



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



Moat Farm Infant School

Newsletter December 2023

It has been a very busy term! Thank you to everyone who came to the Reception Christmas production - 'Away in a Manger', the Year 2 Christingle concerts, the Year 1 Carol Concerts, Rainbow and Sunshine Christmas production and the Nursery Breakfast with Santa. The children were amazing and I am sure you will agree they did you all proud! I would also like to say a big thank you to all the people who organised our Christmas Fair. Also, thank you to the parents who gave up their time and came in to speak to the assessor for the Inclusion Quality Mark. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to our catering team who served 422 children's meals and 65 staff meals on the Christmas dinner day.

Christmas

Here is the Link to the Christmas page of the Sandwell Council Supporting Sandwell for help over this Christmas and New Year period. <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/christmas>

Please check Black Country Food Bank and other food banks for their individual availability/opening times.

here: <https://www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk/locations/>
<https://route2wellbeing.info/browse?source=bar&phrase=%23foodbank>

Healthy ageing resources

[\(4\) Health Fabric - This Christmas get help to look after your health... | Facebook](#)

Thank you for your ongoing support.

I wish you all the best for over the break. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mrs Walker



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**. So far this school year we have focused on Collaboration and Respect.

Collaboration

To show we can collaborate we need to:
work together
listen to each other
share and take turns

Respect

When we are respectful we:
listen to others
show good manners
treat everybody fairly

Up to date contact information

Please ensure the school office has up to date mobile and landline phone numbers should we need to contact you in an emergency. Thank you

Applications for School Places

Please remember that the application process has opened if you have a child starting Year R or Year 3 in September 2024. You must apply on line before **Monday 15th January 2024**

<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/school-admissions/applying-reception-place-year-3-junior-school>

Request for Leave of Absence

A reminder to all parents that 'Leave of Absence Request' forms should be completed and handed into the school office at least **10 working days** before the date the leave is requested for please.



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Wellbeing

December Kindness 2023

MONDAY



4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about

TUESDAY



5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely

WEDNESDAY



6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

THURSDAY



7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

FRIDAY

1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others

SATURDAY

2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are

SUNDAY

3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment

11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank

12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today

13 See how many different people you can smile at today

14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day

16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to

17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you

18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving

19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated

20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh

25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!

26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature

27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat

28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy

29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2024

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



CALM DOWN YOGA FOR KIDS



I am strong.

Use your strength to catch tricky waves.



I am kind.

Stretch high and spread kindness all around.



I am brave.

Be brave and fearless as you fly down the ski run.



I am friendly.

Stretch like a dog wagging its tail.



I am wise.

Be a wise owl perched on a tree branch.

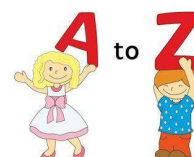


YOUNGmINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

Young Minds A-Z Guide

Young Minds have produced an A-Z guide which gives advice on how to help your child with their feelings and behaviour, as well as mental health conditions and life events. They'll also show you where you can get help.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/>





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

Our whole school attendance to date is: 94%

Mole	Owl	Robin	Fox	Rainbow	Badger	H/hog	Heron	Squirrel	Frog	Otter	Rabbit	K/fisher
93%	92%	92%	91%	93%	94%	94%	95%	94%	94%	94%	94%	93%

As we approach the end of the term, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the importance of good attendance. There has been a real buzz in school the last two Fridays with the December Attendance Challenge when the chocolate reward treats have been delivered to each class. There is one more week to go and remember any child who has been in school everyday in the month of December will be in with a chance to win a £50 ASDA voucher! Winner to be announced on Friday 22nd December.

We understand that sometimes illnesses can get in the way, but let's do our best to keep absences to a minimum. Let's strive for excellent attendance in the upcoming Spring term. Regular attendance is vital for your child's progress and development. Being present in school not only ensures that they do not miss out on valuable learning opportunities, but also helps them build social skills and form lasting friendships. Being on time to school is also very important, our class doors open at 8.30am to allow families 20 minutes to get children into school on time. Please arrive on time so children can enter through their classroom door instead of coming in through the school office. Your child will be bringing home their attendance register print out for the Autumn Term for you to see this week.

