

Newsletter No 1. 1st September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of all the staff and governors, I welcome you back to the start of the new school year. I hope you have all had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday with your families and feel refreshed and ready for the Autumn Term. We are also delighted to meet our new Reception children and families.

Fruit for snack time

Children in Robins and Sparrows will receive a piece of fruit provided by the school at snack time each morning, as part of the government free fruit initiative for children in year groups R, 1 and 2. Children in Magpies and Kestrels should bring their own fruit. [fruit only please]

Dates for Your Diary

Diary dates for the whole school year are now published on our school website under "News and Events-Diary Dates 2026-2027". You may notice that we have decided to bring sports day forwards this year to avoid the hottest part of the school year. You will be notified of any changes to the diary dates with as much notice as possible, should they occur. We try to keep any changes to a minimum.

School website and Facebook Page

For those parents new to the school, and as a reminder to all other parents, I keep the website updated on a very regular basis with photos of events happening in school. Most of these are located within the purple "News and Events-Gallery of Events" section or the red "Curriculum – Visits and Visitors" page. I also regularly update the school Facebook page with what we have been doing. Take a look!

Secondary school transfer test

Children in Year 6 will sit the 11+ test on the morning of Thursday 10th September. They will also sit a practise test on Tuesday 8th September. Those children opting not to take the test, will remain with the Year 5 children as normal in class. It is important that all Year 6 children arrive punctually on these mornings as the tests will take place straight after registration. Results will be sent to parents after 4pm on Friday 9th October.

Sports Competitions/Extra curricular clubs and opportunities

We are delighted to announce that as part of our commitment to provide competitive sporting opportunities for all year groups, and to provide our children with the social benefits of mixing with larger numbers of pupils from other schools, we will once again be participating in a range of inter school sporting competitions, including the Royal Latin School competitions for both KS1 and KS2, the Independent schools' cross country events and the district athletics. We are the only primary school in the Buckingham area to participate in all these competitions, as we know our children benefit so much from taking part. Last year, as the smallest school competing, we achieved great success! We are awaiting a response from S4A as to whether they will be running their sports festival programme this year, as they are currently gathering interest, I have indicated that we would like to take part. [This affects the events that take place at Buckingham Primary. Those occurring at the Latin, will be going ahead regardless]. Details will be sent to relevant year groups throughout the year.

S4A offer after school clubs from Monday-Thursday each week. These are open to all children, not just those needing wrap around care. They are booked directly through S4A. Staff run lunchtime clubs will also continue to run on rotation during the year. Mrs Teckoe is continuing to run her private venture, "Primart" for children in Y2 and above after school on Fridays. She is currently full but please contact her via email for more information: primartparty@gmail.com

House System

Our new children have all been allocated to one of our 4 houses, with siblings placed in the same house:

Shamrock-Elara, Lucy, Edmund, Gianluca

Daffodil-George, Daisy, Finley, Arabella

Thistle-Emma, Otilya, Tilly, Joshua

Rose– Sophia, Sonny, Mia.

For those of you new to Maids Moreton, our House system promotes a sense of friendly competition. Being part of a house also encourages a sense of belonging and pride, and provides our older pupils with the opportunity to support the younger ones, thereby learning the responsibility of becoming a good role model. Children are able to gain house points for many different academic and wider social achievements, as well as taking part in various inter house competitions throughout the year.

Children in our Kestrels class, are invited to stand for election as house captains. Each house has 2 captains. Details of the house elections, due to take place on 16th September, were sent to Kestrels' parents just before the Summer break.
The winning house for last half term was Rose House. Children in Years 1-6 are invited to dress in their house colours on Friday 4th September. Please dress suitably for PE if this is a PE day for your class.

Book Bags.

