

Moorlands Schools Federation

Space to Grow for any Tomorrow



13 March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been another busy and positive Term 4 here at Marvellous Moorlands.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our recent Home School Partnership meetings. Your support and engagement make a real difference to the children's learning. If you were unable to attend, the class teacher will be in touch to arrange a convenient time for this important conversation.

We are also very grateful to the parents and carers who have signed up to support the next phase of our Forest School development. Whether offering time, skills or materials, your support will help us continue to grow this wonderful outdoor learning space. We will be in touch soon with the next steps.

A big thank you to Miss Bone for organising our first Moorlands Careers Week and to the parents and volunteers who generously gave their time to run career workshops. Your contributions helped inspire our pupils and broaden their horizons.

Finally, congratulations to our Year 3/4 football team for their fantastic victory in the recent tournament. We are very proud of their teamwork and determination. A special thank you to Mr Druce for accompanying the team and for his brilliant enthusiasm and support for both the players and the families who came along to cheer them on.

Kind regards,

Louisa Sellars

Executive Headteacher

Mar	
1-31	Women's History Month
10-20	Y4 Fox Swimming lessons
14	Pokemon Girls ESFA SW Primary Football Finals 2026
14 & 21	Moorlands PTA and Eco Group-Help us to build the new pond 2-5pm
18	Moorlands Y3/4 vs OPJS Football match
22-24	Y4 Otter Swimming lessons
23	PTA Bake off
25	St John's vs Moorlands Girls Football match
27	Rocksteady concert
31	Y2 and Y6 Dance Umbrella – The Forum
Apr	
1	Year 1 Space Dome visit
2	Last day of Term 4
20	Term 5 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	96.9%	95.9%	94.83%
Absence Percentage Authorised	2.6%	3.7%	3.8%
Absence Percentage Unauthorised	0.5%	0.4%	1.39%
Persistent Absence Percentage	4.8%	5.8%	14.63%

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



EYFS

This term, our theme is *Heroes*. We had great fun dressing up as real-life heroes on the first day of term, including vets, firefighters, construction workers and nurses. The children loved stepping into these important roles and thinking about how they help others in our community.

We have been learning about **Florence Nightingale** and **Mary Seacole**, exploring how nursing has changed over time and why their work was so important. The children have enjoyed discovering how these remarkable women helped to improve hospitals and care for others.

Our focus book this term is **What the Ladybird Heard**. We have used this story to inspire our writing and creative activities. As part of our learning, we have been exploring maps and developing our understanding of simple map-making skills. Bumblebees and Ladybirds have also been busy making messy maps outside, using natural materials and enjoying hands-on learning experiences.

Last week, we also celebrated Careers Week. The children have enjoyed talking about what they would like to be when they grow up and thinking about how they can make a difference in the world. We were very lucky to hear from some real-life heroes about their careers, including children's nurse Georgia Newman and Sara King, whose job is to help to protect and restore nature. It was inspiring to learn about the different ways people can help others and care for our planet.

In Week Two, we also celebrated **World Book Day**, coming to school dressed as readers. It was wonderful to see everyone sharing their love of books and stories. We are looking forward to continuing our heroic learning journey!



Mrs Flynn, Miss Yoxon and the EYFS Team

Year 2

WOW - what a busy start Year 2 have had to the term! We began with the launch of our new science and geography topic – habitats. Taking a wander around our beautiful grounds, Year 2 got stuck in exploring the different habitats Moorlands has to offer – drawing, noting and curiously admiring all the critters who have made our school their home.

Branching out from our local spaces, we took a trip to Bristol Zoo. Thank you to all the grown-ups who came out in the sunshine to support us; it was a fantastic day, and we couldn't be prouder of how well the children represented Moorlands. Face to face with lemurs and wolves, even the bears came out of hibernation a little earlier this year to say hello!

Back in the classroom the busyness continued with World Book Day and Careers Week celebrations. Hedgehogs got some first-hand experience of life as a fitness instructor, dancing it out with a Zumba class, whilst the Squirrels practiced careful counting as they measured heartbeats and learnt all about life as a midwife. Rounding off the week the children spent the day reading, sharing their favourite stories and swapping new tales for World Book Day.

It's been wonderful to see how enthusiastic Year 2 are about our habitat topic. As we settle into the term we are looking forward to some fantastic trip recounts and detailed animal fact-file projects ahead, we are sure that we will be learning something new from them!



