



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



Moat Farm Infant School

Newsletter January 2024

Spring Term

We would like to wish you a very happy new year! Thank you to all the parents for their very kind Christmas gifts – the staff greatly appreciate your generosity. We hope you all has a relaxing break and enjoyed the family time together.

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](#)

Operation Encompass

As a school we take part in Operation Encompass.



Operation Encompass is a police and Education early intervention safeguarding partnership that supports children and young people exposed to Domestic Abuse. It aims to ensure Schools are notified in a timely manner of any Domestic Abuse incident where child/ren are present or registered at the address. This early notification should mean that, in the majority of cases, schools are alerted in readiness for the children arriving at school the first working day following an incident.

Operation Encompass went live week commencing 1 October 2018 and the aim is that schools will know as close as possible to the start of the school day that the child has been or may have been exposed to a domestic abuse incident.



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Prime Energy Drinks

Prime Energy drinks along with other energy drinks are not allowed in school due to high caffeine/sugar content. **PRIME Energy is not recommended for children under the age of 18.** If your child has Prime Energy drinks or another energy drink we will replace this with water and send the drink home at the end of the day. Thank you for your support.

Reminder – Play equipment

Please do not let children use the equipment in the playgrounds before or after school. This equipment is monitored by staff during playtimes and lunchtimes.

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. In this Spring term we will be focusing on:

Creativity

To show we are creative we need to:

- have our own ideas
- use our imagination
- ask questions
- try new things

Eye Tests for Children

Children may not always know that they have a vision problem. It is therefore recommended that children have regular eye tests. These should be carried out at least once every 2 years, even if there are no problems with their eyesight. These tests can be done at a high street optician and are free for all children under 16 years old (and those under 19 years old in full-time education). You can speak to your child's Optician if you have any concerns about their vision.

School Gates

Vaping/Smoking

Can I please ask that parents do not vape or smoke around the school gates as they arrive and leave.

Inappropriate Language

Please ensure that the language that you are using around the school gates near our children remains appropriate for their little ears!

Up to date contact information

Please ensure the school office has up to date mobile phone numbers in case we need to contact you in an emergency. If you have moved house since you last completed school form, please let the office staff know your new address.

Thank you

Car Safety

We would like to remind parents/carers that children must use a child car seat until they're 12 years old or 135 centimeters tall, whichever comes first. Children over 12 or more than 135cm tall must wear a seat belt. You can choose a child car seat based on your child's height or weight.

Please view the below link for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules>

Please ensure that you follow the car seat regulations and your child is belted in at all times.

Rocksteady Music

The Rocksteady music company have been working with a number of children in both Year 1 and Year 2. On Tuesdays, the children are learning how to play the drums, the guitar, the keyboard and singing. If you would like your child to take part, please come into the office and ask to speak to Mrs Ashmore our Music leader (There is a charge for this activity). You can find more information on the following website:

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/#mini-rockers>



Attendance Matters



I wanted to take a moment to celebrate something truly fabulous with you all...we have achieved a fantastic attendance rate of 95.5% since we returned to school on Monday 8th January! Well done to you all!

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

Mole	Owl	Robin	Fox	Badger	H/Hog	Heron	Squirrel	Frog	Otter	Rabbit	K/Fisher	Rainbow
96%	88%	96%	92%	96%	91%	98%	96%	98%	94%	98%	92%	95%

As we continue in the Spring term, we acknowledge that there is still some work to be done to boost our overall attendance even more in the Spring and Summer terms. Currently, our attendance to date stands at 94.3%. While this is a pretty good figure, we are determined to strive for even better attendance in the coming months. Remember every day counts and every lesson missed is a missed opportunity for our children to learn and grow.

In light of this, we kindly remind all parents and carers to report any absences promptly each morning before 9.30am. This allows us to keep accurate records. It is vital that we work together to maintain a strong partnership between home and school, as this is crucial in ensuring the best possible education for our children.

We understand that there may be occasions when absences are unavoidable due to illness or unforeseen circumstances. In such cases, please do inform us as soon as possible, providing any necessary documentation or evidence to support the absence. By doing so, we can ensure that the absence is recorded appropriately.

Remember, education is a team effort, and we are all in this together. So, let's keep up the great work, keep those attendance numbers soaring. Thank you for your continued cooperation, and I look forward to seeing our attendance figures improve in the coming term.



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.
- **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.



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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.

School Nursery Places

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

- **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** olds - 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) some families may receive an ELT code or letter offering them free nursery places for their child.
- If you are not eligible for the free 15 hours place for your 2 or 3 year old child, we do have to option for parents to pay for some nursery sessions. They are £18 per 3 hour session.
- **NEW ... 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 too. You can apply for the eligibility code on this website – free childcare for 2 year olds www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Dates for your diary – Spring Term 2024

January

19th, 25th 26th Hearing tests for Year 1
 22nd Mole and Owl Maths parent workshop AM
 22nd Badger DT parent workshop PM
 23rd Fox and Robin Maths parent workshop AM
 23rd Hedgehog DT parent workshop PM
 24th Heron DT parent workshop PM
 25th Squirrel DT parent workshop PM
 26th 'Animal Man' visit for Year 1 children
 31st Parent consultations

February

5th Reception Valentines Disco 3:15-4:15
 6th Year 1 Valentines Disco 3:15-4:15
 6th Safer Internet Day
 7th Year 2 Valentines Disco 3:15-4:15
 8th Nursery and Rainbow Valentines Disco 3:15-3:50
9th Break up from school
February Half Term Holidiay
19th Children return to school
 19th Easter Raffle begins in school
 27th Robin and Fox Phonic parent workshop
 28th Mole and Owl Phonic parent workshop

March

4th World Book week
 7th World Book day – details to follow
 7th and 8th Drama workshop in school
 8th International Women's Day
 8th Science Fizz Pop Assembly for children
 18th Heron Class parent assembly 9:00am
 19th Squirrel Class parent assembly 9:00am
 20th Badger Class parent assembly 9:00am
 21st Hedgehog Class parent assembly 9:00am
 21st Poetry Day
22nd Spring Term Ends
Easter School Holiday

Children return to school on Monday 8th April

*****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