

LMS Matters

Tel No: 01908 508678

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

www.longmeadow.milton-keynes.sch.uk

Issue: 11

Date: 21.11.25



Dear Parents and Carers

Last week, led by the **SCHOOL COUNCIL**, we joined in with fundraising for **CHILDREN IN NEED**. Although we ran this the day before (due to school visits and timetabling), the children had a great time wearing their own clothes! On Friday we also tuned in and joined Joe Wicks and Pudsey as they took on a series of challenges with characters and friends from across the BBC. This included a live workout too. These fundraising events help your children learn about the lives of disadvantaged children across the whole of the UK while developing skills such as communication, teamwork and decision-making. Our non uniform day raised a total of £300.35. Thank you so much if you were able to contribute!

It's also that time of year when the **RARING2GO!** magazine is published with their winter special. As ever, it's full of things to do, places to go, Christmas tips and much, much more. You can find your free online copy [HERE](#).

As a school we take **ATTENDANCE** very seriously. This week we received a document from the Department of Education. This document gives our school an overview of attendance and compares us to 20 other similar schools across England. This information highlighted lots of positives including: the attendance of pupils eligible for free school meals was 97.3%, higher than 20 out of 20 similar schools; at the start of this year our overall attendance was 97.5% (3rd of 21 similar schools), this is 1.3% higher than the median of similar schools; our Persistent Absence figure was also 4.2% less than the median of similar schools. All in all it shows how much our children like being at school, how well you as parents ensure your children attend school and also that our procedures are working. We will not rest on our laurels though, we are aiming for another 1% increase this year. Unfortunately, once again, some of our parents received a **FIXED PENALTY NOTICE** from the Local Authority this week for unauthorised leave in term time. If we can eliminate these, our attendance would be even better.

MK CITY COUNCIL are running a **FESTIVE WORKSHOP** to help you create your own beautiful and sustainable wreath. Woven with willow and natural foliage, then decorated with dried fruits, ribbons and other adornments. Suitable for complete beginners and those with experience, £30 per person which includes all resources, a hot drink and a mince pie! (This may be reduced if you are on a low income or in receipt of certain benefits). See their flyer further on.

Don't forget – our **EYFS MATHS WORKSHOP** will be taking place in Minnows on Thursday 27th November between 3.15pm and 4.00pm. This is a great opportunity to find out more about what we do at LMS and how to support your child even further.

Remember that **PALMS** have planned some amazing events for the coming year and are looking for your support. First up, a **CLOTHING COLLECTION** on Friday 28th November 2025. Help them raise funds while decluttering your wardrobes! Please check the list of accepted items before donating: thelittlecyclers.co.uk/items-we-accept. Then the **CHRISTMAS FAIR** is on 5th December 2025 (after school) with games, treats, and seasonal fun! Santa's Grotto bookings are now open – keep an eye on the PTA page for updates. They are also selling tickets for the **MK PANTOMIME** and **LEGOLAND WINDSOR**. All details and updates can be found on their website: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/palmspta/index.cfm>.

Finally this week, you can all see how the UK weather can change week to week and day to day. Due to this, please, please, please can you support us by ensuring your child has appropriate **WARM CLOTHING** and **FOOTWEAR** and making sure that **EVERY** item of clothing is **NAMED**. This may seem trivial to some, but you would be surprised at how much learning time is wasted in our school searching for items or seeing children being cold because they are not dressed appropriately.

I hope you enjoy your family time together this weekend,

Mr Gray



EYFS/KS1

Tadpoles

who achieved

99.4%

KS2

Thistles

who achieved

99.7%



TTROCK Stars

Weekly class champions!

KS1

Frogs

KS2

Hogweed



All children must have a **CHANGE OF FOOTWEAR** for **OPAL PLAY**. We will be going out more and more in the rain – so this is essential. Thanks again in advance.

DATES

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

Monday 17 November	Y1/2 Tour around MK (on the minibus)
Wednesday 19 November	Y1/2 Tour around MK (on the minibus)
Thursday 20 November	Y1/2 Tour around MK (on the minibus)
Thursday 20 November	EYFS Drawing Club Literacy Workshop (3.15 - 4pm)
Friday 21 November	Y1/2 Tour around MK (on the minibus)
Friday 28 November	PALMS Clothing Collection (The Little Recyclers 8.20-9am)
Monday 1 December	PALMS Non-Uniform Day (for Xmas fete)
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)
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
Friday 19 December	Break up for Christmas Holidays
Monday 22 - Friday 2 January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 5 January	INSET Day

Stay & Play

Wednesday 3 December	CANCELLED
Wednesday 17 December	Christmas

LMS Safeguarding

As a school we work with a government document called Keeping Children Safe In Education. These are the guidelines and standards that we work to, to ensure children are kept as safe as possible. Today, I want to share with you one of the key areas we see in school more often than I would like, that of emotional abuse of children. Within this category there are 5 key areas.

