

Newsletter – December 2025

The end of 2025!

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful term we have had! The children have completed another long term of learning and should be so proud of the progress they've made and what they've achieved, both inside and outside of the classroom. We've had some wonderful opportunities within the local community including working together with all stakeholders regarding parking on the MP estate, friendly football matches and children visiting residents at the Orchard in Combe Down. The Friends of MPET have continued to develop and grow. We are excited to hear about their plans for the new year and beyond. Thank you to all of our parents/carers and family members for your support of the school and the Friends, it is shaping the MPET community into a lovely place to be.

We've loved welcoming parents/carers into school this term for Fabulous Fridays and our Winter concerts. The buzz of excitement and pride we've noticed each Friday morning has been lovely to see. We are looking forward to having parents/carers in school next term for Thrive Tuesdays (Y1-6) and Activity Sessions (EYFS).

The Senior Leadership Team

Sarah – Executive Head Teacher, Laura – Head of School, Tash – Assistant Head & SENCO

Dates for Spring Term 25/26

Monday 5 th January	First day of term 3
Tuesdays in term 3	Thrive Tuesdays – see poster below with more information
Friday 16 th January	Year 6 Leavers' Fundraising event after school
Friday 30 th January	Cookie Friday – Friends of MPET selling cookies after school
Tuesday 3 rd February	Reception Activity Morning 08:40 – 09:20am
WC 9 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 13 th February	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Monday 23 rd February	First day of term 4
Mondays in term 4	Marvellous Mondays – see poster below with more information
Friday 27 th February	Cookie Friday – Friends of MPET selling cookies after school
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March	Year 6 Leavers' Fundraising event after school
WC 9 th March	British Science Week
WC 16 th March	Neurodiversity Celebration Week
Friday 20 th March	Reception Activity Afternoon 14:30 – 15:00pm
Monday 23 rd and Wednesday 25 th March	Parents' evenings – these will be bookable via Arbor closer to the time.
Friday 27 th March	Cookie Friday – Friends of MPET selling cookies after school
April 2026	World Autism Acceptance Month
Thursday 2 nd April	Last day of term 4
Monday 20 th April	First day of term 5

Year 4 visit Holy Trinity Church in Combe Down

On Monday 1st December, Year 4 visited Holy Trinity Church to participate in their 'Christmas experience'. They found out about how some Christians celebrate Christmas, including taking part in different activities.

"We learnt about what Christians believe about Jesus. He was born in Bethlehem." Skye

"They taught us about the five advent candles. Every week, they light a different candle in the church. They represented joy, hope, love and peace. On Christmas day, they light a candle in the middle to remember the birth of Jesus." Sonny

"We learnt about the story of Christmas which is from the Bible." Eva

"The Bible is the holy book for Christians." Sonny

"We also took part in an activity where we wrote down on a piece of paper what we would give as a gift if we were one of the Three Wise Men in the story." Skye

"Also, we had to look in a room and at some clues to guess who was staying there. There were figs, pitta bread, sheep and shepherd's clothes." Eva

Thank you to Holy Trinity Church for giving our children the opportunity to explore their Belief Systems (RE) learning in such an interactive way.

KS2 Football Friendlies at St Martin's Garden Primary School

On Thursday 13th November, two teams of MPET pupils from years 3, 4, 5 and 6 went over to St Martin's Garden Primary School to compete in friendly football matches. This was the first time that MPET has had a team match outside of school. The children who represented us did us proud! Thank you to Lee, Year 6 class teacher and KS2 lead, for leading football training sessions and organising this opportunity. Thank you to Laura, Tash, Tracy and Ina for volunteering to support the teams on their walk and whilst at the matches. A huge thank you to all our MPET parents/carers and community – it was wonderful to have so many spectators. We are looking forward to more opportunities for matches in the new year.



"We scored one goal and then we conceded three goals. It was nice to play football at a different school." Theo

"It was really good. It was my first ever football match playing for the school. The team was well-balanced and we did pretty well for our first match." Nico

Year 1 and 3 visit the Egg Theatre

On Wednesday 11th December, Tiger and Sea Turtle classes went to the Egg Theatre to watch Snow Mice. The show followed the story of three intrepid adventurers on a chilly, mousey expedition to the top of the hill where they each discovered that Snow Mice exist. The show included live music, puppetry, singing, and even some snow! We are very grateful to the Egg Theatre, who provided the tickets to both classes through the Wonder Fund.



