



Newsletter – February 2026

The start of a new year and halfway through the academic year!

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that we have now completed three of the six terms of the school year. It's been lovely to welcome in the new year with the children, sharing their dreams and goals with one another for the year ahead. We've had lots of children visiting SLT this term to share their fantastic learning and SLT have also enjoyed spending time in classes, seeing the children learn and gathering pupil voice, which helps to shape the future decisions at MPET.

We've loved welcoming parents/carers into school this term for Thrive Tuesdays and activity sessions. It's been wonderful to have so many parents/carers able to pop in during drop off and start their day completing a Thrive activity with their child. We are looking forward to having parents/carers in school next term for Marvellous Mondays (Y1-6), Activity Sessions (EYFS) and Parents' Evenings.

The Senior Leadership Team

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

Dates for Spring Term 4 and Summer Term 5 25/26

Mondays in term 4	Marvellous Mondays – see poster below with more information
Friday 27 th February	Cookie Friday and World Book Day costume swap – Friends of MPET selling cookies and costumes 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
Tuesday 10 th March	SLT / parent/carer information session: school development plan updates. 08:50 – 9:20 and 14:45 – 15:05 (the same session will run twice).
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. Friends of MPET selling refreshments.
Friday 27 th March	Donut Friday – Friends of MPET selling donuts 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
Thursdays in term 5	Thrive Thursdays – see poster below
Friday 24 th April	Donut Friday – Friends of MPET selling donuts after school
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday Monday – school closed
WC 11 th May	Year 6 SATS week
Thursday 21 st May	Year 6 enterprise event – Year 6 selling items after school
Friday 22 nd May	Donut Friday – Friends of MPET selling donuts after school
Friday 22 nd May	Last day of term 5
Monday 1 st June	First day of term 6

Staffing Updates

This term we have welcomed Hui as a lunchtime playworker to the team. She's really enjoyed getting to know the children and is a great addition to our lunchtime staff team.

This term, we say goodbye to two members of MPET staff who are both moving on to pastures new.

Carla, KS2 Learning Support Assistant (LSA), is leaving us to fulfil a lifelong ambition of starting her own business. She will begin her business course after half term. We wish her the best of luck in her new venture.

Sherrie, cleaner and after school club play worker, is leaving us to take up a cleaning position in a different setting, outside of primary education, where the working hours and commute distance are better suited for her.

We would like to thank Carla and Sherrie for their commitment, hard work and kindness they have shown within our MPET community. They will be missed but we wish them the very best in their new endeavours.

Class Updates

Each class have provided a brief update of something they've been up to this term, that they'd like to share with the MPET community...

Reception's Nature Walk

As part of our topic learning about the seasons, Otters went on a very soggy nature walk to look for early signs of spring. The children used a tick sheet to make observations about what they could see; helping them to notice changes in the environment and talk about what these changes might mean. The walk encouraged discussion and curiosity about the natural world.



Year 1 are Independent Investigators!

Tiger Class have started something called 'Independent Investigators.'

This is an enhanced provision style of learning where children are encouraged to take ownership of their learning. The classroom is set up with a range of carefully planned areas, including creative, writing, maths, fine motor and reading areas.

During Independent Investigators, children choose where they would like to work and explore activities at their own pace. They are developing independence, confidence and problem-solving skills while adults support, observe and extend learning where appropriate.



Year 2's busy term of learning!

Penguins have been very busy with their learning. In maths, the children enjoyed running their own class shop, where they practised using money to pay for toy food and worked out the correct change. In art, we explored our local habitat to help inspire us. We collected items from outside to create beautiful, recycled pictures ready to practise our observational drawing skills.

We have also thoroughly enjoyed our story writing inspired by *The Dragon Machine*. The children created their own imaginative characters and designed their very own dragon machines, thinking carefully about appearance, features and special abilities. They then used these ideas to write exciting stories, focusing on description, adventure and creativity. We are very proud of the wonderful ideas and enthusiasm the children have shown in their writing.



