



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



Moat Farm Infant School

Newsletter February 2024

Thank you to all the parents who have been attending our workshops lately. I hope that you have found them useful. We held our Spring Term Parent Consultations recently. It was lovely to see you all and I hope that you were pleased and found the meeting informative.

Don't let Measles, Mumps and Rubella into your child's life

Although most children in Sandwell are fully vaccinated, there has been a significant drop in the number of parents and carers getting their children vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella. Measles is very contagious and can be quite unpleasant. It can even cause very serious complications, even in otherwise fit and healthy people.

Vaccinations remain the best defence against infection. The MMR vaccine is safe and effective. We require two doses of the MMR vaccination so it's very important that children attend their routine vaccination appointments.

If any have been missed for any reasons, GP surgeries can be contacted to book a vaccine appointment. It's never too late to catch up and you're never too old to get MMR vaccines.

Dr Lisa McNally, Director of Public Health at Sandwell said: "To protect themselves, their siblings and the wider community we need to have 95% of people vaccinated with MMR. Measles is a dangerous disease and the more people who have the MMR vaccine, the safer we all are".

Mrs Walker

Birthday Book

*has kindly donated this book
to the class.*

Don't forget when it is your child's birthday you can donate a book – something for the class to keep rather than sweets. Ask your teacher for more information.

Donations required:

**If you have finished with comics or annuals
please can we use them in our new library?**



Collins Big Cat e-book library

Children now have access to over 1500 levelled e-books at school and at home with the Big Cat e-book library. Easy to access and use, the e-book library is perfect for children to practise reading books at the right level at home.

We have introduced Big Cat e-books across Reception and KS1 so that children can use decodable books when reading at home. Parents have been able to attend a workshop to use Big Cat with their children. Further 'drop-in' opportunities will be available for parents to get support from school with reading with their children.

School Values

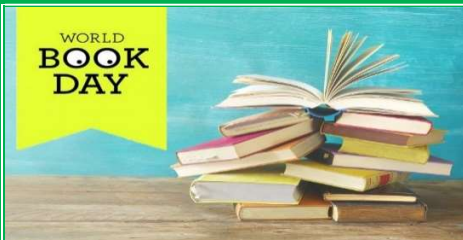
Our school motto is 'At Moat Farm Infants everyday; we learn, achieve, have fun and play!' Our school has 6 core values: **Collaboration, Respect, Creativity, Perseverance, Caring and Reflectiveness**. So far this school year we have focused on Collaboration, Respect and Creativity. In the next Spring term we will be focusing on:

Perseverance

To show we persevere we need to show:

- We don't give up
- We try our very best
- We are not afraid to make mistakes

We learn from our mistakes, even when things are difficult



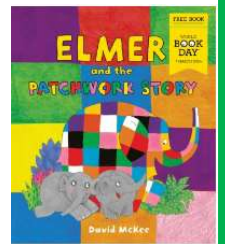
World Book Week 4th – 8th March 2024

You will be shortly receiving a letter detailing some of the lovely things the children will be doing next term during World Book Week.

There will be a range of story time and book activities, we will be holding the book fair and there will be an *extreme reader* competition.

We are also lucky to have a drama workshop facilitated by an outside drama group. How exciting!

Parents will be asked to volunteer to be secret readers at story time and are invited into classrooms to read with their children before school. The children may bring in their own favourite books or comics to read in class.



On World Book Day – Thursday 7th March – we would like the children to wear bright colours, in recognition of Elmer the Patchwork Elephant.

Christmas Fair update

The final fundraising figure was an incredible £2,036.50.

A massive thank you to Mrs Mistry (Rabbit Class teacher) for her family's personal donations of gifts, bottles of alcohol, cash and therapy/beauty sessions to our fair – especially for the wonderful books from Monica Mistry at Watkins Publishing <https://watkinspublishing.com/>

Reminders

- **Parking:** May we 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.
- **Reporting absence:** If your child is absent from school please telephone the school office on each day of absence, choose Option 1 to report the absence, or Option 2 to speak to the school office. Please ensure that you state your child's name and class and the reason for the absence.
- **Ordering school meals:** Thank you to all the parents who consistently order their child's meals on our new system. However, we do have a small number of families who are not ordering meals, please make sure you pre-order your child's school meals on the Relish website. If your child has no pre-order then they will only have the option of a jacket potato. A new menu will be live soon for the Spring term.