"I thought it was great because everybody was cheering and it put a smile on my face."

Grace

"It was a little bit scary when the snow mice came out of their home. Then it got so fun because they were throwing a ball at me and everybody. I threw it back to the person."

Hugo

Reception Activity Afternoon

Parents/carers and family members were invited in on Tuesday 2nd December to take part in an activity afternoon with their child. This was a lovely opportunity for parents/carers to see how their children learn through play and to play and learn together during this session. Otter class look forward to next term where there will be an activity morning on Tuesday 3rd February where parents and carers can stay after drop off between 8:40 and 9:20am.



Year 6 Visit the Life Skills Centre

On Monday 8th December, Year 6 visited the Life Skills Centre in Bristol. Life Skills is an immersive, interactive village designed to teach life-saving safety skills through realistic scenarios and exciting experiences. The children took part in guided, interactive sessions that taught them to take personal responsibility for their safety by assessing risks and managing challenging situations.



"All of the rooms are really fun. It was quite a nice experience. We learnt that you have to call the police for a lot more doing things than you think you would have to like if a ball got stuck in an electricity box." Harry

Fabulous Fridays

It has been lovely to welcome so many parents/carers and family members into our KS1 and KS2 classrooms this term. The children have loved sharing their learning with you. Thank you to those parents/carers and family members who took the time out of their busy mornings to come and look at the books with your child. In term 4, we invite parents/carers in again for Marvellous Mondays, between 14:50 and 15:10pm to spend time looking at your child's exercise books. We hope you will enjoy spending time again later in spring term and will be able to see some fantastic progress from your last visit.



Winter Concerts

On Friday 12th December, it was wonderful to see all of our children perform at our winter concerts. Thank you to Charlotte, our music teacher, and Charlotte, Year 4 class teacher, for all of their hard work during music lessons and singing assembly teaching and preparing for the concerts. We hope you enjoyed coming along, seeing your children perform and finding out what they've been learning in their music lessons and singing assemblies this term.



Year 3 visit The Orchard

On Monday 15th December, Year 3 visited the residents of The Orchard in Combe Down. As part of their Design & Technology learning this term, the children designed and baked bread, which they delivered to the residents. The children also participated in some Christmas crafting with the residents, which they loved. It's lovely to see our children out in the local community demonstrating our value of the term, kindness – well done Sea Turtles!



"There were activities on the table and then we chose one. After I finished my activity, me and Leo asked John (one of the residents) to play Jenga and he said yes." Will
"Me and Kezia picked a craft activity for a resident called Christine. We coloured in a bauble. I gave her a compliment about her decorations on her bauble." Amelie
"I did lots of fun activities like colouring wooden decorations. I did a snowflake." Kitty

Phase Discos

On Tuesday 16th December during the afternoon, all phases had a winter disco with their class and the class next door to them. The children really enjoyed the time to dance together, and it was lovely to see them showing such interesting, expressive and creative dance moves.



Recorder Club Performance

This term, recorder club put on a performance to show all of their fantastic learning! They played brilliantly and should feel so proud of themselves for the progress they have made with playing the recorder. Thank you to Becky for organising and running the recorder club – what a wonderful opportunity for the children!



Update from the Friends of MPET

As we reach the end of the term, we wanted to share a big thank you for all your support and give you a round-up of what we've been up to!

Thanks to your enthusiasm and generosity, we've had a great first autumn term of fundraising and events.

- Our highlights include: Doughnut Fridays, Autumn Disco, Red Pandas pop up, organising staff snacks, Christmas jumper sale and the Winter Concert stall
- We've had an amazing grant for the Wildlife Garden from Curo, a pledge from a Combe Down councillor and match funding support from Future Publishing
- News just in: our Great Winter Raffle raised a brilliant £1,000! All the winners have now been notified!

Together, we've raised more than £3,000 this term!

Your support is making a difference to the children and we're delighted to say that we'll be purchasing a range of outdoor play equipment in the new year, contributing to transport costs to support class school trips, contributing to the Year 6 leavers' fund for end of year activities, continuing to create the wildlife garden with a new willow dome, paving and planting coming in the spring, with more to confirm.

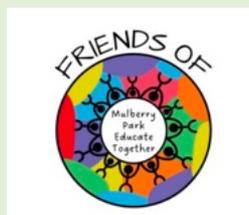
We've already started planning more community fun for next term including:

- Wine tasting event at Combe Down Rugby Club on Friday 6 March
- Cookie Fridays: 30 Jan, 27 Feb
- Spring event: Friday 27 March
- Also look out for some special Y6 fundraising events coming up!