Year 3's 'dreams and goals'

Our theme in PSHE this term is 'dreams and goals'. We've studied some inspirational people like Jane Goodall and started to consider what our dream or goal may be. We worked together to identify different steps we may need to work on to achieve a goal and displayed them on a flower. The flower was to represent that plants grow from tiny seeds, so we can imagine that our dreams and goals are seeds that we can plant now and watch them grow into the future. We put them together to celebrate our differences, linking to our learning last term.



Year 4 Red Pandas have had a fantastic term!

In science, we have been learning all about sound. As part of this topic, the children designed and created their own ear defenders, showing great creativity and problem-solving skills.

In English, our learning has been based around the story Hortense and the Shadow. The children have produced fantastic dialogues, character descriptions, setting descriptions and narratives. They have worked hard to include a range of grammar features such as subordinating conjunctions, commas in a list, fronted adverbials and direct speech.

In art, we explored how drawing can be used to tell a story. We looked at Manga art, created charcoal drawings inspired by the Jabberwocky and designed our own comic strips.

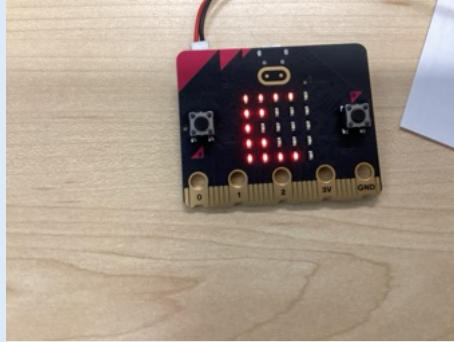
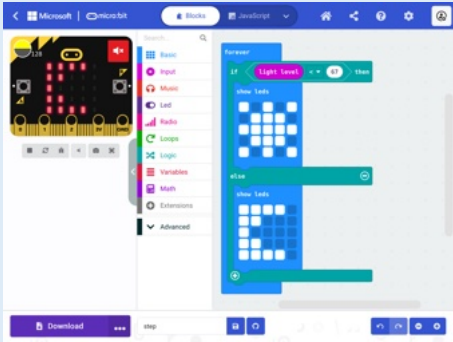
In PE, the children choreographed some incredible dances linked to our history topic this term, The Romans. They focused on linking movement phrases together and practised giving positive feedback to their peers.



Year 5

We have been learning about Microbits in Year 5 this term. A Microbit is a small device that you can code to create different sequences. We coded a heart beating so that one heart is big and one heart is small. There is a pause so it looks like it is beating! We also coded a nightlight that would sense dark and turn on. We really enjoyed creating and changing the code to make it work more efficiently.

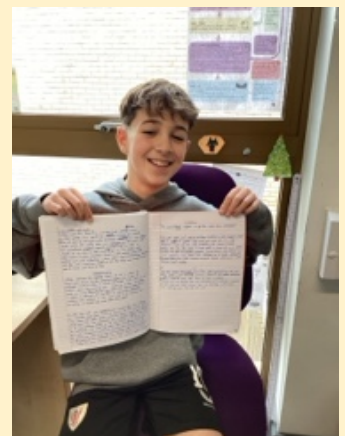
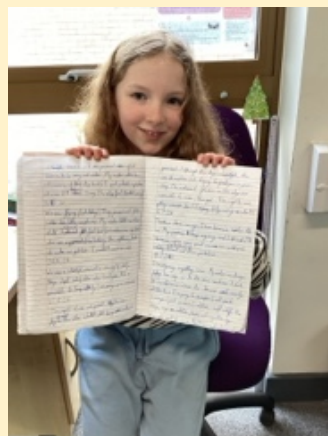
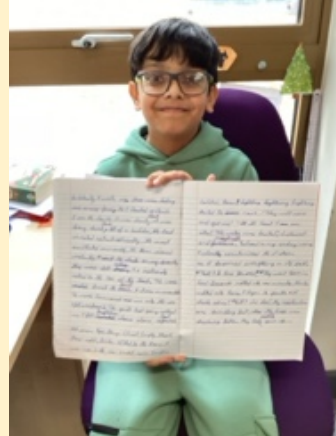
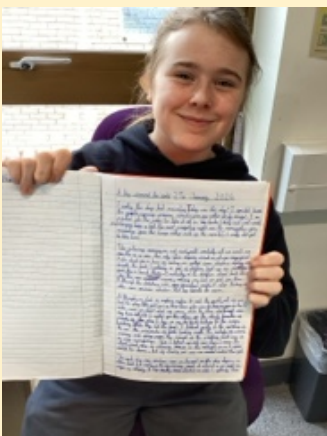
Written by Joan and Lucas