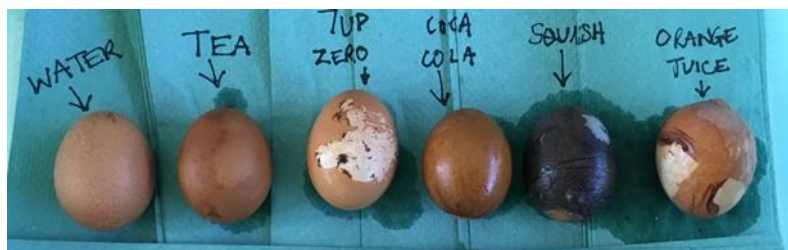
*Mrs Cook, Mrs Waterhouse, Miss Brown
and the Year 2 Team*

Year 4

What a busy and exciting few weeks we've had! We kicked off the term with a *WOW* day all about **teeth**—and it certainly got people smiling! The children explored the fascinating world of different types of teeth, comparing those of herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. We also delved into how human teeth grow and the special jobs each one does. The highlight? Creating our very own models of human teeth using modelling clay and plasticine! The children worked brilliantly together, producing some really fantastic (and impressively detailed) examples.



Our scientific curiosity didn't stop there! We launched an *Observation Over Time* experiment to investigate what causes damage to teeth. Using eggs as a substitute for enamel, we placed them in different liquids and waited to see what would happen. The results the following week were *shocking* – some of the eggs had undergone some *egg-citing* and dramatic changes! The children had some brilliant discussions about the impact of different drinks on our teeth – check out the pictures to see the surprising transformations. We presented our findings in the form of a news report.



Another big focus this term will be **swimming**. Fox Class have started their lessons this week, showing amazing determination and enthusiasm. Otters will be making a splash in the last two weeks of term, and we can't wait to see their progress. It has been fantastic to hear about the resilience and effort on display in the pool – keep up the hard work, everyone!

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

Year 6

In Year 6, we had an amazing **Careers Week**, with a fantastic range of visitors who shared their experiences in fields such as engineering, nursing, advertising, re-wilding, marketing, policy making, software engineering and midwifery. The children took part in lots of interactive workshops, and every session was incredibly informative and inspiring.

A huge thank you to the parents who generously gave up their time to visit and speak with us - we are so grateful for your support. The children were truly enthusiastic and loved learning about all the different career paths!

We enjoyed a brilliant World Book Day celebration! The children loved taking part in our **book swap** and the **Big Read on the playground**, where everyone came together to share the joy of reading. It was wonderful to see so much excitement about books across the school. A huge thank you to **Harry from Oldfield Park Bookshop** for his incredible generosity in donating **two book token books for every child** - such a brilliant gift that will keep the love of reading going!

Even more exciting, the Year 6 hoodies have arrived! The children look amazingly smart. Thank you to the parents and carers who organised this.



Year 6



Miss Bone, Mrs Ponsford and the Year 6 Team

Sports at Moorlands

Year 3/4 Football Tournament WINNERS!!!

Moorland Schools Federation – B&NES & District Year 3/4 Champions

The Moorlands Schools Federation Year 3/4 football team demonstrated exceptional skill, discipline, and teamwork throughout the tournament, culminating in a well-deserved victory. This photograph reflects not only their athletic achievement but also their commitment, sportsmanship, and unity as a team. Their success stands as a testament to their hard work and the dedication of everyone who supported them. A proud moment for the players and the entire school community. WELL DONE TEAM!



Mr Druce- PE Administrator

World Book day 2026

We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day across the school last week! The day was filled with excitement, creativity and, most importantly, a shared love of reading.



This year, our learning was centred around wordless picture books, linking to our school's Golden Threads of Diversity, Sustainability and Inclusion, with oracy at the heart of the day. Without written words to guide them, children used the illustrations to interpret the stories, discuss ideas with their partners and create their own narratives.



Each year group explored one of three beautiful books: *Another* by Christian Robinson, *Flotsam* by David Wiesner and *Home in a Lunchbox* by Cherry Mo. These books inspired thoughtful discussions and creative learning across the school.

Some classes even took part in the WBD BBC live lesson along with hundreds of other schools across the country.

