SEND Coffee Afternoon 2.30pm
8	Moorlands Eco Group Family Gardening Day, 1pm—4pm
9-15	Children's Mental Health week
10	Moorlands A Team vs Chew Stoke Football match
10	Y2 Bollywood dance performance
10	Safer Internet Day
Wb 9	Mid-Year Progress Reports
13	Last day of Term 3
23	Term 4 starts—Children back to school
Mar	
1-31	Women's History Month
3 & 5	Home School Partnership Meetings EYFS-Y6
4	Y2 Bristol Zoo Project Trip
5	World Book Day
31	Dance Umbrella – The Forum

Have a relaxing and restful weekend whatever you have planned.

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	97.1%	95.9%	94.78%
Absence Percentage Authorised	2.3%	3.7%	3.77%
Absence Percentage Unauthorised	0.6%	0.4%	1.45%
Persistent Absence Percentage	4%	7.9%	19.47%

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



EYFS

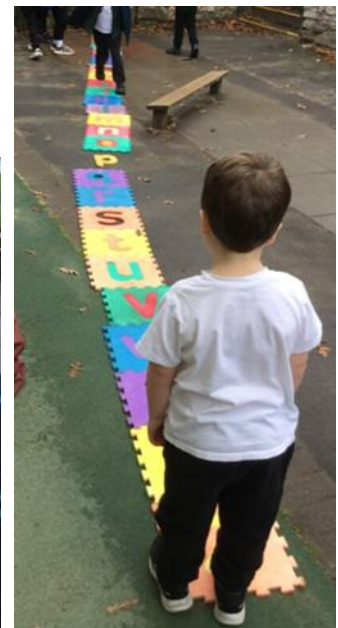


Wow, what an amazing start to a new term. The children have settled back really well and are loving our new theme, Amazing Animals. Our new Power of Reading text this term is *Croc and Bird* by Alexis Deacon and the children have enjoyed sequencing the pictures and talking about the different characters. 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 gymnastics skills during PE. The children have been working hard to make different shapes with their bodies and moving like different animals.

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



Mrs Flynn, Miss Yoxon and the EYFS Team

Year 2



Parting ways with our Great Fire of London focus, Year 2 wrapped up last term by hosting their very own history exhibition. We couldn't be prouder of how hard the children worked to create something so brilliant. It was an afternoon packed with song, art and history as the Year 2s proved themselves to be fantastic tour guides. What an enjoyable afternoon we had - it was such a treat to have so many of you join us in celebrating their success!

The start of a new year brings a new topic to Hedgehog and Squirrel class as this term we turn our focus to India. Diving in with our WOW morning Year 2 have been busy finding India on a world map and immersing themselves in the culture through dance, art and food. In writing and VIPERS, we have been enjoying some traditional Indian tales whilst the children prepare to write their own narrative piece.



Our Indian topic has even paved the way for our PE module this term – dance. Working together Year 2 have begun to develop their very own Bollywood dance routine which they are excited to share with you at the end of term, watch this space for more details to follow!

We're so pleased to see how enthusiastic Y2 have been, getting stuck into our new learning, sharing their own questions, stories and prior knowledge of India with us. We can't wait to see where the topic will take us next!



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

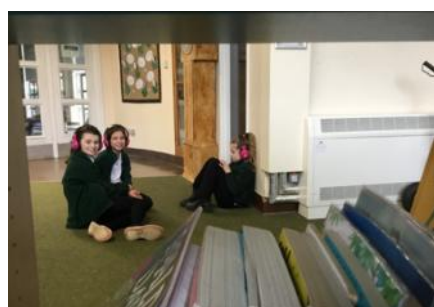
Year 4

This term in Design and Technology, we have begun learning all about baking biscuits. We launched the topic with some market research, exploring a range of existing biscuit types and carefully examining their packaging and the target audiences they might appeal to.

The children then took part in a biscuit taste test, considering flavour, texture and appearance, and discussing how each of these elements might influence a customer's choice. They engaged brilliantly with this process, making thoughtful and detailed notes as they sampled each biscuit. This valuable research will help inform how they adapt their own recipes and designs to suit a chosen target audience later in the term.



We have also enjoyed an exciting immersive experience to bring our Ancient Greece topic to life and inspire our adventure writing. Through a dramatic audio experience, the children were transported back in time as Spartans invaded Athens. With each child wearing headphones, the classroom was transformed into the heart of the action. The children moved around the space, following the unfolding events and responding as if they were truly part of the story themselves. This memorable experience has provided fantastic inspiration for their upcoming adventure narratives.