Year 6

This term we have been pushing on with our writing. We have been improving vocabulary choices and organising our writing effectively through structure and punctuation. We have been inspired by the book Kensuke's Kingdom.

Here are a few Hedgehogs celebrating their final narrative piece of work - Lost at Sea!



Thrive Tuesdays

It has been lovely to welcome so many parents/carers and family members into our KS1 and KS2 classrooms this term. It's been lovely to be able to share your child's class Thrive target and work on an activity with you. Thank you to those parents/carers and family members who took the time out of their busy mornings to come and start the day with their child. In term 5, we invite parents/carers in again for Thrive Thursdays, between 8:40 and 08:55am to spend time participating in an updated Thrive target activity with your child.



Communicating with school staff

We would like to take a moment to remind you of our parent code of conduct, specifically around communications with class teachers and the school.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school will not tolerate parents/carers sending abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications to anyone within the school community.

The school day for all teaching staff is incredibly busy and our priority is the safety, wellbeing, teaching and learning of your children.

We expect all parents to be respectful when sending messages to school staff and patient when waiting for a response. We aim to respond to queries within three working days. If you have not received a response after this, please call or message to chase this - we are all human and make mistakes or miss things sometimes.

When writing a message...

- Take your time to think about what you want to say.
- Bullet point your concerns.
- Take out emotion.
- Go back to it and rewrite until you are happy to send it.

The full code of conduct can be found on the school website:

<https://www.mulberryparket.org.uk/assets/Documents/Policies/MPET-parent-code-of-conduct-added-11.03.25.pdf>

Thank you for your continued support.

News from the Friends of MPET

Dates for your diary

It may have been a wet start to the year but we've got some exciting plans for the Term 4 ahead.

Friday 27 Feb - Cookie Friday and World Book Day fancy dress swap

Please donate any children's fancy dress items in good condition to the school office from Monday 23 Feb. We'll be selling them for a suggested donation of £1 per item, alongside our regular Cookie Friday!

Friday 6 March – wine tasting evening

Come along to a fun evening at Combe Down Rugby Club to taste a selection of red, white and sparkling wines accompanied by delicious cheese and nibbles. Tickets £20 – book here: <https://go.rallyup.com/mpetwinetasting>

Monday 30 March – Spring event

Join us after school for a spring event featuring sports and activities with refreshments.

Monday 8 June - AGM and open meeting, all welcome!

Sports kit update

Thanks for your amazing response to our fundraiser to purchase new sports kits! We're keen to purchase the kits soon to help support our pupils feel confident and proud as they play football, hockey and in other competitions. Our fundraiser remains open until 22 February: <https://gofund.me/b10fe3422>

Wildlife Garden

A group of volunteers braved the rain last weekend to start installing our new willow dome in the garden with more planting to follow soon.

Playground equipment

We're excited to share that we've purchased some new play equipment, which is being built and/or installed and will all be fully in use from next term. Children will soon be able to enjoy a new outdoor home corner shelter, a large sensory tunnel, and a move-and-make meadow set for creating fun obstacle courses. We hope these new additions will encourage exploration, adventure, and lots of new play experiences.