Lottie – our school dog



Friendly February 2024

MONDAY



5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour

12 Focus on being kind rather than being right

19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing

26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones

TUESDAY



6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while

13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day

20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun

27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them

WEDNESDAY



7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others

14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you

21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them

28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today

THURSDAY

1 Send a message to let someone know you're thinking of them

8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust

15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message

22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today

29 Acknowledge someone's problem or pain rather than trying to fix it

FRIDAY

2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently

9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you

16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help

23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise

SATURDAY

3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone

10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them

17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life

24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them

SUNDAY

4 Invite a friend over for a 'tea break' (in person or virtual)

11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost

18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself

25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



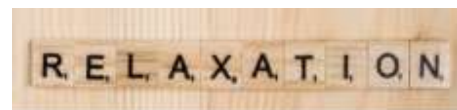
The NINE most important minutes of your child's day

- ♥ The first 3 mins after they wake up
- ♥ The first 3 mins after nursery/school
- ♥ The last 3 mins before bed

CALM MINDS
HAPPY HEARTS

Relaxation Activity: The Shoulder Shrug

- Ask your child to sit or stand in a comfortable position.
- Ask them to breathe in and lift their shoulders towards their ears. Hold this position.
- Then they are going to breathe out with a big sigh and release their shoulders.
- Repeat three times

Random Act of Kindness day – Friday 17th February

It's Random Acts of Kindness Day on Friday 17th February and we want to know how you're celebrating!

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation says that acts of kindness can include "just about anything" and that no gesture is too small.

Research shows that helping others can be beneficial to our own mental health. It can reduce stress, improve our emotional wellbeing and even benefit our physical health.

Today, why not take action within your schools, workplaces and local neighbourhoods to help people and communities thrive? It's so important to look after each other within our communities. This is how we protect and sustain good mental health for all.



School Nursery Places

Applications are now being taken for September 2024, January 2025 and April 2025. Registration forms are available at 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. From September 2024 sessions will cost £25 for 3 hours.
- **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

[Family Information Service Hub \(sandwell.gov.uk\)](http://sandwell.gov.uk)



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

As we approach the end of Spring 1, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the great attendance we have had here at Moat Farm Infant School. Since Christmas our whole school attendance has been 94.5%. Regular attendance is crucial for the progress and success of our children, and I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all of you for prioritising education and ensuring that your child is present and engaged in their learning journey.

The effects of being late or being absent regularly

Being late to school on a regular basis can have social implications, result in lower attainment and disrupt other pupils learning. Children who have high attendance and punctuality rates make better progress in their learning. This is evident in our school.

Every minute counts: The school gates open early each morning and children are able to enter classes from 8.30am. The entry doors close at 8.50am and the registers are taken. This gives families a 20 minute window to get children into school on time for the start of the school day. Any child arriving late needs to be brought to the main school office by a parent/carers and signed in on the late door system.

Persistent Absence

You should have received your child's attendance to date at your recent parent consultation meeting. If your child's attendance has fallen to 90% or below, this is considered by the Government to be '**persistently absence from school**'. Over the year 90% attendance mean your child has missed 19 days off school, that is nearly 4 weeks of school.

It may be that you will be asked to provide medical evidence to enable school to authorise any further absences this academic year. We hope this will help to improve your child's attendance however where no improvement is seen then school will refer parents/carers to Sandwell School Attendance Team for further interventions to encourage good attendance at school.

Eid

We understand that Eid is an important religious festival for many of our families and it is coming up soon. As some of our children and families will be observing and celebrating on this day. Children who are absent from school for Eid will have one day authorised for religious observance.



Valentine Discos



It was lovely to see so many children attend the Valentine Discos. The children looked fabulous in their party clothes and they loved having a 'boogie' on the dance floor. The children finished off their disco with crisps, biscuits and squash. Thank you to the staff for providing such a lovely experience for the children.

Dates for your diary – Spring Term 2024

February

19th Children return to school
19th Easter Raffle begins in school
22nd Makaton session for parents
26th Robin and Fox Phonic parent workshop
27th Mole and Owl Phonic parent workshop

March

4th World Book week – Book fair in school
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
21st Hedgehog Class parent assembly 9:00am
21st Poetry Day
22nd Badger Class parent assembly 9:00am **(Change of date)**
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

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?

Greetings to the wonderful Moat Farm Infants family! My name is Tanu Batra, and I have joined the school governing body as a parent governor in 2022. I am the Governor supporting PHS and History at Moat Farm.



My Background

I am an overseas qualified dentist with five years of experience in training and teaching dental students in India, currently pursuing further training to make my way into field of dentistry in the UK. Alongside this pursuit, I currently hold the position of Practice Manager at my husband's accountancy practice. In this capacity, I manage employees and oversee various administrative functions, ensuring the efficient and effective operation of our professional endeavors.

Why do I like being a governor?

Joining Moat Farm Infants governing body has provided me with a wonderful opportunity to be actively involved in the academic system here in the UK. I am eager to contribute to the school community, drawing from my experiences in education and my genuine dedication to the growth and development of our children. As a parent governor, my goal is to bring a fresh perspective and a wealth of knowledge to the governance of Moat Farm Infants. I believe that a collaborative approach, where parents and educators work hand in hand, fosters an environment where every child can thrive. I look forward to serving and learning alongside each of you.

