



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



Moat Farm Infant School

Newsletter October 2023

It's been a busy half-term. We have been working hard on developing our school further. The children have settled well into their new classes and everyone is really working hard, we are so proud of the progress our children are making. A big thank you to all the staff for providing such a safe, welcoming, engaging learning environment for our children to thrive in.

This half term we have rolled out our new PE Scheme throughout school and our new Geography and History Scheme called 'Kapow' in order to deepen our children's Geography and History skills further. As always, we have had a big push on Reading this term and on developing children's love of Reading, please continue to listen to your child read and read with them, especially as the nights are drawing in, sharing a book can be a magical experience for both you and your child.

Thank you to all the parents who provide feedback and complete the surveys that we send out, as this is how we develop.

Remember:

If there is an issue or you notice something,
tell us
We will do our best to sort it out

See it
Say it
Solve it

Finally, a big thank you to the children for reminding staff on a daily basis why we continue to love our job. Have a lovely half-term. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need to.

Mrs Walker

Email: deborah.walker@mfi.school

Online Safety

We take online safety extremely seriously and constantly put measures in place to try and mitigate any content that pupils can access. We acknowledge that many pupils will have access to the internet and internet-based devices at home and out of school. The following age limits have been taken from the NSPCC website:

Facebook 13 + years

Snapchat 13 + years

Instagram 13 + years

TikTok 13 + years

Twitter 13 + years

If you have any specific concerns around your child's internet usage or any queries you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact the school or email.



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



Nut Free School

Please be aware that we are still a **NUT FREE** school. Please do not send your child in with anything in their lunch bags that may contain nuts, e.g. peanut butter sandwiches, Snickers chocolate bars. Some of our children have severe nut allergies and we thank you in helping to keep them safe and healthy.

Is your child due to start Reception or Year 3 September 2024

Online applications for Reception 2024 and Year 3 are open!

It closes 15th January 2024

Please ensure you make your application online before the closing date:

[Applying for a Reception Place / Year 3 Junior School | Sandwell Council](#)

Head Teacher's Afternoon Tea

The children have been working incredibly hard on their presentation throughout school. Children who have been trying exceptionally hard with their presentation and handwriting have been selected by their class teachers this half term to come for Afternoon Tea with myself. It has been a real pleasure taking the time to share this time with all of them. Well done to everyone who has made it to my Afternoon tea this half term. Keep up the hard work! (please note that some of the children who took part may not be in the photographs due to the GDPR permissions selected by parents)



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 2 already at the beginning of this term

~~Monday 4th September~~

~~Tuesday 5th September~~

Monday 6th November

Friday 1st December

Monday 22nd July

1 day to be confirmed



Please try any of the Mathematical Apps above to support your child's Mathematical knowledge in a fun way. Let us know how you get on!

Safeguarding – Child Protection

It may be helpful for parents to know that Schools are required to report any obvious or suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to Social Services. This procedure is intended to protect children at risk. Staff are encouraged to take the attitude that, where there are grounds for suspicion, it is better to be safe than sorry. This does mean that there is risk of upsetting some parents by reporting a concern, which on investigation proves unfounded. In such circumstances, it is hoped parents will appreciate how difficult it is to carry out this delicate responsibility, and would accept that staff were acting in what were believed to be the child's best interests. To find out more about this you can read our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in full on our website. As members of a community we all have a duty to report any concerns or suspicions that a child is not being treated correctly.

Affected or Involved?

If you, or someone close to you, has been involved in a Child Protection Enquiry, you can also find useful information on Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP) website - <https://www.sandwellcsp.org.uk/parents-carers/>. Also see the SCSP Procedure re Child Protection Enquiries by clicking on this link: [1.9 Child protection enquiries | West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group \(procedures.org.uk\)](#)

If you need advice, information or want to talk to someone, you can contact Early Help at your local [Community Operating Group](#) or the Sandwell MASH 0121 569 3100.

Alternatively you can contact:

- [ChildLine](#) on 08001111
- [NSPCC](#) Helpline on 0808 800 5000

Members of the public with concerns

If you are worried a child may be suffering significant harm, or if you are concerned a child has suffered harm, neglect or abuse, please follow the advice below:

- If you believe a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm, you should contact the police by dialling 999.

