

Moorlands Primary School

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Nurturing values and communication

Newsletter March 2026

www.moorlandsprimarysch.co.uk



Moorlands Family Farewells

This term we have said goodbye to two members of staff. Mrs Wilding, a Learning Support Practitioner, has retired, she has worked at Moorlands for over 34 years supporting children from Reception to Year 6. We wish her well and hope she has many travels planned. Mr Bingham, caretaker, is also retiring, he has worked at Moorlands for 12 years. We wish both them well and hope they enjoy the next steps of their journey.

Easter Events:

Thank you for attending the Easter bonnet parade for Little Learners, Reception, Year 1 and 2, the bonnets were very creative and showcased the talent that yourself and your child has. This is always a favourite event and the children enjoyed showing off their designs. The Easter scenes were just as stunning, so many different ways to display from school related scenes to their favourite films. I hope you had time to look at the scenes this morning.

School Values:

The summer term value is perseverance. Part of the learning journey at school is about finding learning challenging and learning strategies to overcome the problem so that we can grow in our learning and understanding. This is such an important quality to embrace as this will help your child as they grow and is a quality that prospective employers look for. We will be discussing with the children in assembly that failure is on the path to success, getting things wrong is part of the learning journey.

Advance notice

Year 6 Events – July 2026

Year Six's Leavers Disco - Friday 10th July 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm.

Leaver's afternoon tea celebration – Thursday 16th July - 1.45 pm. This will be a time for us to celebrate Year Six's achievements and a chance for parents and pupils to say a farewell to the Leavers of 2026

Year 6 Leavers performance – Tuesday 14th July and Wednesday 15th July in the afternoon – start time 1.45 pm.



Holiday Activities free for Free School Meal pupils. Look out for your HAF code and book at: <https://holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk/>



"Every individual matters.
Every individual has a role to play.
Every individual makes a difference"

- Jane Goodall, Primatologist /
Anthropologist
www.neurodiversityweek.com

Neurodiversity
Celebration
Week



Public Speaking Competition:

On Friday 13th March, two of our pupils went to the Council House with other local Wednesbury schools and performed their speech on 'Social Media ban for the under 16s – discuss', to the judges who were: The Mayor, Head of Wodensborough and Pauline Hatton who works in the Wednesbury libraries. All of the pupils were so articulate and passionate about what they said. The winner of the Year 3 and 4 competition went to Priory Primary School. The **winner for the Year 5 and 6** was **Moorlands Primary School, Esme**, spoke so clearly and engaged the audience – congratulations to her and we now have another trophy to show for this.

Netball Tournament:

Children in Year 5 and 6 attended a Wednesbury school mixed netball tournament. They have been practising their skills for weeks at dinner time and break time. The children who attended represented Moorlands well, displaying our school values. In the end they came seventh.



Friends of Moorlands events:

Thank you for supporting the Spring term events that Friends of Moorlands have organised. The Alice in Wonderland was magical, children and adults got immersed 'in painting the roses red'. The Mother's Day Sale allowed children the chance to practice their Maths skills, counting out money and working out the change. Thank you goes to all the members of Friends of Moorlands who volunteer their time to make these events successful.

Summer term events planned: Friday 12th June – Father/ Carer's Day Sale, a child only event. (Items will be on sale from 50p to £5.00.)

Monday 13th July, based on the success of last year's Colour Run, we will be doing another for parents/carers and children. If you are interested in helping Friends of Moorlands the next meeting is Friday 17th April at 9.00 am.



Cricket opportunities

For 6 weeks on a Monday, children in Years 3 to 6 will have the opportunity to learn cricket skills. Chance to Shine which is a funded organisation which aims to encourage children to take part in cricket will be teaching each Key Stage 2 class. Please ensure that your children have their P.E. kit in school on a Monday.

Swimming:

Summer term swimming is for Year 4 on a Tuesday, this is a vital life skill. Please make sure you remove any earrings and that long hair is tied back.

OPAL

Moorlands has started the OPAL programme, this is a 2 year programme whereby we will transforming our outdoor areas. The aim is that we will be providing children with high quality, sustainable outdoor learning opportunities which develops the children socially and creatively. There will be letters to follow to explain how you can support us with this venture.