As always, please do get in touch with any 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.

Thanks for your support,
Friends of MPET



Attendance and Punctuality

We would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of ensuring children arrive at school **before the gates close at 8:50am**.

We are seeing a growing number of children arriving after this time. Late arrival can be unsettling for children and means they miss important start-of-day routines, instructions, and learning. It can also disrupt the learning of their peers as lessons are already underway.

Arriving on time helps children to:

- Settle calmly into the school day
- Engage fully with morning learning activities
- Develop good routines and habits that support attendance and wellbeing

We appreciate that occasional lateness can happen; however, consistent punctuality is essential for your child's progress and the smooth running of the school day.



**ON
TIME
EVERY
TIME**

THE KEY TO SUCCESS!



Duty Bearers of the term

The children wrote nominations for 'duty bearer of the term'. All adults at MPET are duty bearers. They have a responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil children and young people's rights. The children can nominate an adult, who they feel has been a fantastic duty bearer, and give the reasons and/or rights they feel have been respected, protected and fulfilled by that adult.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our MPET adults who work incredibly hard to teach your child about their rights and uphold them in school. A special shout out to all of our nominees, who received a certificate in celebration assembly.

This term's nominations were:

Yata – for upholding our right to good health and nutritious food.

Lee – for upholding our right to an education, making learning fun and upholding all rights.

Laura – for upholding all rights around school.

Josh – for upholding all rights and always respecting children's views by giving time and listening to them.

Ina – for upholding our right to good health when helping in the hall with making sure we have access to water and food.

Kate – for upholding our rights to an education and helping us.

Amy – for upholding our right to an education, helping us and caring for us.

Natasha G – for upholding our rights to an education and helping us when we need help.

Elsje – for making rights real, upholding our right to an education and making learning fun.

Anna – for upholding the right to an education and respecting children's views.

Maria – for upholding all children's rights.

Eleanor – for upholding all children's right and helping children.

MPET Girls' football team host St Martin's Garden

Wednesday 3rd February 2026 – a fresh spring day with unexpected sunshine – and the very first game of the Mulberry Park Girls' Football team.

As the girls trooped out of the school to greet their visitors, St. Martins, there was a nervousness and excitement mixed up in the afternoon air.

As the crowds were rolling in, the girls decided to do a little pre-match training. This included Imogen, the goalkeeper, making a big save with her face (just to warm her up a little!)

As the whistle blew to start the game, the large home crowd roared the team on. Grace the skipper was calmly organising the girls in defence, whilst up front Faith and Eve fired a couple of early warning shots at the St. Martin's goalkeeper and Alina was causing all kinds of problems with her extra-long throws!

Indeed, Mulberry huffed and puffed and huffed and puffed some more but we just couldn't find the back of the net. And then... disaster! A quick throw in caught Mulberry out of position and in the blink of an eye, St Martins had scored!

Sadie and Zadie tried to use their magic feet to conjure up a goal; Catalin and Marie threw themselves into tackles (even on our own team!) and Mia battled away in midfield, but the goal proved illusive!

Half time score: Mulberry 0 St. Martins 1.

It was time for the big guns in the second half! Niayesh and Pola entered the action. Petra ran her socks off, then Pola hit the post with only minutes remaining but alas we could not find an equalising goal!

Final Score: Mulberry 0 St. Martins 1

What a superb effort from our first ever girls football team! Even in defeat, the crowd went home delighted at having seen a really competitive match between two good teams.

Girls – you should be very proud of yourselves!

From a secret Mulberry reporter!

BANES Inclusion and SEND Commitment: Ordinarily Available Provision

BANES have recently updated their BANES inclusion and SEND commitment document. It can be found here: https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Inclusion-SEND-Commitment-BNES-OAP_0.pdf

It offers guidance on expectations and provisions for every child and young person (CYP), including those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). It provides a shared framework for education settings and was developed collaboratively with multiple partnerships from health, education, parents and carers.