If your child has a medical appointment during the school day, you need to provide a copy of the appointment letter/text of this to the office so the absence can be authorised as M for medical appointment on the register.

In the coming term, we will continue to promote good attendance with a new incentive for each class to work towards together. More details about this will be shared in the next newsletter!

December Attendance Challenge - Congratulations to Amrita (Frog Class) who won the 1st prize of a £50 Asda voucher and Romaeo C (Hedgehog Class) who won 2nd prize of a children's hamper, for attending everyday in December

Lottie – the school dog







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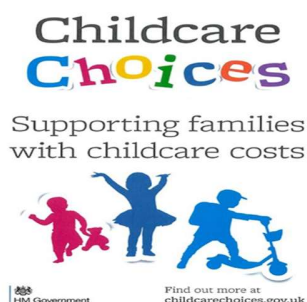


School Nursery

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) – From April 2024 eligible working families will be able to get 15 hours free places. You can apply for the eligibility code on this website – free childcare for 2 year olds www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



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 you are shopping there. Please ensure that you are not blocking any driveways, so that we can remain considerate of our local residents. If you do have any concerns regarding parking please contact Sandwell Council.
- **Named clothing:** Can I remind parents to ensure that all children's clothing is clearly named to avoid 'mix-ups' with uniform. We have a full box of lost property in school so if you are missing some of your child's school uniform, please ask at the office or the class teachers if you can come in and look through this box.
- **Reporting absence:** If your child is absent from school you must telephone the school office before 9.30am to report this absence. You can choose option 1 to report the absence on the answerphone at any time or you can speak to one of the lovely ladies in the office from 8am. Please ensure that you state your child's name and class and the reason for the absence, giving as much detail as possible.
- **Play equipment in the playgrounds:** Please do not let your children use the climbing frames and trim trails before and after school. This equipment is for use by the children during playtimes and lunchtimes only.

Year 2 Art Gallery

Thank you to all the parents who came to the year 2 Art Gallery. Children have been working very hard in school to create pieces of artwork inspired by maps. They have made felt maps, stained glass maps and printed abstract maps. Their end goal was to showcase their work and host a gallery experience. They also evaluated their work as true artists do and their work is also displayed in our school art gallery. Well done year 2!



EYFS Sponsorship

A very big thank you to everyone who contributed to our EYFS sponsorship. We raised a fantastic £2,399.02. This money is vital to our outdoor area provision and the learning and progress of our youngest children. With this money we have purchased a range of outdoor equipment including a road safety sign set, a mud kitchen, a stage, scooters, balance bikes and tricycles.

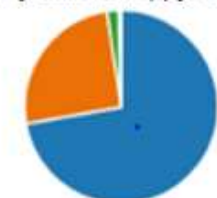


Parent Feedback survey Autumn 2023

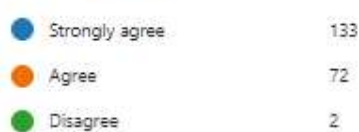
The staff would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who attended the autumn term Parent Consultations. We hope that you found the meetings useful and informative. We gave questionnaires to all parents that attended in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We received 208 responses which were very positive. Your comments will support our school improvement process.

Results from the 2023 Autumn term Parent Consultations

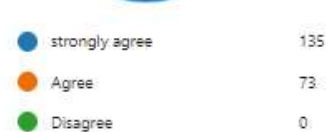
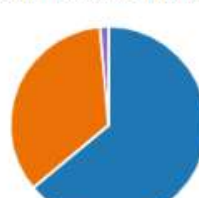
My child is happy with the school



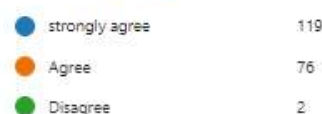
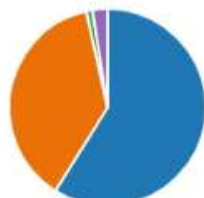
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved?