Making a child feel worthless, unloved, or inadequate - Including valuing them only when they meet someone else's needs.

Silencing, belittling, or restricting a child's voice - Not allowing them to express their views, mocking how they speak or communicate, or deliberately shutting them down.

Imposing developmentally inappropriate expectations - Expectations beyond the child's capability, overprotection, preventing exploration, or limiting normal social interaction.

Exposing a child to the ill-treatment of others - Seeing or hearing abuse happening to someone else in the household.

Bullying, frightening, exploiting, or corrupting a child - Including serious bullying or cyberbullying that causes fear, danger, or emotional harm.

If you are aware of any of these occurring involving a child, you can contact the MASH team to report it. You can call them on 01908 253169 or 253170 or email children@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

LMS Well-being

Have you noticed how getting what you want only gives you a temporary happiness boost? Soon you're back where you started emotionally, already chasing the next milestone.

The secret to lasting contentment isn't achieving or getting more — it's being grateful for what you already have. This doesn't mean abandoning your goals. It means pursuing meaningful activities that align with your values, rather than external markers of success.

Three ways to practice gratitude and contentment this week:

In your work

To improve job satisfaction and work-life balance, reframe productivity from "doing more" to "meaningful contribution" and celebrate what you've already achieved.

In your relationships

Accept imperfections. Appreciate people for who they are rather than holding them (or yourself) to unrealistic standards.

For personal growth

Carve out time for enjoyable, nourishing hobbies or self-care routines and let go of the pressure to accomplish more.

Which areas of your life do you find it hardest to accept as "enough"? What makes it challenging?

Learning to embrace what you already have frees you from the exhausting cycle of endless striving and creates a foundation for sustained wellbeing.



Congratulations to our Top Doodlers...

Iclal S for her 50 day English
streak; Theo L for his 100 day
English streak and Ebun B for her
500 day English streak!

Well done



doodle



Long Meadow Legends

Tadpoles – Kairo for making us smile everyday.

Minnows – Hunter for being Subitiser of the Week & Halle L for becoming more confident and independent in the morning.

Sticklebacks – Sadie for always showing a positive attitude and helping others.

Frogs – George for super contributions during English.

Newts – Ali for his hard work in maths this week with his number bonds to 10.

Bracken – Selena for her excellent progress with column addition.

Hogweed – Ali R for fantastic maths learning.

Foxgloves – Aakesh for being awesome on our trip – he was really enthusiastic & engaged well with the sessions.

Hawthorn – Layla for a good piece of independent writing in English.

Ferns – Aadhya for being an all-around superstar!

Thistles – Joshua for perseverance – he takes on feedback, listens well and tries his very best to improve his writing.

Brambles – Hudson for his consistently positive attitude towards his learning.

Teasels – Alba for excellent focus, dedication and drive to improve across all subjects.

#PROUD

Sports People of the Week

Sports person of the week is Alessa M in year 4, Hawthorn. This person started the first lesson of our new Hockey topic by saying "I haven't got a scooby doo what I'm doing" and looked worried. By the end of the lesson, she was able to demonstrate how to hold the stick correctly, dribble with control and started to learn the technique of a push pass. Amazing progress in one lesson!

A group of Y2 children went to a multisport festival, working with leaders from MK Dons, they took part in lots of activities based around invasion games, using skills in football, rugby and basketball to link to their PE learning.

Well done: Amaiya, Jack, Matheus & Annabelle

Finally, another group of Y6 boys football team took part in some competitive games. As always, they represented the school brilliantly, playing some excellent football, scoring some great goals.

Well done: Jayden, Oliver, Jacob, Folu, Dario, Jonny & Max

#PROUD



Earn prizes and WIN a Doodle goodie pack!

Between the 20th of October – 24th of November, DoodleLearning is running an exciting event where your child can earn guaranteed rewards!

Designed to encourage a few minutes of daily doodling, joining the fun is a great way to promote healthy learning habits and top up your child's knowledge. Plus, everyone who reaches the target can enter a prize draw to WIN a bundle of Doodle goodies!

How to take part

1 Create or link your account

If you haven't already, create and/or link a parent account to your child's school account. To find out how to do this, see the reverse of this flyer or visit help.doodlelearning.com and search 'how to link account'.

2 Use DoodleMaths 'little and often'

Encourage your child to earn 250 stars in DoodleMaths between the 20th of October – 24th of November.*

We recommend using DoodleMaths 'little and often' throughout this period – there's no rush to reach the target!

**Stars earned before the 20th of October and/or after the 24th of November, and/or stars earned in DoodleTables, DoodleEnglish and/or DoodleSpell, won't be counted.*

3 Check your child's stars

To see how your child is doing, visit parents.doodlelearning.com, hover over Analyse and press Effort.