The Inclusion and SEND Commitment: B&NES' Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) aims to:

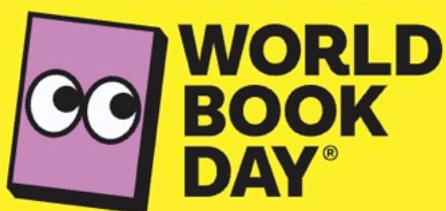
- enable professionals to deliver equitable, consistent practice and provision for all children and young people (CYP), including those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), across all schools in B&NES (primary and secondary)
- offer clear expectations of what can reasonably be expected from education settings supporting CYP with SEND: helping professionals, CYP, and parent/carers to determine whether sufficient, relevant, and purposeful action has been taken
- support settings to implement robust systems and processes, including a wider Graduated Response and a personalised Graduated Approach
- help the Local Authority and settings meet their statutory duties in identifying and supporting CYP with SEND
- provide clarity and transparency for monitoring and reviewing provision, both at whole-setting level and for individual CYP

Overview

- **Section A: Expectations for all Settings:** overarching expectations and responsibilities for all settings
- **Section B:** Information on the wider **Graduated Response** and the personalised **Graduated Approach: Assess, Plan, Do, Review** cycle
- **Section C: Universal and SEND Support strategies**, advice, recommendations and resources across all four areas of need (Communication & Interaction; Cognition & Learning; Social, Emotional, Mental Health. Sensory and/or Physical)
- **Section D: Appendices, Forms and Additional Resources**



**Inclusion and SEND Commitment
- B&NES' Ordinarily Available
Provision (OAP)**



We're celebrating World Book Day & you're invited!

When:

Thursday 5th March

Where:

Mulberry Park
Educate Together

How we're celebrating:

Dress up as a favourite book character (if you would like to).

Please consider the environment and use costumes/clothing items you already have.

Class book swap

Bring in a pre-loved book, that you no longer need or have read many times, suitable for the age of children in your class. Swap and take home a different book.

Parent/carer readers in class

During the WC 2nd March, parents/carers are invited to come into their child's class between 14:45 and 15:00 to read a story of their choice to the class.

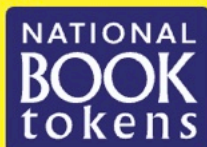
Contact:

Alice - PPA teacher and Reading Coordinator

Your child's class teacher to book a story time slot.



Sponsored by



The reading for fun charity

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Mulberry Park
Educate Together



READING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to make a difference to a child's learning?

We are looking for volunteers to come into school and listen to children read.

What's involved?

- Can you spare one hour a week (or more) during the school day?
- No need to commit for a whole year, but we would ideally love volunteers who can commit to at least 6 weeks.
- If you are a parent or carer, you would most likely not be reading with your own child's class.

Who will you read with?

We are particularly looking for volunteers to support children in:

- Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4

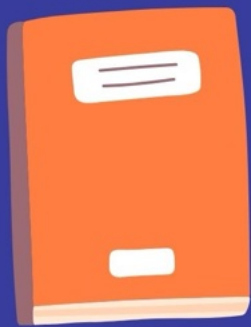
Interested?

- Pop into the school office, or phone the office for further information.

To help keep our children safe, a DBS check will be required before volunteering can begin.

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



Thrive Thursdays

Week 1 Thursday 23rd April Year 4

Week 2 Thursday 30th April Year 3

Week 3 Thursday 7th May Year 2

Week 4 Thursday 14th May Year 1

Week 5 Thursday 21st May Years 5 + 6

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

TERM 5 2026





TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2025 - 2026

Sep-25						
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Nov-25						
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Dec-25						
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Jan-26						
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Mar-26						
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Apr-26						
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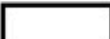
May-26						
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Jun-26						
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Aug-26						
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31						

 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