

LMS Matters

Tel No: 01908 508678

Email address: office@longmeadow.milton-keynes.sch.uk

www.longmeadow.milton-keynes.sch.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers

At this time of year I have the pleasure of spending lots of time in classes as part of our Termly Review Mornings. This is where Miss Kidd, Mrs Evans and myself spend whole mornings with a year group, really getting to grips with what is going well and areas in which we can improve. This is fully immersive for us and gives us time to speak to the children, share their books with them and watch teachers teach. We get to see how the children learn, how they move in and out of classrooms and also to pick up some amazing things to share with the whole school. We don't want to see a single outstanding lesson a teacher produces for a single observation, we want to see the year group in action. I love spending time with the children and we are lucky to have so many dedicated amazing staff members!

Further on in this newsletter, you will find Issue 2 of the **HARRY'S RAINBOW** school newsletter. We especially hope you like the book review of Benny's Hat - a fabulous story for learners of all ages about how to deal with bereavement and grief.

Our latest **PARENT TOURS** have started for children who are due to start next year. As you are more than aware, numbers of children have dropped across MK over the past few years and in particular along the western flank which our school serves. We are #PROUD of everything we do at LMS and would love parents to come and see our school in action. So if you have children due to start, or are friends with people that do, please steer them to the school website where they can see they dates of our upcoming tours and get them to book in asap. Your support is greatly appreciated.

You are now aware that our **PROSTRIKE SPEED CHALLENGE** has been rescheduled for the 5th November; this will allow more time for those children who were concerned about not raising enough funds the time to speak to family and friends over the half term.

Some parents and carers would have received an **ATTENDANCE INFORMATION** email this week. As it says in the letter, this is for your information only and needs no action from you. As a school, we want parents and carers to be fully informed about their child's attendance and, in particular, how many **DAYS OF SCHOOL ARE MISSED** (regardless of whether these are authorised or not). We will also be trialling a new process of informing parents and carers, **VIA TEXT**, about the number of days their child has missed of school each half term.

Today we were thrilled to welcome **GIANT JOURNEYS** into school for an exciting day of immersive learning! A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who contributed towards making this experience possible, and an extra special thanks to Primrose's mum for winning us a £300 voucher—what a fantastic boost! Year 5 and 6 were wowed by a virtual reality journey through space, while Years 1 to 4 had the chance to meet Reggie the dinosaur in a fun and interactive assembly. A brilliant day full of smiles, curiosity, and unforgettable moments!

Thank you for all of your generous donations to the **HARVEST COLLECTION** this year. The MK Food Bank team collected all of the food on Monday and were extremely grateful for your support, the items donated will help a lot of families in need.

Enjoy your family time together.

Mr Gray



EYFS/KS1

Newts
who achieved
99.2%

KS2

Hogweed
who achieved
99.3%



TTROCK Stars
Weekly class champions!

KS1

Sticklebacks & Newts

KS2

Thistles



Did you also know that our **SCHOOL HALL** is available for **HIRE**? If you wish to know more about hiring it for birthdays and special occasions, please speak to the school office for further details.

D A T E S

FOR YOUR DIARY

School Term and Bank Holiday Dates 2025 / 2026

Term	Open morning of:	Close at the end of afternoon session of:
Autumn Term 2025	Wednesday 3 September 2025	Friday 24 October 2025
	Monday 3 November 2025	Friday 19 December 2025
Spring Term 2026	Tuesday 6 January 2026	Friday 13 February 2026
	Monday 23 February 2026	Friday 27 March 2026
Summer Term 2026	Tuesday 14 April 2026	Friday 22 May 2026
	Monday 1 June 2026	Friday 17 July 2026

Training days agreed to date: (on these days children do not come to school but staff do)

Monday 1 September 2025 / Tuesday 2 September 2025 / Monday 5 January 2026 / Monday 13 April 2026 / Monday 20 July 2026