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

Year 6

Lighting Up Our Learning

In Year 6, we took part in an exciting light workshop, run by Mercury Mel from Fun Science, that helped us understand how light works in the world around us. We learned about the refraction of light by placing an action figure into Orbeez and then adding water, which allowed us to clearly see the figure as the light bent through the materials. We also discovered that light travels in straight lines, shown using a laser pen and a fog machine, which made the beam visible in the air. Using special glasses, we were able to see the prism of colours that make up white light, and we learned how rainbows are formed when light hits raindrops at 42° and is refracted back at 40° .

The workshop also introduced us to bioluminescence, where living things produce their own light. We saw fascinating photos of bioluminescent animals and discussed how this links to our evolution learning from Term 1, including how these features help animals survive. To finish the workshop, we made our own glow-in-the-dark slime, which was a fun and memorable way to apply what we had learned.

The children were engaged, respectful and keen to get stuck-in to the learning! Mercury Mel commented on how wonderful our school is and how marvellous the Year 6 children were.



Miss Bone, Mrs Ponsford and the Year 6 Team

Sport at Moorlands



SOMERSET COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2025-2026!



County Football Championship - Match Report

(Many thanks to Simon Jessop, Esther's dad, for providing such an exciting report!)

And so they assembled. Teams from all over the county travelled to Strode College across the misty, frost kissed plains of Somerset to compete for glory eternal.

Above them, Glastonbury Tor, high up in the azure sky, watched on betraying far fewer nerves than the collected players, coaches and parents waiting for the competition to unfold. Mr. Druce, or Drucey as he was soon christened, was new to the crucible of county football but was a beacon of positivity and passion throughout (incurring the wrath of the organisers such was his enthusiasm for the team) which would prove to be crucial in the end.

0930. Our girls in green, Drucey's Dynamos, were ready. All that stood between them and footballing immortality was 7 games. Let's go.

Game 1 - The green machine surged forward. A blur of legs and energy and relentless pressing. Drucey's experimental formation bamboozled our opponents as he prowled the touch line exhorting the girls on. Despite our relentless pressure, the onion bag remained untouched until it happened. The wheels of fate began to turn. Amirah, our talismanic striker, found a pocket of space and drilled the ball home arrowing it into the net off the upright. They were up and running. The clock ticked down, more goals beckoned and Ella our keeper was rendered almost redundant given the relentless pressing of her teams. **1 goal, a clean sheet and 3 points were in the bag.**

Sports at Moorlands

Game 2 – Out of nothing a pattern began to emerge. A green swarm blighted our opponents, but we had to remain alert. Ella tipping a shot over the bar and Olivia and Islay defending like Spartans at the back. It was tense. The play was all ours but we couldn't force it home. Drucey shuffled the deck. Fresh energy summoned from the bench, Chloe and Lily cutting through the cold air and past flailing legs to raise hell but still no goal. And then once more, Amirah, like Alan Shearer incarnate, connected. The ball arced forward clattered into the crossbar. Time stood still. The ball hit the back of the keeper and dropped into the goal. The watching parents erupted into almost undignified cheers and once more they tasted glory. The full-time whistle came, our goal untrammelled. **2 goals, 2 clean sheets and 6 points in the bag.**

Game 3. A clash of kit force the girls to don red bibs emblazoned by Pikachu. It made no difference. Their belief in themselves and each other was quietly growing. Jade an enforcer in midfield. Esther a whirl of energy and pressing. The opponents refused to yield. 0-0 at half time, their defending robust. But the girls rolled up their sleeves and went again. And how. Refusing to give up a lost cause the girls chased a loose ball and sowed chaos in the minds of their opponents. A bewildered centre half tried to roll the ball back to her keeper but Amirah, who else, was too canny and rolled the ball into an empty net. Drucey's blood pressure dropped a little and our perfect record was maintained. **3 goals, 3 clean sheets and 9 points in the bag.**

Maybe football was about to come home.

Game 4. Fatigue was a factor. The watching Moorlands parents/cheerleaders/medics/sport psychologists had charged their batteries with two flat whites and a latte, alas a luxury unavailable to the squad. We were a win away from the knock-out phases. The bright morning sun replaced by a grey squall – an ill omen perhaps? Don't you believe it. The Dynamos faced a real battle and come half time it was nil nil. Maybe that would be enough. Maybe. But why wait to find out. Redoubling their efforts, the team pushed once more. Esther slipped the ball to Amirah and crack, the sound of leather on boot deafened Strode college, and once more the ball whooshed past their keeper. Was this really happening or was that second coffee playing tricks? We were through to the semi-finals. **4 games, 4 goals, none conceded.**

And that we thought was that. A break to take on some lunch. Stretch those aching muscles. But the Somerset FA had other plans. We faced a last group game. Assured of qualification, this would decide the draw for the semis.

