



'At Moat Farm Infant School everyday we learn, achieve, have fun and play'



Moat Farm Infant School

Newsletter November 2023

Cashback for you and your school

In association with

Sainsbury's



ESPO

My School Fund

We are excited to announce that we have signed up to My School Fund!

How does it work?

My School Fund links your spend to your chosen school, meaning every time you make a purchase at participating retailers you both benefit through an innovative cashback scheme.

What's in it for me and my child's school?

Both you and your child's school will receive eGift Cards to spend in participating retailers based on a percentage of your overall spend.

Getting Started?

Step 1: Visit <https://www.myschoolfund.org/#/> to sign up for free and link to your child's school.

Step 2: Register your credit/debit card to your account

Step 3: Spend at participating retailers

Step 4: Start receiving your eGift Cards

Click this link to watch the introduction video: [My School Fund for parents - YouTube](#)

School Values

Our school motto is 'At Moat Farm Infants everyday; we learn, achieve, have fun and play!' Our school has 6 core values: **Collaboration, Respect, Creativity, Perseverance, Caring and Reflectiveness**. This half term we have been learning about **Respect**. Next half term we will be focusing on **Creativity**. This is taught through our PSHE topic Dreams and Goals, and throughout our school curriculum. Children will be taught to share and express their own ideas, use their imagination, try new things and ask questions.



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Anti-Bullying week

The week beginning Monday 20th November, we celebrated 'Anti-Bullying' week in school. This year the theme was 'Make a noise about bullying'. Throughout the week the children listened to stories, poems and music related to anti-bullying. All year groups read different stories which encouraged the children to celebrate their differences as they make us unique.

In our classes, we discussed who we could talk to if we are: being bullied, think somebody else is being bullied or are worried about bullying. Thank you to all of the children who have created wonderful posters for Anti-Bullying Week. Some children used these during our march on the playground where the children shouted "don't bully, be kind" to make a noise about bullying.



Staying active in School

We continue to promote children staying active in school and are delighted that our children are gaining additional physical activity daily. Throughout school our children take part in brain breaks, physical playtimes and lunchtimes as well as extra lunch clubs for Year 1. Children have a range of equipment to access during playtimes and lunchtimes. The stage has been very popular recently!

Physical activity sessions for KS1 are taking place weekly and we would like to thank parents for ensuring children are sent in their school PE kits.

We would just like to remind you that now the weather is changing that children should be wearing weather appropriate clothing (jogging bottoms, a school jumper/cardigan and suitable footwear).

After School Clubs continue to be very popular amongst children and we are very appreciative of the support parents have shown. Our sports clubs have offered children a variety of new sporting opportunities which they are really enjoying! These will continue in the spring term with another range of sports clubs being available.

Staying Active at Home

My active calendar challenges children to complete as many active games as they can throughout December. 'Get Set 4 Education' provide a range of games and activities for you to play at home to support you in keeping active.



We would love you to participate in this at home! Children who bring in their active calendar at the end of the month will receive a certificate for their efforts.

To get started visit <https://www.getset4education.co.uk/> - home learning- active families.

We look forward to seeing what you have been doing!

Black History Month

During October, we celebrated Black History Month along with the rest of the UK. We marked Black History Month by recognising and valuing the inspirational individuals and events that have shaped the black generation in the United Kingdom.

The aims of Black History Month were to:

- Promote knowledge of black history, culture and heritage.
- Share information on positive black contributions to British society.

We held a homework competition where Key Stage 1 created a piece of artwork based on an important person from black history. There were some amazing entries!

Well done to Amayah from Squirrel Class and Anum from Otter Class for winning the competition!



Armistice Day

On Thursday 9th November, we held a Remembrance assembly followed by a silence on Friday 10th. It is our responsibility to ensure that the younger generation are taught about the sacrifice and bravery of those who gave their lives for the sake of others and to make sure that our children understand the importance of a peaceful future for humanity.

Throughout school children learnt about Armistice Day and we watched the 'Poppies' video from CBeebies which explained Armistice Day in a child friendly way. We discussed the significance of poppies and showed our support by buying and wearing poppies in school. Children created some Remembrance Art to commemorate all the people in the war.

Sponsorship Day

Thank you so much for all of your fundraising efforts! We have raised an incredible £2,399.02 which will be used to purchase outdoor equipment for EYFS. The children really enjoyed taking part in either the sponsored bike ride or fitness circuit!

Our winners for the most money raised in each year group are:

Nursery- Divleen

Reception- George (Mole Class)

Year One- Marshall (Heron Class)

Year Two- Charlotte (Kingfisher Class)





Thank you for all your kind donations for 'Children in Need'. We managed to raise £208.50 which will help children in a variety of projects across the region.



In school the children decorated Pudsey Bear Biscuits using icing and sprinkles.

In EYFS the children decorated Pudsey's face using paint and shared the story 'Pudsey's Great Fundraiser'. Nursery children wore yellow to match Pudsey and our colour of the



week.



The children loved coming to school wearing spots.

Thanks again for your generosity.



Thank you for supporting our recent Book Fair. We took an incredible £1,298.00. Just think of all those lovely books you and your children will be able to enjoy. This amount has given us £714 in commission to spend on more books for the school library.