Good Friday: Friday 3 April 2026

Easter Monday: Monday 6 April 2026

May Day: Monday 4 May 2026

Autumn Term 2025

Friday 10 October	World Mental Health Day
Friday 10 October	Year 1-4 Reggie Dinosaur Assembly
Friday 10 October	Year 5/6 Journey Thru Space (VR Experience)
Wednesday 15 October	Year 5 Learning Fair
Thursday 16 October	Year 4 Learning Fair
Thursday 16 October	EYFS Phonics Workshop
Friday 17 October	Year 3 Diwali Day
Friday 17 October	Year 6 - Work Ready virtual bootcamp
w/c Monday 20 October	Parent Consultations
Monday 20 October	Year 6 Hazard Alley
Monday 20 October	Early Years - Autumn Walk
Wednesday 22 October	Year 4-6 Author Visit
Thursday 23 October	Individual School Photos
Friday 24 October	Whole School Pyjama Day
Friday 24 October	Break up for Half Term
Monday 27-Friday 31 October	HALF TERM
Monday 3 November	Autumn Term 2 Begins
Wednesday 5 November	Prostrike
w/c 10 November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 10 November	World Science Day
Monday 10 November	Snow White Theatre Production
Tuesday 11 November	Year 6 SATs Information Evening (Virtual 5-6pm)
Wednesday 12 November	Biscuits & Books (8.30am-9am)
Thursday 13 November	Children in Need
Thursday 13 November	EYFS Drawing Club Workshop (3.15pm)
Friday 14 November	Year 4 Fitzwilliam Museum
Thursday 4 December	Festive Thursday (Hot Chocolate for sale after school)
Friday 5 December	PALMS Christmas Fair
Monday 8 December	Year 1/2 Carol Concert (9.15am-9.45am)
Tuesday 9 December	Year 1/2 Carol Concert (2.15pm-2.45pm)
Thursday 11 December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 11 December	EYFS Christmas Performance (1.30pm)
Thursday 11 December	Festive Thursday (Hot Chocolate for sale after school)
Friday 12 December	Year 6 Learning Fair
Monday 15 December	Christmas Dash
Tuesday 16 December	EYFS & KS1 Awards Assembly (9.10am)
Tuesday 16 December	Year 3/4 Awards Assembly (2.15pm)
Wednesday 17 December	Year 5/6 Awards Assembly (2.15pm)
Thursday 18 December	Christmas Party Day
Thursday 18 December	Festive Thursday (Hot Chocolate for sale after school)
Friday 19 December	Break up for Christmas Holidays

Stay & Play

Wednesday 15 October	Autumn
Wednesday 5 November	Fireworks
Wednesday 19 November	Pirates
Wednesday 3 December	Space
Wednesday 17 December	Christmas

LMS Safeguarding

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the **Spy Dogs**, **Spy Cats**, and **Spy Pups** series. Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content. The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you:

- If your child has any Spy Dog, Spy Cat or Spy Pups books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

LMS Well-being

Why do friendship dramas explode in week 5?

By the middle of this half term, friendships feel real again, and that means real clashes. Patience is already thin. Tired children are less able to compromise, less able to let things go. A small spat at lunchtime can suddenly feel like the end of the world. Words are sharper, tears last longer and little fallouts can ripple through whole groups. It's easy to panic when friendship drama shows up but here's the truth: this is how children learn. They are practicing boundaries, empathy and repair. So what helps at this time?

- Listen first
- Don't jump in to fix it
- Name feelings, 'that sounds frustrating' or 'you felt left out'
- Offer calm scripts like "I need a little bit of space right now" or "can we start again?"
- Normalise that fallouts are temporary – children need this reassurance

This is all part of the week 5 wobble!

Congratulations to our Top Doodlers...

Well done



doodle



Long Meadow Legends

Tadpoles –

Minnows –

Sticklebacks –

Frogs –

Newts –

Bracken –

Hogweed –

Foxgloves –

Hawthorn –

Ferns –

Thistles –

Brambles –

Teasels –

Sports Person of the Week

#PROUD



MK Schools' Newsletter

Issue 2: Autumn 2025

Did you know:

'1 in 20 under 16s have been bereaved of a parent or a sibling.'

Children's Grief Awareness Week 2025

November 17th - 23rd

This annual event encourages open conversations about grief.

Its primary goal is to ensure that bereaved children receive the support they need to navigate their grief and feel less alone. It helps to normalise discussions around death and loss, encouraging a culture of support rather than isolation and signposting support and services.