We were incredibly grateful to Harry from Oldfield Book Shop on Moorland Road, who very kindly donated enough brand-new books for every child in the school. This generous donation meant that every child was able to take home a new book to enjoy.



Children also brought in books from home for our Book Swap, turning our classrooms into our own mini bookshops. Children loved browsing the different books and choosing a new story to take home.



Many children also took part in our Extreme Reading Challenge, sharing photos of themselves reading in unusual and imaginative places. This was a fantastic way to get children engaging with books in a fun and creative way.



We ended the day with our Big Read, where children paired up with their reading buddies to share the new books they had received. It was wonderful to see our school coming together to celebrate reading.

A huge thank you to everyone for helping make World Book Day such a memorable celebration of reading!





Our Focus on Oracy and Partnership with Voice 21

Supporting Confident Communicators at Moorlands

At Moorlands, we are proud to be part of the Voice 21 Oracy Schools network, a national charity working with schools across the UK to improve speaking and listening skills.

Oracy is the ability to communicate ideas clearly, listen carefully and engage thoughtfully with others. These skills are essential for learning and for success beyond school. Through our partnership with Voice 21, we explicitly teach children how to develop their speaking and listening using the Oracy Framework. This organises our Oracy skills into four strands: Physical (how we use our voice and body language), Linguistic (our vocabulary and language), Cognitive (our thinking and reasoning), and Social and Emotional (how we listen and work with others).

Regular opportunities to talk, explain ideas, ask questions and share opinions help children strengthen these skills. Families play an important role in supporting this and resources to support oracy at home can be found in the **How to Help at Home** section.

Why does a high-quality Oracy education matter?



Oracy improves academic outcomes

Helping learners think critically, reason together and express their ideas clearly.



Oracy increases engagement

Learning is rich and enjoyable when children bring their own voices to school life.



Oracy fosters wellbeing and confidence

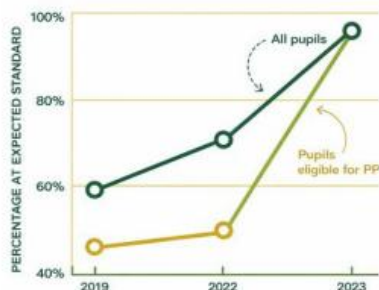
Empowering children to build successful relationships and understand their voice has value.



Oracy supports transitions and employability

Helping learners flourish beyond school.

Key Stage 2 Maths SATS results



Example Impact of Oracy in Schools

Voice 21 research shows that structured talk improves learning. In one primary school (Summerhill Academy), embedding oracy in maths led to 95% of pupils reaching the expected standard.

Useful Links



How to Help at Home

Ready-made ideas to try at home

Ideas to spark talking activities (Springboards for Talk)



More Information

[Oracy Impact Report](#)

[Oracy Frameworks](#)

Mrs Ponsford and Miss Murphy - Oracy Lead

National Careers Week at Moorlands



During National Careers Week 2026, Moorlands had the exciting opportunity to welcome a range of inspiring volunteers, who shared their experiences from a wide variety of professions. The aim of the week was to inspire our pupils by giving them the chance to learn about the many different careers they might pursue in the future. Through talks, discussions and activities, we hoped to spark curiosity, raise awareness, and build enthusiasm about the many possibilities that await beyond school!

Over the course of the week, we were delighted to host 18 volunteers working across an impressive range of industries. These included professionals in project management, data and digital industries, fire, mechanical and technological engineering, advertising and marketing, midwifery and nursing, fitness, and television and film. We were also fortunate to welcome representatives from organisations such as the Department for Health, Rewilding Britain, and the Bristol Wood Recycling Project, who spoke about the important and varied work they do.