Please can I remind all parents not to put water bottles in book bags, as they have a tendency to leak causing irreversible damage to the books inside. Also, children should not attach soft toys, bulky key rings and other large trinkets to their book bags. Some are so large and numerous that it is difficult to fit the bookbags in the children's trays. In some instances, the weight of the attachments on the book bag handles is preventing them from shutting. Whilst we appreciate that is it helpful for our EYFS and Key Stage 1 children to have a small identifying feature on their book bag, this should be in the singular, and no larger or bulkier than the size of a small key ring. Children in Year 3 and above should not have any attachments on their book bags. Thank you for your support.

Arrival/Collection Arrangements

Could I please remind all parents who drop their children off by car, not to park on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school or on the bend at the top of Avenue Road. As part of our School Travel Plan we operate a "park and walk" facility. Parents who do not live within walking distance of the school are encouraged to park outside the church or at Maids Moreton Playing Fields car park. Both facilities are less than 5 minutes walking distance from school. We will send a walk to school map home for our new children. We also have a secure bike shelter for children who wish to cycle or scoot to school.

PTA

Here at Maids Moreton, we are fortunate to have a small but enthusiastic PTA who work with such energy and commitment to support the children's education in so many ways and provide vital fundraising for the school. Last year, the money raised funded the new outdoor fixed play equipment, membership of the sports partnership, the PTA experience days, the leavers' gifts and the Year 3 and 4 swimming lessons.

The PTA work hard to provide a range of fundraising opportunities and events. New parents are automatically "members", so please do come along to the first meeting. [Thursday 17th September at 7.30pm]. I would like to take this opportunity to thank last year's committee, for their contribution to the school.

Meet the Teacher sessions

In September we will be hosting "meet the teacher" sessions for parents from each class in their respective classrooms. The dates are as follows: Sparrows: Monday 7th, Magpies: Friday 11th and Kestrels: Friday 18th. All meetings will take place in the classrooms between 2.50pm-3.20pm. NB The parents of children in Robins class will receive a home visit instead of a meet the teacher session. We will also send out a termly curriculum forecast for each class, which outline details of the curriculum to be covered this term and other important information. These, alongside our detailed Knowledge Organisers, will also be available to view on the school website.

We also hold a phonics meeting for Reception [Robins] parents at the start of term. This will take place on Thursday 24th September at 2.50pm in the Reception classroom.

School lunches

Please may we request that the parents of our younger children, select a menu option they know they would like to eat. Every year, we have small number of children who get very distressed at lunch time, unwilling to eat the lunch ordered. Whilst we can encourage them to try the food, we cannot force them eat it. Please consider an alternative option on the menu or provide your child with a packed lunch in these circumstances. Many thanks. Just a reminder to all parents that all children will need a packed lunch on 2nd September, 23rd October and 2nd November due to BMA inset days. Also, the deadline for ordering lunches for the w/c 7th September is 1st September.

School Nut Policy

Just a quick reminder regarding our school Nut Policy. We request that parents do not send food to school that contain nuts. This includes all types of nuts, peanut butter/paste, nutella and food containing nuts. Our hot meal providers also operate a no nut policy to the food they provide to our school. We have a child in school with a severe nut allergy so I would like to take this opportunity to remind the whole school community of the need to avoid nut products.

Attendance

At Maids Moreton, we pride ourselves on excellent pupil attendance. We have once again bucked the national trend, meeting the expected school attendance target of 96% for the academic year 2025-2026 with an overall school figure of 96.64%. This is to be commended and is in no small part thanks to the support of the vast majority of our parents.

Schools are required to track and analyse the individual attendance of all pupils on a termly basis and take action where required.

For the academic year 2025-2026-

74 of our children met or exceeded the 96% target

25 of pupils had attendance between 90% and 95.9%

6 of pupils had attendance below 90%

Attendance of less than 90% is categorized as persistent absenteeism, requiring significant improvement. This means that a child has missed the equivalent of 4 or more weeks of school during the academic year. Anything less than 95% is categorized as a cause for concern, that requires improvement, as the child has missed the equivalent of 2-4 weeks of school over the year.

Low levels of attendance produce gaps in education and make it hard for children to meet age group expectations and keep up with their peers both socially and academically.

