

MOORLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Together We Can...

13th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,



Reading to your children at Home – Why it's so important.

Talking about the lifelong love of learning is why reading is important from an early age. When children learn to read at an early age, they have greater general knowledge, a wider range of vocabulary, they are more fluent readers, and they have improved attention spans and better concentration.

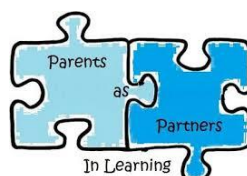
Listening to your children read as well as sharing a bedtime story with them is one of the simplest and actually most relaxing ways that parents can support their child's development, whatever their age. Children from nursery up to Year 6 and beyond love sharing a book. It's an opportunity to discover magical worlds and to really ignite their imagination. Children aged 0 – 2 years love looking at picture books and listening to their parent tell them about the pictures. It helps them develop their speaking and listening from an early age and creates a real bond between you and your child.

The position of reading as a staple of entertainment and relaxation is challenged by hectic family lives, lack of time and some parents' perception that reading to their child is a chore. It can also often take a backseat to screen time. And there is too much emphasis placed on reading as a skill and not as a pleasure.

We want to help you overcome that perception. So, as winter approaches and the evenings get darker earlier, why not snuggle under a blanket and discover a whole new world when you share a book with your child. It might only be for 10 or 15 minutes each day, but as you see your child's reading improve, your child will thank you forever.

Parents Consultation appointments

Parent consultation appointments will be held between 6th – 17th November. Your child's class teacher will be in touch after half term to agree a convenient day and time. They are really looking forward to sharing your child's progress and learning with you. We really value your support and partnership - Together we can help your child reach their full potential!



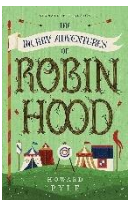
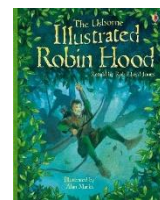
Our RESPECT values: *Resilience, Equity, Self-Awareness, Passion, Empathy, Communication, Teamwork*

Robin Hood Came to Moorland Primary School

M&M put on a wonderful performance of Robin Hood on Thursday and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as you can imagine they were totally engrossed in this amazing performance!



Why not visit the library and borrow a Robin hood book to read at home?



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Singing After School Club - Tuesdays

We have places available for children from Year 3 to Year 6 to join our Singing After School Club on Tuesdays, 3pm – 4pm. It costs £2 per week. You can call or email the school office:

moorlandclubs@moorlandprimaryschool.co.uk, if your child is interested. The children sing lots of modern pop songs and classics so why not give it a try? Please remember that your child must want to join in, but we thought you might be interested in knowing about some of the benefits of singing in a group:



- 🎵 Musicality- Its official, singing in a choir improves the way you hear music, it draws out your innate musical ability and intensifies your appreciation of harmony. ...
- 🎵 Mental Health...
- 🎵 Confidence...
- 🎵 Belonging...
- 🎵 Aerobic and toning

But more than all that, it's **FUN!** So, why not ask your child and see what they think about joining their friends who are already part of our Singing Club.

Year 6 - Applying for Secondary School for September 2024

We know that our Year 6 families will have been busy going to the Open Days of Secondary Schools, but here is just a reminder that the deadline for applications for a Secondary School place in September 2024 is **31st October**. Our Year 6 parents have received a separate letter with the links to the Citizen Portal to make their on-line application. If you have not yet submitted your application, then please don't delay and maximise your child's chances of getting a place in their preferred School.

Starting School for the First Time in September 2024

Children who are in nursery and were born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 must apply for a school place now, ready for September 2024. Although the deadline for applications is **15th January**, don't delay – apply on line by the end of November, then you can relax and forget about it.

In England, every parent must apply for a place for their child even if it's linked to the child's current nursery. Maximise your chance of getting your preferred school place place by doing the following:



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Apply on Time

- The Closing date is 15th January 2024 (starting school for the first time)
- Any applications received after this date will be processed after the National Offer day
- A late application means you are less likely to get any of your preferences
- Notification of places offered will be made on 16th April 2024 (unless your application is late).