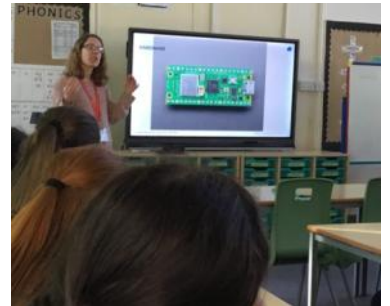
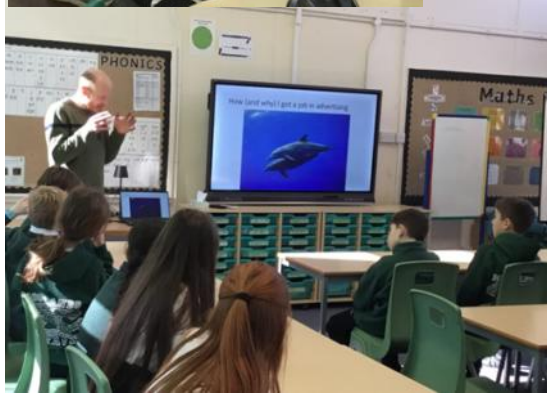
The sessions gave pupils the opportunity to hear first-hand about different career journeys, ask questions, and learn about the skills and interests that can lead to different paths in the future. We hope that the children came away with new knowledge about the wide range of careers available to them and that the week helped spark curiosity about what their own futures might hold. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers for giving their time and helping to inspire the next generation.

We'd like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to all our volunteers. You made the week so special and inspiring, and we couldn't have done it without you.
We really appreciate the time you gave to preparing your presentations and coming to talk to the children.

Look out for Careers Week 2027!

Miss Bone

National Careers Week at Moorlands



PTA News

Hello from the PTA!

After a quiet start to 2026, things kicked into life this week with our **bedtime story-time** event for the infant children. Some 80 children came back to school in their PJs and onesies and enjoyed hot chocolate and biscuits as they listened to stories read by their class teachers. Feedback from the children we spoke to was very positive! Huge thanks to **Laura Baker, Michelle Brooks and Sarah Horley** for organising the event and to **Miss Sellars** for helping to make the event happen, to **Mr Taylor** and **Mr Wood** for logistical support, and to **the infant teachers** for taking the time to participate.

Those of you who attended parent teacher consultations last week will have seen all the **2nd hand uniform** out on display and, hopefully, taken a few bits for your child/ren. Many thanks to all of the uniform volunteers – the uniform stock has never been in better shape or better displayed – and to **Andreea Gray** in particular for singlehandedly putting it all away on the Friday!

One further update is that work is continuing on the **pond**. After a session last Saturday, the pond is ready to be lined. That will take place shortly, following which the pond will be filled with water! There remain other important jobs to do, and for some of them the pond team will be **asking for specific expertise**, so please look out for their pleas for help and step forward if you can. Thank you.

Looking ahead, our next event will be the ever-popular **Spring Bake-off**, towards the end of March. Watch out for a flyer coming soon!

Finally, at the bedtime story-time event we held our **AGM**, where there were overviews of the past year from me and Jo Shaw, our Treasurer. Copies of our reports can be found on the PTA Events site: www.pta-events.co.uk/msf. We also elected a committee to steer the PTA's work. In addition to Jo and me, this year's members are **Phil Hamann, Maddie Jessop, Cate Khursandi, Callum Stoodley, Gavin Wainright** and our Secretary **Mags Wood**. We are very happy to co-opt others onto the committee at any time, so please let us know if you would like to join.

This will be my **3rd and final** year as Chair. Next year, it will be time for someone else to take the reins. I would be really happy to talk to anyone who'd be interested in taking over. It is not a difficult job, and I will very happily have a good handover period and provide support for as long as necessary. Anyone interested can join the committee in advance to see how things work. Please drop me a line at the usual PTA email address - moorlandsschoolpta@gmail.com - or speak to me in the playground. Thank you!

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



Term Dates 2026 – 2027 Academic Year



Term	Start date	End date	INSET
1	Thursday 03 September 2026	Friday 23 October 2026	Thursday and Friday 03 September 2026 04 September 2026 Friday 23 October 2026
2	Monday 02 November 2026	Friday 18 December 2026	Monday 02 November 2026
3	Monday 04 January 2027	Friday 12 February 2027	
4	Monday 22 February 2027	Thursday 25 March 2027	
5	Monday 12 April 2027	Friday 28 May 2027	
6	Monday 07 June 2027	Friday 23 July 2027	Thursday and Friday 22 July 2027 23 July 2027

Bank and Public Holidays 2026/2027
Christmas Day – 25 December 2026
Boxing Day – 26 December 2026
New Year's Day – 01 January 2027
Good Friday – 26 March 2027
Easter Monday – 29 March 2027
May Day – 03 May 2027
Spring Bank Holiday – 31 May 2027
Summer Bank Holiday 30 August 2027