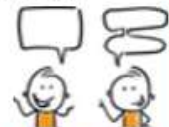
If you have concerns about a child or young person but believe they are not at immediate risk you can:

- Discuss your concerns with a professional you trust such as a health visitor, teacher or GP
- Contact the Sandwell Safeguarding Team on 0121 569 3100
- Contact the NSPCC on **0808 800 5000** (free service, lines open 24 hours a day). They will listen to your concerns, offer advice and support and can take action on your behalf if a child is in danger. You can also report concerns anonymously. For further information or to report your concerns online visit: www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/

Wellbeing

Conversation Starters

Talking to your child about how they're feeling can be tough, especially if you're concerned that they're having a hard time. You might not know what to say, or feel worried about how your child will react. It doesn't matter what topic the conversation starts with – it's about the opportunity it gives you to talk about feelings and provide comfort. Whilst the activity is underway, what's the best way to encourage your child to open up? Have a look at some of our conversation starters.



Here are some things you could ask to get the conversation started:

What was the best bit of your day?
What was the worst bit of your day?
What did you do today that made you proud?
How are you feeling?
What would you like to talk about?

If your child is having a hard time, you can try to find out how they like to be supported by asking gentle questions like:

How can I support you through this?
Do you want to talk about what's going on?
Is there anything you need from me? Space, time to talk, time to do something fun?
What was the biggest problem you had today? What helped?

"Is there anything you need from me? Space, time to talk, time to do something fun?"

10 Proven Strategies for Helping an Anxious Child

1. QUIET HUGS Help your child feel safe by reassuring them that you are there and willing to help. Words can sometimes exacerbate anxiety, so sitting quietly with lots of hug and empathizing can often work better.	2. SEE YOUR CALM PLACE Remember a time you were happy, calm and peaceful. See it in your mind with as much detail as possible. Always use the same calm place to enhance the effect.
3. 5X5 GROUNDING See 5 things, hear 4 things, touch 3 things, smell 2 things and taste 1 thing.	4. DRAW YOUR ANXIETY Draw a picture of what you are worried about.
5. BLOW BUBBLES Research has shown the 10 deep breaths resets the automatic nervous system and helps to calm the amygdala. Blowing bubbles is a great way to get a child to blow deep breaths. Party blowers or straw and balled up paper offer other ways to do the same.	6. PET A FURRY FRIEND Research has shown that petting an animal reduces the heart rate and calms the body. Sitting for 10 or 15 minutes petting a furry friend is a wonderful way to relieve anxiety and bring some smiles to a child.
7. JUMPING JACKS Anxiety often causes shallow breathing. Having the child do an exercise forces deep breaths that can reset the anxious feelings.	8. REMEMBER PAST SUCCESS Remind the child to think about the last time they overcame their anxiety. Remind them that they can do this, even though it can be hard.
9. PROBLEM SOLVE THE FEAR Help the child talk through what solutions could be used if their fear were to come to fruition. Knowing they can handle the worst can help calm the fear.	10. DESTROY THE WORRY Have the child write their anxiety on a piece of paper and then tear it.

Optimistic October 2023



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

SUNDAY

1 Write down three things you can look forward to this month

8 Make some progress on a project or task you have been avoiding

15 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted

22 Share a hopeful quote, picture or video with a friend or colleague

29 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to

MONDAY

2 Find something to be optimistic about (even if it's a difficult time)

9 Share an important goal with someone you trust

16 Put down your to-do list and do something fun or uplifting

23 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise

30 Identify three things that give you hope for the future

TUESDAY

3 Take a small step towards a goal that really matters to you

10 Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished recently

17 Take a small step towards a positive change you want to see in society

24 Write down three specific things that have gone well recently

31 Set a goal that brings a sense of purpose for the coming month

WEDNESDAY

4 Start your day with the most important thing on your to-do list

11 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Find a helpful way forward