Parking in Winchester road and surrounding streets

Please be considerate of others and residents when parking by the school. This half term, we have had numerous complaints from residents about their drives being blocked or that they are unable to reverse off their drive. Thank you.



SATS week

Year 6 will be completing their Key Stage 2 SATs assessments the week of Monday 11th May until 14th May. It is important that your child is in school for these assessments.

E-Safety Workshop

On Monday 20th April PC Shendy Blakemore will be doing an E-Safety workshop for Year 6 pupils and parents at 2.00 pm

Dates for the diary:

Monday 13th April 8.40 am pupils return to school. Chance to Shine Cricket – Years 3-6, P.E. kits needed

Wednesday 22nd April Safari Park Years 4 and 5

Monday 4th May May Day

Monday 11th – Thursday 14th May SATS week for Year 6

Monday 18th May Frank Chapman Parents meeting 3.20 pm

Friday 22nd May School breaks up for half term at 3.10 pm

Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May Half term

Training Days:

Friday 3rd July

Monday 20th July

NEURODIVERGENT COFFEE AFTERNOON

Moorlands Primary School

Join us for a relaxed and welcoming afternoon designed for parents and carers of neurodivergent children.

Monday 13th April

1:45 PM

- A friendly, informal coffee afternoon
- A short session with a member of the Inclusion Support team
- Working with your child to capture pupil voice

This is a great opportunity to connect, share experiences, and gain helpful insights in a supportive environment.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Parent Governor:

Mrs Joanne Gray, who has a child in Reception, will be joining the Governing Body as a parent governor. We warmly welcome her and look forward to her contribution to Moorlands.

Moorlands Superstar:

Well done to Alistair-James Gray, in Reception, who has improved his trampoline skills and is great at doing back flips.

Child Food Safety.

Please consider the safety of the food you send in with your children.



Early years food choking hazards

Below is a table of advice on key foods for care givers who are involved with preparing and serving food for babies and young children (under 5 years old)

Vegetable and fruits	Advice
Pips or stones in fruit	Always check beforehand and remove hard pips or stones from fruit.
Small fruits	Cut small round fruits like grapes, cherries, berries, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, into small pieces: cut lengthways and then again cut them in halves (quarters).
Large fruits and firm fruits	Cut large fruits like melon and firm fruits like apple into slices instead of small chunks. For very young children, consider grating or mashing firm fruits, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Vegetables	Cut vegetables like carrots, cucumber and celery into narrow batons. For very young children consider grating or mashing firm vegetables and legumes like butter beans, chickpeas and tofu, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Skin on fruit and vegetables	Consider removing the skin from fruit and vegetables, especially for very young children. Peeled fruit and vegetables can be swallowed more easily.
Cooking fruit and vegetables	Consider softening firm fruit and vegetables (such as carrots, broccoli, yam and apples) by steaming or simmering until soft. Serve cut into slices or narrow batons.
Meat and fish	Advice
Sausages and hot dogs	Cut sausages and hot dogs into short strips. Cut them in half and then lengthways or as thinly as possible. Peeling the skin off the sausages helps them to be swallowed more easily.
Meat or fish	Remove bones from meat or fish. Cut meat into strips as thinly as possible. Remove skin and fat from meat and fish, it will help the food pass smoothly down the throat.
Cheese	Advice
Grate or cut cheese	Grate or cut cheese into short strips. Cut lumps of cheese as narrow as possible.
Nuts and seeds	Advice
Chop or flake whole nuts	Chop or flake whole nuts, peanuts and seeds. Whole nuts should not be given to children under five years old.
Bread	Advice
White bread and other breads	White bread can form a ball shape with a dough-like texture at the back of a child's throat, if not chewed properly. Brown bread or toasted white bread are good alternatives. Cut bread, chapatis, naan bread and other breads into narrow strips.
Snacks and other foods	Advice
Popcorn	Do not give babies and young children popcorn.
Chewing gum and marshmallows	Do not give babies and young children chewing gum or marshmallows.
Peanut butter	Do not give babies and young children peanut butter on its own, only use as a spread.
Jelly cubes	Do not give babies and young children raw jelly cubes.
Boiled sweets and ice cubes	Do not give babies and young children boiled, hard, gooey, sticky or cough sweets, or ice cubes.
Raisins and other dried fruits	Do not give babies under the age of 1 whole raisins or dried fruits. Cut them into small pieces.