Click on the DoodleMaths icon in the top right-hand corner of the screen and select custom time. Set the start date as the 20th of October and the end date as today's date.

We'll email you as soon as your child earns 250 stars in DoodleMaths. To receive this email, please ensure you're subscribed to the 'work programme updates' email category.

4 Receive FREE rewards and enter the prize draw!

Once your child earns 250 stars, they'll receive a printable certificate AND an exclusive in-app badge!

You'll also be able to enter a prize draw to WIN a Doodle goodie pack. To do this, scan the QR code or visit <https://t7fwva4ubvq.typeform.com/autumn-comp>.

10 winners will be selected at random and emailed after the 24th of November to let them know the exciting news.



For more information, please visit doodlelearning.com/competition.

Any questions? Please visit help.doodlelearning.com and press on the green circle icon to chat to our team.

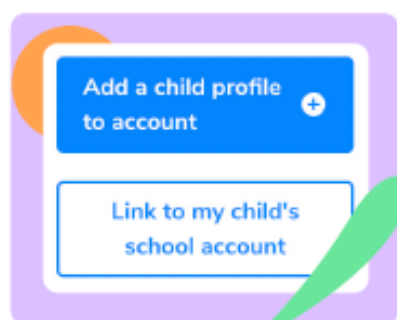
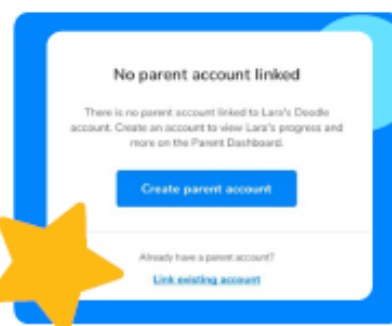


How to create and/or link a parent account to your child's school account

Creating a parent account is really important (and really easy!). By doing this, you'll be able to enter the Autumn Competition and receive your child's exclusive certificate!

How to create and/or link a parent account via the Doodle apps

- 1 Log in to any of the Doodle apps using the username and password provided by your child's school. If you're not sure what these are, please contact your child's school rather than creating a new account for them.
- 2 From the Learning Zone, click on the arrow icon in the top left-hand corner of the screen
- 3 Select Settings and press Parent details
- 4 If you're new to Doodle, choose Create parent account. If you already have a Doodle account, click on Link existing account.
- 5 Enter your details to link your email address to your child's account



How to create and/or link a parent account via the Parent Dashboard

- 1 Visit parents.doodlelearning.com
- 2 If you're new to Doodle, click on Create account and follow the instructions. After you've done this, log in to parents.doodlelearning.com. If you already have a parent account, log in to parents.doodlelearning.com.
- 3 Once you've logged in, hover over My account and select Child details
- 4 Click on Link to my child's school account and enter the username and password provided by your child's school. If you're not sure what these are, please contact your child's school rather than creating a new account for them.

If you'd like to join the competition but your school doesn't subscribe to DoodleMaths, you can receive 20% off a home subscription by visiting doodlelearning.com/competition-offer.

Good luck, and happy Doodling!



- Is** your child 8-12 years old?
- Do** they currently have eczema?
- Do** you live in Milton Keynes?
- Our** group is for you!

Eczema MK

New peer support group for "Tweens" and their parents

Interested?

Come and meet us at: Milton Keynes Quaker Centre,
1 Oakley Gardens, Downhead Park, MK15 9BH

From: 18:15 to 19:45

On: Wednesday 12th November 2025

10th December 2025

Contact: Naomi 07359336128
for more details



Willow Wreath Making

Join us for a festive workshop to create your own beautiful and sustainable wreath. Woven with willow and natural foliage, then decorated with dried fruits, ribbons and other adornments.
(Suitable for complete beginners and those with experience)

Please bring secateurs (if you have some) and any additional embellishments/foliage you'd like to use.

£30 per person which includes all resources, a hot drink and a mince pie!

(This may be reduced if you are on a low income or in receipt of certain benefits)

Choose from two sessions:

Thursday 27th November

18:00-20:00

**Christ the Cornerstone Church
MK9 2ES**

Or

Saturday 29th November

10:00-12:00

**Community Learning Centre
MK9 3HL**

To book your place visit

www.Milton-Keynes.gov.uk/courses

**MK Milton Keynes
City Council**



LONG MEADOW SCHOOL PRESENTS

Stay and Play Sessions



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

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



Only
£1 pp

Autumn Term 2025

17th September - Safari

1st October - Superheroes

5th November - Fireworks

CANCELLED

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





THE
TOMMY
FLOWERS
SCITT

TRAIN TO TEACH

Primary & Secondary

✓ Bursaries for EVERY tuition-fee course
ONLY with the Tommy Flowers SCITT

✓ Qualified Teacher Status with PGCE

✓ Teacher Apprenticeships

Information events every month. Book online

tommyflowersscitt.co.uk


Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



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.