Schools could: deliver focused bereavement lessons/assemblies, use targeted reading books, hold a 'rainbow event' to raise money for Harry's Rainbow.

Harry's Rainbow's Memorial Event is 1800 - 1930 on 19/11/25 at Cruck's Barn, Bradwell Abbey MK13 9AP (see our website for full details).

Thank you!

**Turing House
at
Kents Hill Park
have made
Harry's Rainbow
their chosen
charity this year!**



Supporting Schools:

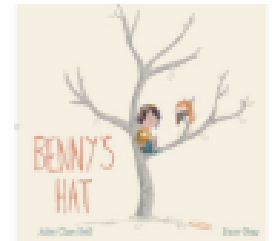
10 ways we can help you

- *Bespoke staff training.
- *Assembly delivery.
- *Policy writing.
- *Lesson delivery.
- *Support and guidance.
- *Book donations.
- *Policy reviews.
- *Lesson planning.
- *Providing resources.
- *Memory Box Donations.

Book Review

Each issue we will recommend a great book to use in school.

This term: **Benny's Hat - Juliet Clare Bell & Dave Gray**



This is a poignant picture book exploring bereavement and grief through the deep bond between two siblings, Lizzy ("Friz") and her older brother, Benny.

Friz adores Benny – lively, imaginative, and instantly recognisable by his bright orange hat. When Benny becomes seriously ill, their world changes profoundly. Despite his declining health, the pair continue to share tender moments, though Friz's struggle to accept his illness is clear. In a touching act of hope and denial, she hides his beloved hat in an attempt to delay his final journey to the hospice.

Following Benny's death, the story sensitively depicts the family's grief and gradual recovery. Friz eventually finds comfort and renewal through a new friendship and someone else to play frisbee with – a powerful symbol of continuity and healing.

Beautifully written and illustrated, Benny's Hat offers an honest yet hopeful portrayal of childhood bereavement. It balances the rawness of loss with messages of love, resilience, and optimism. The use of Benny's orange hat as a recurring motif is clever and affecting, embodying his personality and the enduring connection between the siblings. Thoughtful, authentic, and deeply moving, this book is a standout contribution to children's literature on grief.



What we do

"We aim to give bereaved children a brighter tomorrow."

- **School support** training, delivery, resources.
- **Rainbow groups** various group types for children and young people up to 25.
- **Memory boxes** offered to every bereaved child registered with us.
- **Therapeutic mentoring** available to any adult or child in the family home.
- **Rainbow retreats** short, free breaks.
- **Trips** annually in Summer and Christmas.
- **Rainbow tools** provided to supporting mental health & wellbeing.

What can you do?

- Book our bereavement training.
- Order your free Memory Box.
- Signpost our services to your families.
- Share this newsletter.
- Post a link to our website on your website.
- Consider how you address bereavement and grief.
- Make us your school's designated charity.
- Consider what you'll do for Children's Grief Awareness Week.

Get in touch:

☎ 01908 061676

✉ mark.c@harrysrainbow.co.uk

🌐 www.harrysrainbow.co.uk

🔍 Search 'Harry's Rainbow'



#HarrysRainbow





LONG MEADOW SCHOOL PRESENTS

Stay and Play Sessions



Run by the school's Deputy and Assistant Heads
Different theme each session

Autumn Term 2025

- MESSY PLAY
- CREATIVE TABLES
- IMAGINATIVE PLAY
- SENSORY ACTIVITIES
- READING AREA
- REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Only
£1 pp

17th September - Safari
1st October - Superheroes
5th November - Fireworks
19th November - Pirates
3rd December - Space
17th December - Christmas

CONTACT US FOR
MORE INFO

01908 508678

office@longmeadow.milton-keynes.sch.uk



FOR UNDER 5S
9am - 10:30am





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MUCH MORE!!**



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**19TH OCT 2025
CENTRE:MK**

MORE LEGO THAN YOU CAN DREAM OF

**MILTON KEYNES
BRICK
FESTIVAL**



Nurture

Christ the Cornerstone Church

Wednesdays 16:30 –19:00

1st Oct – 10th Dec

We will be holding an open evening on the 24th Sept from 16:30-19:00

*Where you can pop in and meet us , ask any questions you may have, see the resources and enjoy a cuppa. *Please note if you are unable to attend on the 24th you are still be able to sign up for the course.*

Children are rewarding, stimulating and fun, but looking after them can be stressful and challenging!