Apply On-line

- You can only apply on-line at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schooladmissions before 15th January 2024
- You will be able to view, update, submit and check the status of your application through the Citizen Portal
- Notification of the place will be quicker and your application will be secure
- You will be able to log in on 16th April to view the School that has been allocated

Use all four preferences

- You could disadvantage yourself if you do not use your opportunity to express a preference for four schools
- Each preference is considered in its own right, so give yourself four separate chances, the schools do not know the order of your preferences.
- **If more than one school is able to offer your child a place, the order of preference is important, so ensure you list the schools in the order you want them to be considered.**

Choose Wisely

- Understand the School's allocation and oversubscription criteria. This is how all the applications will be ranked.
- Don't assume that you will be allocated a place at your catchment school, if you don't state it as one of your preferences
- Don't assume your child will get priority just because they attend a nursery class attached to your preferred school.
- Consider how easy it is for you to get your child to and from school on time.



Nursery Places for children - Rising 3's and 3 Year olds

We have a limited number of Rising 3 nursery places for children to start in our nursery in the term that they celebrate their 3rd birthday; so if your child has or will celebrate their 3rd birthday between **1st Sept and 31st Dec 2023** or **1st Jan and 31st March 2024**, then come and talk to us about starting at Moorland School nursery in January 2024. If you know any families with children aged 2 – 3 years who live locally and who might be interested in joining our nursery, then encourage them to contact us. We would love to show you around and share all the wonderful ways we help your children enjoy their early years.



Dinner Menus after Half Term

When ordering school dinners for after half term, look out for the dates for special themed menus:

7 th November	Bonfire Theme menu
13 th December	Merry Christmas – join our festive celebrations



Lateness and Attendance

Next week is the final week of this half term and we would love to see a boost in attendance as all the figures dipped this week! Sadly, not one class achieved the 95% target. Come on let's try and aim for 100% next week!

Attendance for week 9th Oct



Ladybirds ~ **88.5%**



Owls ~ **92.0%**



Hedgehogs ~ **90.7%**



Squirrels ~ **92.3%**



Foxes ~ **93.0%**



Badgers ~ **88.6%**



Falcons ~ **92.5%**



Skylarks ~ **92.1%**



Whole school ~ **91.5%**

Lateness = Lost learning

A small number of children have missed a staggering **565 minutes (nearly 10 hours)** in learning time **this week!**

Please arrive at school between 8.30-8.45am





DIARY DATES:

Date	Event
Tuesday 17 th October	Deadline for ordering school meals for wk. Beginning Mon 30 th October
Tuesday 24 th October	Deadline for ordering school meals for wk. beginning Mon 6 th November
Monday 23rd October – Monday 30th October School closed for Half Term Holidays and Teacher Training Day	
Tuesday 31 st October	School Re-opens at 8.30am
Monday 6 th – Friday 17 th November	Parent consultation appointments – further information to follow
Tuesday 14 th November	Individual School Photos

Fancy Dress Disco at Moorlands Family Centre

Moorlands Family Centre are organising a fancy-dress disco for families on Sunday 29th October, 5pm – 7pm. Tickets cost £2 per person (adults and children) and must be purchased in advance. It includes refreshments - a hot dog, a drink and treats. Parents must stay and supervise their children. You can buy tickets at Moorlands Family Centre. Don't delay because places are limited. (Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter for more information)



Remember to take a look at our Community page on the website for lots more activities organised by Woughton Council

<https://www.moorlandprimaryschool.co.uk/community-events/>

Best Wishes

Mrs. Angela Garner
Headteacher



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HAPPY HALLOWEEN

ADULTS MUST ACCOMPANY CHILDREN



DISCO & FANCY DRESS PRIZES
MOORLANDS FAMILY CENTRE
29TH OCTOBER 5 TIL 7PM



£2 ADMISSION



INCLUDES HOT DOGS & TREATS

BOOKING ESSENTIAL @ MOORLANDS



MoorFriends

COMMUNITY CHOICES COMMUNITY VOICES



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