Volunteer sign up and more details will be shared in the new year.

Finally, we'd love to hear your ideas and everyone is welcome to get involved. If you'd like to take on a fundraising activity whether a sponsored walk, organising an event or creating a fundraising challenge – we'd love to hear from you! Drop us a line at friendsofmpet@gmail.com.

Don't forget to follow us on social media if you're not already on @friendsofmpet on Instagram, Friends of Mulberry Park Educate Together on Facebook and you can join our WhatsApp group by scanning the QR code below.



Have a wonderful holiday and we'll see you in the new year!

You can find out more about Friends of MPET – a volunteer group of parents and carers who work in partnership with the school via our school website.

<https://www.mulberryparket.org.uk/parents-and-community/pta//>

“Pause before you post” awareness campaign

As we spend time with our loved ones this holiday, please take a moment to consider what you post on social media, considering the online safety of your family.

"Sharenting": The term 'sharenting' is a combination of the words 'parenting' and 'sharing' and is used to describe the practice of parents regularly sharing information, photos and videos about their children on social media and other online platforms.

Risks of Sharenting

The simple act of sharing information, photos, and videos of children online can lead to unintended oversharing of personal data, which, in the wrong hands, can have serious consequences.

Sharenting can present a number of risks, including:

- Digital footprint
- Misuse of images for harmful purposes (such as deep fakes and child sexual abuse material)
- Vulnerability to unwanted contact
- Online reputation
- Identity theft and fraud

Remember: When you share their life online, you risk sharing their personal data with the world. Pause before you post.

There is a useful blog post and video clip here for further information:

<https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/children>

Free bus travel for the Christmas holidays

This festive season, under 16's can travel for free on most buses starting in the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, of B&NES, South Gloucestershire, and Bristol from the 20th of December to the 4th of January. We hope you will be able to take advantage of this with your children and explore some different places or visit family and friends over the break.



For more information: <https://travelwest.info/bus/kids-go-free/>

Supporting Charities in Term 2

This term, we have supported two charities, demonstrating our values of respect and kindness. Firstly, we supported the Royal British Legion through the Bath Poppy Appeal 2025. Thank you for your donations and poppy purchases – MPET raised £141.08. Later this term, we were feeling inspired to support children in other countries to have their rights enabled when we learnt during our Universal Children's Day assemblies that Save the Children are one of the charities who do this around the world. Thank you for your donations to Save the Children on Christmas jumper day – MPET raised £52.00.



On behalf of all of the children and staff at MPET, we would like to wish all of our families a lovely Christmas break. We hope that our families, who celebrate Christmas, have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.





Thrive Tuesdays

Week 1 Tuesday 6th January Year 6
Week 2 Tuesday 13th January Year 5
Week 3 Tuesday 20th January Year 4
Week 4 Tuesday 27th January Year 3
Week 5 Tuesday 3rd February Year 2
Week 6 Tuesday 10th February Year 1

Join your child in their
classroom to take part in
Thrive activities between
8:40 and 9:00am.

TERM 3 2026



Come and
celebrate your
child's Learning.

Marvellous Mondays!



Join your child to look
through their books
and stick post it note
messages on your
favourite pieces.



- Week 1 Monday 23rd February - Year 1
- Week 2 Monday 2nd March - Year 2
- Week 3 Monday 9th March - Year 3
- Week 4 Monday 16th March - Year 4
- Week 5 Monday 23rd March - Year 5
- Week 6 Monday 30th March - Year 6

Come into your child's class
before pick up from 2:50 -
3:10pm.

Term 4 2026



Reception Activity sessions

Activity morning
Tuesday 3rd February
08:40 - 09:20am

Activity afternoon
Friday 20th March
14:30 - 15:00pm

Join your child in their
classroom to take part in
activities linked to their
learning.

SPRING TERM 2026



TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2025 - 2026

Sep-25						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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29	30					

Oct-25						
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Nov-25						
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Dec-25						
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Jan-26						
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Feb-26						
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Mar-26						
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Apr-26						
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May-26						
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Jun-26						
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29	30					

Jul-26						
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Aug-26						
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31						

 Bank Holiday
 Inset Day

 School Holiday
 Term Time

School will finish at the earlier time of 1.30pm on Thursday 18th December. There will be no afterschool club on this day