These 10 sessions fit together like a puzzle to help deal with the challenges so you can have a calmer, happier life.

The nurture programme created by the Centre for Emotional Health uses these four building blocks of emotionally healthy relationships.

- Self-awareness
- Appropriate expectations
- Empathy
- Positive discipline



Please scan the QR code or email nicola.skelton@milton-keynes.gov.uk to sign up



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Going Further



Follow us on facebook:

Sunshine Family Centre, Merebrook Infant School, Furzton, MK4 1EZ. Tel: 01908 508566				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00-11:00 Story, Songs and Rhymes Join the Sunshine team at Westcroft Library	10:00-11:30 Stay and Play A play session for under 5's with indoor and outdoor play. Includes a healthy snack and songs and rhymes.	10:00-11:00 Messy Play Lots of opportunities to join in with sensory and creative play. A change of clothes is advised.	9.30-10.45 Baby Group A relaxed session including songs and rhymes. From newborn to non-walkers. 11:15-12:00 Soccatots Fun free football session for walkers to 4 years.	9.30-10.30 Walk Join us for a walk to the local parks 10:30-12:00 Drop in Café Hot drinks and snacks available. Everyone welcome!
10:00-12:00 ESOL English course for speakers of other languages. Run by MK College Contact the centre to book.	12:00-1:00 Lunch Club Join us for a free lunch! Please contact the centre to book. Everyone welcome!	1:00-2:00 Join the Sunshine team for Story, Songs and Rhymes at The Hive, Whitehouse.	10:00-1:00 Citizen's Advice Fortnightly appointments. Book at: Shenley Brook End Parish Council - Citizens Advice Milton Keynes (miltonkeynescab.org.uk)	10:00-12:00 Music Bugs Contact michelle@musicbugs.co.uk to book.
Community Larder at The Hive Community Centre, Whitehouse and our new Café Supported by Sunshine 2:00-4:00 More info at: www.sofea.uk.com Help reduce food waste	Parenting courses Nurture Workshop & LIPS course (speech and language) Contact the centre for more information.	YMCA Youth Club At Sunshine 3:30-5:30 11-13 years. 6:30-8:30 14-18 years.	12:30-2:30 Creative Play: music and song peri-natal mental health session for mums in Milton Keynes. Scan for details 	Sensory room available Monday and Friday 9:00-3:00 Contact the centre to book

For families who live in Furzton, Emerson Valley, Shenley Lodge, Shenley Church End, Shenley Wood, Tattenhoe, Tattenhoe Park, Loughton and Loughton Lodge, Crownhill, Kingsmead, Whitehouse, Grange Farm, Oxley Park, Westcroft, Oakhill and Medbourne.

Fabricated loose parts e.g.

Astro turf off-cuts

Boards, old cabinet doors, panels

Bread, milk, bottle and grocery crates

Briefcases

Buggies, pushchairs

Cable drums

Carpet samples/squares

Fabrics – all shapes and sizes

Foam pipe covers and noodles

Guttering

Hoses

Keyboards

Metal pots, pans, trays etc, especially catering sizes

Nets: fishing, cargo, football

Office removal crates, tea Crates

Old clothes, jackets, overalls, hats, bags

Old household appliances, hoovers, fax machines, microwaves, etc.

One-ton dumpy bags

Pallets

Phones

Piping, gas, water and drainage

Planks – decking

Plastic road barriers

Small wheelie bins

Steering wheels

Suitcases

Tarps

Traffic Cones

Tubes of all kinds

Wooden block and off-cuts Carpenters, builders





And Natural loose parts such as:

Branches and sticks

Fruit trees

Grass Plants

Leaves

Logs

Mud

Pea gravel

Peat

Pinecones

Play bark/woodchip

Sand (washed dredged not 'sharp')

Sea pebbles

Shells

Varied aggregates, slate, flint, clay

Wood off-cuts

If you have or can help with any of these, please put them in the **OPAL DONATION STATION** in the main foyer, or speak to the school office.