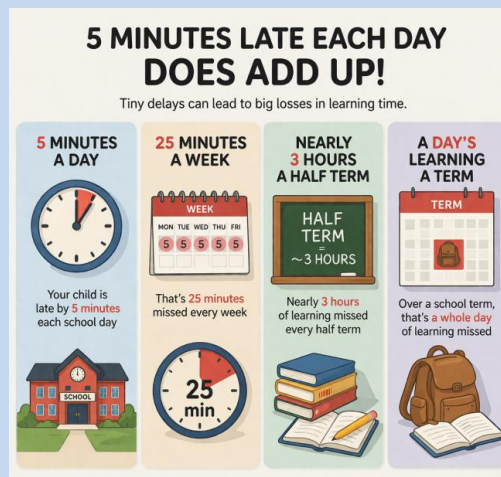
Attendance changes for the summer term:

It is really important that you child attends school every day as missed days means missed learning opportunities, gaps in learning and opportunities to build relationships with peers. In the last newsletter lateness was highlighted as being a focus in school.

Summer term changes:

Lateness letters and Percentage Absence letters:

If your child is late into school, which means that they are not in the building by 9 am, they were will registered as late. To encourage punctuality if your child has 6 lates over the next term, parents / carers will receive a letter to attend a meeting to look at how we can work together to support arriving on time. When a child is late, this can be anxious for the child as the class is already settled and could have started learning. For example, if your child arrives late, they miss the morning challenge, ordering of the school dinners, if done in school and could be the start of the lesson.



Attendance:

A whole school focus this year is to increase our attendance so that we are closer to the National Average. Initiatives in school have been Extra Play Monday – if 100% of the class have been in. Pupils have enjoyed the extra physical exercise opportunity. Golden Ticket on a Friday, the pupils love the anticipation of whether their chair will have the golden ticket underneath and are respectful and happy for the winning pupil in their class. Pupils have also had the opportunity of winning the £100 voucher if your child's attendance is between 97-100%. In the second draw, a Year 5 pupil won, 110 pupils were in this draw. **To be in with a chance to win, all you have to do is attend school every day.**

Spring attendance up to is: 93.6%

Each winning class of the week also receives £5.00 so that in the summer term, pupils can decide what they would like to do with the money as a class.

Current standings are:

Reception - £10.00

Year 1 - £15.00

Year 2 - £10.00

Year 3 - £10.00

Year 4 - £55.00

Year 5 - £20.00

Year 6 - £10.00

Is your child's attendance below?

Below 96%



If your child's attendance is below 96% you will receive a letter letting you know that this is being monitored and you will have your child's attendance profile attached so that you are informed of when these absences are.

If you have had a Leave of Absence, we are aware of the unauthorised absence but it is important that you understand the impact this could have on your child's overall absence for the term / year.

Below 95%



If your child's attendance is below 95% you will receive a letter letting you know that this a concern and you will be asked to attend a meeting so that we can work together to support attendance and identify reasons for the absence.

Below 93%

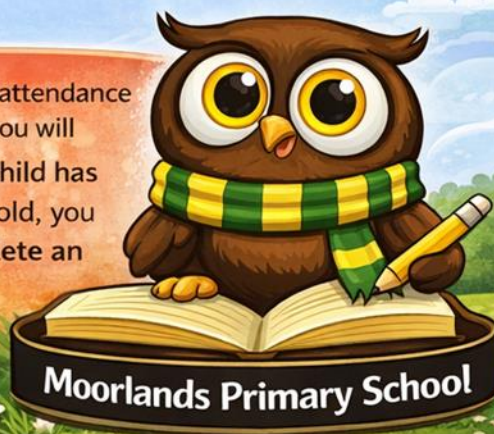


If your child's attendance is below 93% you will receive a letter letting you know that this is a concern and you will be asked to attend a meeting to complete an Attendance Support Plan so that we can work together to support attendance.

Below 90%



If your child's attendance is below 90% you will receive a letter letting you know that your child has now reached the persistent absence threshold, you will be asked to attend a meeting and complete an Attendance Contract which will need reviewing every 2 weeks.



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