We write to the parents of those children who fall in the persistent absentee category, where there is not a term on term improvement, or significant extenuating circumstances.

At the beginning of a new school year, may I also take the opportunity to refresh parents about the school's attendance policy. We are unable to authorise absences for family holidays taken during the school term time or isolated days off e.g.for birthdays or long weekends away. At the end of the Summer term, we always allocate a number of INSET days, allowing parents to take advantage of a more cost effective and earlier get away, before other schools have broken up. For example, this year, the children's last day was Friday 17th July, with 3 INSET days on the following Monday - Wednesday. We therefore do not expect children to leave during the week before to go on holiday.

We have also noticed a small number of families regularly not attending the last Friday [all day or afternoon] before half term holidays. The learning in classes continues until the close of the school day and those children who leave early, miss the end of half term topics, and the crucial final lesson of the block of teaching.

Any days off, or holiday taken during term time will be shown as an unauthorised absence on your child's records and could incur fines, issued by Buckinghamshire council. We appreciate that the holiday industry increase costs significantly outside term times. As staff who work in a school, we are well aware of the financial implications! Whilst we appreciate that the vast majority of parents respect our policy, I would ask all parents to consider carefully their holiday arrangements mindful of the negative impact it has on your child's education. Due to the structure of the curriculum, if a child misses a full week of school, they may well miss a vital block of their lifelong learning, particularly in subjects such as maths, English and phonics. It is especially important to avoid May and June, as these are the times when the internal and external end of year assessments take place. When children miss these, they tend to perform less well when doing the tests on their own, after a period of absence from school, when their learning is less fresh.

If your child is poorly, we request you let the school know as early as possible, by parentmail or by telephone, using the answering service if no-one is available to take your call. We have a guide on our school website, from the NHS, indicating the recommended amount of absence for common childhood illnesses. If your child is not present for morning registration, the school office staff will telephone you if we have not received an explanatory message.

An attendance guide for parents can be found on our school website. We aim this year, to work towards eliminating any persistent absenteeism, and ensuring as many children as possible reach the required 96% target. Thank you for your support.

Whole class reading texts for KS2

Please can I remind all parents to ensure your child brings their copy of the whole class reading text to school ready for the first day of term. Details of the texts required were sent out during the holidays.

The school day

Just a reminder that all children should be lined up on the playground ready to come in at 8.50am and we will be ready to picked up at 3.20pm. If your child is in Year 6, and your arrangements have changed for the days they walk to or from school independently, please let us know.

Uniform

Thank you for your continuing support regarding school uniform. Visitors often comment that our children look very smart indeed! Until October half term, children can choose to wear their Summer or Winter uniform depending on the weather. Please could we request that all items, including PE kit, are clearly named, so that any lost items can be quickly returned to the rightful owners. We have a lost property box located in the lobby between the Kestrels and Magpies classrooms. From October half term onwards, all children also require wellies to access the Forest School's area and to go on the field at playtimes and lunchtimes. Children should come in PE kit on the days they have PE. [Friday for Robins, Tuesday and Friday for Sparrows, Monday and Wednesday for Kestrels and Wednesday and Friday for Magpies]. Sun hats are also required during hot weather.

School visits

We plan visits which take place over the school year. The timing of these visits coincides with what the children are learning at that particular moment, and are used to enhance and enrich the children's experiences within the curriculum. There are quite a number of visits planned for the first half of the Autumn term. Parents in Sparrows, Magpies and Kestrels have received separate letters about these visits prior to the Summer break.

New Parents Afternoon Tea

Just a reminder, that this informal event will take place on Friday 25th September from 2.30m-3pm in the school hall. We do hope you can join us for a cuppa and a chat.

Policies

During the Summer break I have updated a number of school polices, all of which can be found on our school website. These include the latest PSHE and Relationships and Sex Education Policy, the Special Educational Needs Policy and the Child Protection Policy.

We look forward to another successful year at Maids Moreton, working in close partnership with our families.

Best wishes Keira Ainsworth Head Teacher, September 2026