School Nursery

Applications are now being taken for September 2024, January 2025 and April 2025. Registration forms are available in the school office. If you would like to know more ask at the office for Mrs Davis or alternatively you can email her direct on: jayne.davis@mfi.school

School Nursery offers places to 2, 3 and 4-year olds as follows:

- **30 hour** funded places for 3 and 4-year olds (8:45 – 3:00) you can apply for the eligibility code on this website. www.childcarechoices.gov.uk
- **15 hour** funded places for all 3 and 4-year-old children - children may start with us the term after they turn 3 (8:30 – 11:30am or 12 – 3pm)
- **15 hour** funded places for eligible 2-year olds (12 – 3pm everyday) – you can check to see if you are eligible on the Sandwell Family Information Hub website – free childcare for 2 year olds.

Childcare
Choices

Supporting families
with childcare costs



HM Government

Find out more at
childcarechoices.gov.uk



Maths Week England 2023!

Maths Week England was set up in 2019 with the goal of ensuring that no children miss out on the opportunities that being a confident competent mathematician can give them.

What is Maths Week England for?

1. To raise the profile of mathematics throughout England
2. Change the conversation about maths in the population at large to be more positive
3. Enable children and adults from all social and economic backgrounds to access and enjoy interesting mathematical experiences

How Moat Farm Infant School did this!

Throughout school children have been celebrating maths week by seeing maths in different ways.

We have been on scavenger hunts, solved puzzles, solved brain teasers and used maths whilst playing board games such as snakes and ladders, connect 4, Jenga, O's & X's, Uno, dominoes, cards as well as many more. Children took part in a national competition "All about 3" where we celebrated the number 3 and created a poster of all things represented by 3 (triangles, tricycles and triceratops). Fingers crossed we win! Finally, children looked at how we use maths in the wider world and how every job will use maths as an important skill.



Notes for parents: Research has shown that board games enhance mathematical abilities for young children. Using board games can be considered a strategy with potential effects on basic and complex maths skills. In a new study, published in the journal Early Years, finds, for 3- to 9-year-olds, the format of number-based board games helps to improve counting, addition, and the ability to recognize if a number is higher or lower than another. Children having experiences of playing board games at home and in school will support their understanding of number, shape and measure in maths as well as social and emotional skill support.



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Reminders

- **Parking:** I'd like to remind parents to park responsibly and safely when dropping children off at school and when collecting them at the end of the day. The safety of our children is paramount and your co-operation is appreciated. Can I also remind parents that we are only allowed to park on Tesco car park when we are shopping there? Please ensure that you are not blocking any driveways, so that we can remain considerate of our local residents.
- **Named clothing:** Can I remind parents to ensure that all children's clothing is clearly named to avoid 'mix-ups' with uniform?
- **Reporting absence:** If your child is absent from school you must telephone the school office on **each** day of absence. You can leave a message or speak to the office staff. Please ensure that you state your child's name and class and the reason for the absence, giving as much detail as possible.

*****SCHOOL HAS TO ALLOCATE 6 DAYS EACH YEAR**

FOR STAFF TRAINING***

We have had 3 already this academic year so far

~~Monday 4th September~~

~~Tuesday 5th September~~

~~Monday 6th November~~

Friday 1st December

Monday 22nd July

1 day to be confirmed

Wellbeing

New Ways November 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 Make a list of new things you want to do this month	2 Respond to a difficult situation in a different way	3 Get outside and observe the changes in nature around you	4 Sign up to join a new course, activity or online community	5 Change your normal routine today and notice how you feel
6 Try out a new way of being physically active	7 Be creative. Cook, draw, write, paint, make or inspire	8 Plan a new activity or idea you want to try out this week	9 When you feel you can't do something, add the word "yet"	10 Be curious. Learn about a new topic or an inspiring idea	11 Choose a different route and see what you notice on the way	12 Find out something new about someone you care about
13 Do something playful outdoors - walk, run, explore, relax	14 Find a new way to help or support a cause you care about	15 Build on new ideas by thinking "Yes, and what if..."	16 Look at life through someone else's eyes and see their perspective	17 Try a new way to practice self-care and be kind to yourself	18 Connect with someone from a different generation	19 Broaden your perspective: read a different paper, magazine or site
20 Make a meal using a recipe or ingredient you've not tried before	21 Learn a new skill from a friend or share one of yours with them	22 Find a new way to tell someone you appreciate them	23 Set aside a regular time to pursue an activity you love	24 Share with a friend something helpful you learned recently	25 Use one of your strengths in a new or creative way	26 Try out a different radio station or new TV show
 27 Join a friend doing their hobby and find out why they love it	28 Discover your artistic side. Design a friendly greeting card	29 Enjoy new music today. Play, sing, dance or listen	30 Look for new reasons to be hopeful, even in tough times			

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



Wellbeing App—Cove



Who is it for? Cove is for anyone who wants to express through music what they might struggle to say with words.