18 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the days ahead

25 You can't do everything! What are your three priorities right now?

32

THURSDAY

5 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good

12 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today

19 Identify one of your positive qualities that will be helpful in the future

26 Find a new perspective on a problem you face

33

FRIDAY

6 Remind yourself that things can change for the better

13 Ask for help to overcome an obstacle you are facing

20 Find joy in tackling a task you've put off for some time

27 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time

34

SATURDAY

7 Look for the good in people around you today

14 Do something constructive to improve a difficult situation

21 Let go of the expectations of others and focus on what matters to you

28 Ask yourself, will this still matter a year from now?

35

Happier · Kinder · Together





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



Attendance Matters



Attendance for term 1

Mole	Owl	Robin	Fox	Badger	H/Hog	Heron	Squirrel	Frog	Otter	Rabbit	K/Fisher	Rainbow
92.5	93.5	91.3	93.6	93.3	94.8	95.9	93.7	94.1	94.9	94.1	95.7	89.9

Regular school attendance is a priority for us this year for all of our children. We know that children who attend school regularly have the best chance of success in their learning, have better friendships and a better understanding of our rules and values.

Our school attendance targets for all children is 96% and currently our whole school attendance is 93.3%, we do have some work to do to improve on this.

We will start our 'Attendance Clinics' next term to look at ways we can work together to support you if your child has less than 90% attendance and the number of absences are causing a concern.

Reporting absence

If your child is off school then it is your responsibility to let us know. This MUST be done before 9.30am. Absences which are unexplained on the registers are coded as unauthorised. We have an option on our telephone system where you can leave a message at any time. Telephone 0121 5521885 option 1.

Reminder about the start of the day

School starts at 8.50am. Children should be in their classrooms ready by 8.50am. This is when teachers begin the day with the class register. Children arriving after 8.50am are late and should be taken to the school office to be signed in. We open our doors at 8.30am which gives children plenty of time to enter school and be ready in their classroom for the register at 8.50am.

Medical appointments in school time

If your child has a medical appointment during the school day, please ensure you have shown the appointment letter/card/text message to the office so it can be correctly recorded on the register. Ideally children will come to school before and after their appointments so they do not miss a whole day of learning.

Request for term time Leave of absence

Under the Education Regulations 2013 absence may not be Authorised unless: An application has been made in advance to the Head Teacher by a Parent/Carer with whom the pupil normally resides (lives with most of the time).

The Head Teacher, or a person Authorised by them, considers the Leave of Absence Request and will decide whether it should be granted due to the exceptional circumstances relating to that application. If it is felt there are not exceptional circumstances for the leave taken in term time, in line with our attendance policy, we will refer the unauthorised leave of absence to the Schools Attendance Support Service within Sandwell Council who may then issue parents/carers with a penalty notice. This could result in a fine up to £120 per parent per child. Should the penalty notice not be paid to the local authority, parents may then be prosecuted under s444 (1) of the Education Act 1996.

Request for Leave of Absence forms are available from the school office and they should be submitted in advance of the absence.

Harvest Festival

Thank you for all the kind donations of food for the Smethwick Food Bank. We had a special Harvest Assembly in school on Thursday 19th October, where people from the Food Bank came to speak to the children. The donations have been collected now and your donations were very appreciated.

World Mental Health Day

Thank you to all of the children and staff who wore yellow on Tuesday 10th October for the #helloyellow campaign. This campaign helped to show our children the importance of their feelings which we explored further during our class story time.

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 collaboration. Next half term we will be focusing on **respect**. To show respect we; treat everybody fairly, listen to others and use our manners. This is taught through our PSHE curriculum and our Jigsaw theme, looking at celebrating differences. Children will be taught how to celebrate unique qualities in others but also to acknowledge similarities and differences.

Dates for your diary – Autumn Term 2023

October	November
30 th -3 rd Nov School closed half term holidays	6 th Teacher Training Day – School closed 7 th Yr 2 Frog & Otter Phonics/Reading workshop 9am 11 th Remembrance Day 12 th Diwali 13 th Yr 2 Rabbit & Kingfisher Phonics/Reading workshop 9am 13 th Special menu for hot dinners for Diwali 17 th Children in Need (50p donation) Wb 20 th Anti-Bullying Week – wear odd socks day 24 th 30 th St Andrews Day
December	January
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 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	8 th School reopens for spring term

School Nursery

Applications are now being taken for September 2024, January 2025 and April 2025. Our 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.



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