My child does well at this school



The school has high expectations for my child



I would recommend this school to another parent



99% parents felt that their child feels safe in school.

98% of parents who could comment felt that concerns raised were dealt with properly.

99% parents felt that they were made aware of what their child learns during the year.

98% parents felt confident supporting their child at home.

95% parents listened to their child read at home.

Is there anything else that you feel would improve our school further?

My child sometimes is frustrated as he finds it hard to comprehend.

They need more writing.

More water breaks.

Please get new books.

Behaviour of children puts other children off coming and makes them uncomfortable

Any other comments?

I'm happy my son is doing well at school and enjoying it

Our child has blossomed with confidence and independence. She is progressing on a personal level and academically.

Moat farm infant is very good. My child is very happy to come to school

Best choice we made in choosing a nursery

The nursery has helped my child progress very quickly

Fantastic support in helping my child fit into school and adjust. He has settled in well and enjoys school thanks to all the teachers and support staff!

Fantastic school! Always has been forever grateful for your hard work.

My child seems happy to attend school and enjoys all of the extra activities available thanks :)

Thank you for your efforts towards my child

Thank you for your help and support

Please note!

SCHOOL RE-OPENS to children on Tuesday 8th JANUARY 2023

*****SCHOOL HAS TO ALLOCATE 6 DAYS EACH YEAR
FOR STAFF TRAINING*****

We have had 4 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

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 Jackie L'Herroux and I am retired. I have been a Governor at Moat Farm Infant School since 2018.

My Background

Until recently I lived in Sandwell. I was brought up here, educated here, worked here. Before my retirement in 2020 I worked in education and visited Moat Farm Infants many times. I have two children and four grandchildren.



Why do I like being a governor?

I like being a Governor at Moat Farm Infants because it allows me the opportunity to be part of a school where everyone works towards ensuring that the pupils here have a safe, secure and an enjoyable start to their education. Experiences throughout my life mean that I can participate in the governance of MFI with confidence, knowledge and care.

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for benefit related free school meals and you register them for this, school will receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources in school. Families also receive weekly £15 per child food vouchers during the school holidays. Families who are eligible for free school meals may also register children with the 'Holiday Activities and Food' HAF Sandwell scheme to gain access to free activities during the school holidays. [Sandwell Holiday Activities](#)



What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. School will get an extra £1,385 for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money can make a real difference to the funding we receive from the government. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals (*this is different from the universal free meals funding scheme for all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils*)
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance
- Support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you have an annual gross income of no more than £16, 190)
- Universal credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

You can apply for free school meals via the Sandwell Council Website [Free school meals | Sandwell Council](#) or alternatively you can complete a form in school and we can apply for you. These forms are available from the school office.

Asthma Friendly School

I am delighted to inform you that our recent application to become a Black Country Asthma Friendly School has been successful and we have been awarded Asthma Friendly School status! This award recognises that our school is a safe and welcoming place for children with asthma.

In an Asthma Friendly School, children with asthma can expect:

- Their school to have an asthma policy
- Staff to have a good understanding of asthma
- To be able to access their reliever inhaler at all times
- Staff are able to help them if they are having an asthma attack



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)



Christmas Fair

What a fantastic day we had on Wednesday 20th December at our Christmas Fair. The children had an enjoyable day with many activities including face and nail painting, pin the nose on the reindeer, Santa's hat ring toss and the tombola.



We are pleased to announce we raised a staggering
£1,996.50

Congratulations to all the lucky winners:



The hamper goes to... Milijana in Mole class



Consolation raffle prizes go to Harrison in Kingfisher class, Kian in Otter class, Isabelle in Nursery/Butterflies and Poppy in Hedgehog class



Guess the number of sweets winner

Dylan from Frog class gets 110 sweets!

Emoji Competition 10 children get a selection pack

The correct answers were Silent Night, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Jingle Bells, Little Donkey, 12 Days of Christmas, Frosty the Snowman (Jack Frost was also accepted)

Thank you for all your support

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!