How does it work? Cove is like a mood journal, except instead of using words to express how you feel, you use music. To create music, choose from six different moods – calm, struggling, longing, playful, clouded and gentle. Once you've selected your mood, you can easily add and remove different musical effects.

<http://www.cove-app.com/#about>

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

10 Days of Happiness - Free online program to boost your wellbeing

10 Days of Happiness is a free online program to boost your wellbeing, through daily actions for happier living.

It is designed for challenging times, based on the latest research from positive psychology, neuroscience, and behavioural science.

And it takes just a few minutes each day! Just click on the link: [10 Days of Happiness](#)

01
Every morning you receive a message with a new activity.

02
You write your response to each day's activity.

03
These simple actions boost your wellbeing day by day.

ALL YOUR RESPONSES ARE KEPT PRIVATE. WE WILL NEVER SHARE YOUR DATA.

Baby News!

We would like to say a big congratulations to Miss McDonald who gave birth to a healthy baby girl called Darcie. We would also like to say congratulations to Miss Jones who gave birth to a healthy baby boy called Ezra.

Marvellous Me

Please can you make sure that you are signed up to our Marvellous Me Parent App and that your settings allow notifications to pop up on your device. **This is our main form of communication with you.**



Attendance Matters



0 days of school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned

We would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to all of our families who consistently ensure their children's attendance and punctuality is good. Getting these important habits established early on in your child's life will make a difference to their future. There is a proven link between attendance and achievement, and we want your children to have the best possible start in life. A child should attend school every day that they are well enough. Our whole school attendance to date is: **94.4%**

Mole	Owl	Robin	Fox	Rainbow	Badger	H/hog	Heron	Squirrel	Frog	Otter	Rabbit	K/fisher
92.4%	92.5%	92%	92.9%	91.6%	93.8%	94.2%	94.8%	93.8%	94.8%	94.7%	94.7%	95.3%

When children's school attendance falls below 90%, this is classed as 'Persistently Absent' from school. If your child falls into this category it is vital you do all you can to help improve their attendance, as they will be missing on valuable learning time. There are 190 school days and 175 non-school days per year. Please arrange to see family and friends, holidays and other appointments in the days when children do not have to attend school.



Congratulations to some of our children who have completed their first Going for Gold booklets this year and Lottie helped them to celebrate when choosing their Head Teacher Prize!!



Dates for your diary – Autumn Term 2023

November	January
30 th St Andrews Day	8 th School reopens for spring term for Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 8 th New Nursery transition 'stay & play' visits 9 th Nursery re-opens for returning nursery children
December 1 st Teacher Training day – School closed 7 th Badger & Squirrel 'Cake & Carols' 2.30pm 8 th Hedgehog & Heron 'Cake & Carols' 2.30pm WB 11 th Rainbow class parent consultations (3-4pm) 13 th Christmas Jumper Day 13 th Christmas Dinner Day 13 th Fox & Robin Christmas Play 2pm 14 th New Nursery Parents induction meeting 9am 14 th Owl & Mole Christmas Play 2pm 15 th Nursery breakfast with Santa 9am 18 th Otter Christingle concert 9am 19 th Rabbit Christingle concert 9am 20 th Kingfisher Christingle concert 9am 21 st Frog Christingle concert 9am 20 th Christmas Fayre 21 st Rainbow class nativity 2.30pm 22 nd Party day & non-uniform day 25 th -5 th Jan school closed Christmas holidays	

Moat Farm Infant School Governors

This year our newsletter will be introducing our Governing Body so that parents are aware of who we are and what we do to support Moat Farm Infant School. If you would like to find out any more about our governors please click on this link to visit our website: <http://www.moatfarm-inf.sandwell.sch.uk/about-us/meet-the-staff/our-governors/>

Who am I?

My name is Mrs Walker and I am the Head Teacher of Moat Farm Infant School and also a member of the Governing Body.

My Background

I grew up in the West Midlands and always wanted to be a teacher. I went to University in Birmingham and while I was there I worked in various jobs. I qualified in 2000 and joined Moat Farm Infant School. I have stayed at Moat Farm Infant School ever since! When I'm not at school I'm usually at home or out and about with my family and our dog - Reuben.



Why do I like being a governor?

As the Head Teacher I get to work alongside the children and staff here everyday, but being a Governor allows me to see the school through a different set of eyes. My role as a Governor also gives me the opportunity to share with governors all of the amazing things we do at Moat Farm Infant School and what we would like to do, helping to shape the vision for the school.



YOUR CHILD COULD PLAY IN THEIR VERY OWN ROCK BAND!

Are you looking for a fun activity to boost your child's confidence and support their overall journey through primary school?



SCAN QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE

Rocksteady lessons support wellbeing, grow confidence and build resilience, all in fun and inclusive environment.

Each lesson will build on your child's individual learning and motivational style, and they'll get to play real music in their own band from the very first lesson!



84%
parents say Rocksteady lessons supports their child's confidence

97%
children say they enjoy attending lessons or wish they could do more

100%
head teachers say Rocksteady lessons have a significant impact on children

CLICK HERE TO SIGN YOUR CHILD UP NOW
WWW.ROCKSTEADYMUSIC SCHOOL.COM/INFO-FOR-PARENTS