Sports at Moorlands

Game 5. Ripped from their lunch, the girls assembled on pitch two, quickly becoming their own personal fortress, faced a team in dark blue. Their fullback had a throw in like a trebuchet, launching the ball deep into our half and posing us all sorts of questions. Once more Nelly and Olivia, a no-nonsense presence throughout, had all the answers. Esther was sent flying by an over enthusiastic centre back, Chloe caught late after she, for the fiftieth time, had evaded her opponent. But they persisted. And how. Amirah swivelled and sent the ball flying toward the bottom corner. No keeper could have saved that. The pressure abated. Soon after, a combination of Esther and defender had the ball in their goal again from a corner but it was ruled out in contentious circumstances (Drucey berating the lack of VAR at this level) but no matter, as the clock ran down Amirah was sprung clean through and with the final kick of the game rolled the ball into the bottom corner. **2-0. 5 games, 6 goals, 5 clean sheets.**

Already history had been made by just being here and now we were off to the semi-finals. Drucey gathered them in for the now customary hands in. The cry of "Moorlands" echoed around the hallowed turf. Two games from glory. 28 minutes to eternity.

Semi-Final: Moorlands vs St Marks. As vanquished teams left, the crowds thinned and grey drizzle fell. A new team to face, a new challenge to unpick for Drucey and his Dynamos. This was nip and tuck, the girls being carried by team spirit and aching legs alone. A game of everything and nothing in the fading light. But once more Amirah, our peerless striker found a way through. The girls dug in. Working for each other, encouraging each other. Defence, midfield and attack in unison. At last, the referee's whistle pierced the air. Cheers went up, the players embraced each other. Now all that was left was the final.

The Final: Moorlands vs Mary Elton School. The big one. 14 minutes to go down in school history. Mary Elton, a team already vanquished in the group stages, held no surprises. They'd narrowly won their semis on penalties and had grown into the tournament, all technical skill and keen defending. Could we do it? Tired legs but bursting hearts kept our girls going. Olivia, like Bobby Moore at the back, cleared the ball with her siege engine of right foot – none shall pass – while Lilly all close control whipped around the pitch like a dervish – Jade bossing midfield, Islay taking no chances at the back. Ella in goal battled as much with the cold as the opponents attack, but nothing was happening. And then. Amirah was played in, by who I can't remember, but was clean through. Her goals had propelled us here but not this time, the keeper stayed big and repelled the ball. Drucey could barely watch. The final whistle came and went. So to extra time. The remaining parents watching through their hands. 2 halves of three minutes went by and it went to English football's nightmare. Penalties.

And so it began.

Sports at Moorlands

Tensions mounting. Parental stress levels growing. Ella, cat-like, touched all their penalties but couldn't quite keep them out. 1-1, 2-2. 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 4-4 Esther stepped up to win but her shot was bravely saved. Ella repelled their next penalty ball. Amirah put hers away. And it came down to one final kick, Mary St Elton had to score or else Moorlands would lift the trophy. Up stepped their brave centre back but Ella had no intention of letting that ball in. And she didn't. The girls, momentarily unaware, stayed silent and then it dawned on them.

Glory was theirs. Drucey exultant. Medals handled out, a trophy raised into the mizzle. Joy unbound and Moorlands history made.

The girls individually played amazingly and as a team were great (supportive, kind, a real unit) – the school should be very proud of them. With thanks to Tyrie Ouin and Laura Wiltshire for being coach drivers, cheer leaders and physios on the touch line, Mr Druce who was a wonderful coach on the day, Mr Solly whose coaching got them to the tournament in the first place as well as Mr Gunning who was with us in spirit throughout the day and video called the team at the end of the day to congratulate the girls!



PTA News

Happy New Year to you all!

The PTA is a bit quieter in this post-Christmas period but we expect to organise a couple of events between now and Easter, as follows:

- A "bedtime story time" evening for the infants after school one day in February/March, date TBC. This has always been popular with infants in the past, and now feels like a good time to revive it.
- The return of the popular Moorlands Bake-off close to the Easter holidays – and Miss Sellars' last chance to judge all those wonderful cakes and bakes...

More details will be posted in due course.

We will also hold our AGM during this period. As I have said before, we are looking for **new committee members and a new Chair**. Please consider joining us: it is a great way to shape what the PTA does and how it spends the money we raise. New joiners get a full induction, and there will still be plenty of experienced committee members to help show you the ropes!

Finally, watch out for further work on the pond. We remain hopeful that it will be operational by Spring-time.

We hope everyone has an excellent Term 3!

Kit Brown PTA-Chair

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