Moordown St. John's Church of England Primary School

Headteacher Weekly Bulletin

Autumn 1 Week 4 – Friday 3rd October 2025

Headteacher Update

Mrs. Forster was thrilled to be at Twickenham last weekend to witness the Red Roses' incredible World Cup victory. The atmosphere was electric, and the team's performance was truly inspiring.

In the post-match interviews, one of the tournament's standout players, Ellie Kildunne, shared a quote that has stayed with us. It comes from the author Roald Dahl, and it perfectly captures the spirit of dedication and passion that the Red Roses embodied throughout the competition:

"If you are interested in something, no matter what it is, go at it full speed ahead. Embrace it with both arms, hug it, love it, and above all become passionate about it. Lukewarm is no good."

It's a wonderful reminder for all of us—whether on the pitch, in the classroom, or beyond—to approach what we love with enthusiasm and commitment.

Harvest & Foodbank Update

Our Harvest of Hope services last Friday, led beautifully by 5H and 5B, were a wonderful celebration of gratitude and community. Using a Christian Aid resource, it was great to learn lessons from children in Sierra Leone about how they are planting trees for the future.

It was especially lovely to welcome our new Reception starters and to present each of them with a picture Bible—a kind donation from one of our generous families.

Our Foodbank Ambassadors, Jude and Evelyn, challenged us to collect eight crates for the local foodbank—and thanks to your amazing generosity, we didn't just meet that goal, we smashed it! In the end, we gathered twelve overflowing crates of donations.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed. There will be more photos in the monthly newsletter.

Fire evacuation and lockdown drill update

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping everyone safe, we will be practising our **fire evacuation procedures** this week and carrying out a **lockdown drill on Monday 13th October**.

The lockdown drill will help children and staff become familiar with what to do in the unlikely event we ever need to stay safely inside the building. To minimise any anxiety, children will be told in advance that this is just a practice. The scenario we will use is that there is a pretend fire outside the building, and we must stay safe inside. We will explain that there might be a lot of smoke, so we need to keep windows and doors closed, stay away from windows in case they break, and remain quiet so we can hear any important messages from emergency services. The drill will last approximately 10 minutes.

We understand that some children—particularly those with additional needs or who have experienced trauma—may find this kind of drill unsettling. Our staff will be fully prepared to support and reassure any child who feels anxious, just as they do during our regular fire drills. It is our intention to hold a lockdown drill once each year to ensure our procedures remain effective and familiar.

In the event of a real lockdown, parents would receive the following message from school:

Text message:

"MSJ School is in a full lockdown situation. During this period, the switchboard and entrances will be unmanned, external doors locked and nobody allowed in or out."

Follow-up email (when safe to do so):

"MSJ School is in a full lockdown situation. During this period, the switchboard and entrances will be unmanned, external doors locked and nobody allowed in or out.

• Do not contact the school, as phone lines will be used to communicate with emergency services.

• Do not come to the school, as this could block emergency access and put yourself and others at risk.

• We will contact you as soon as possible to let you know when it is safe to collect your child, and from where."

Both drills are important parts of our school's safety procedures and help ensure that everyone knows exactly what to do in an emergency. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe and secure learning environment.

PFA Disco – Thursday 16th October

Get your dancing shoes ready — our **PFA School Disco** is just around the corner! Preparations are well underway, and tickets will be on sale on **Tuesday and Wednesday morning**.

Our amazing class reps are already gathering **volunteers** to help on the night — thank you to everyone who has already offered their time. A reminder of our policy which we introduced last year that if your child usually has full time **1:1 support in school**, then please ensure arrangements are in place for similar support during the event so that every child can enjoy the evening safely and happily.

We're really looking forward to a fun-filled night for all! A huge thank you to our **PFA team** for organising what promises to be another fantastic event for our school community.

Marvellous Me Update

We've been in touch with Marvellous Me regarding the glitches that many families have experienced since the start of term. The company has confirmed that the issues were on their end and have assured us that these bugs have now been resolved.

If you are still experiencing any problems, please do contact the school office so we can follow up on your behalf.

We will continue using Marvellous Me throughout the Autumn term, after which we'll review whether the promised upgrade will bring real improvements to this tool — or whether it's time to explore other options for our reward and communication app.

Diary Dates – Autumn 1

OCTOBER 2025		
Tuesday 7 October		KS2 SCARF Visit
Wednesday 8 October		KS2 SCARF Visit
Thursday 9 October	9 – 10 3.30 – 4.30	Prospective parent tour (studio) Stay & Play
W/C 13 October		Black History week
Tuesday 14 October	1 – 2.45pm	Choir rehearsals at Epiphany
Wednesday 15 October	2—3pm	EYFS story sharing & phonics information with parents
Thursday 16th October	YR & Y1 3:30-4:30pm Y2 & Y3 - 4:45-5:45pm Y4, Y5 & Y6 - 6-7pm.	PFA Disco
Monday 20 October	3.20 – 6pm	Parents Evening (virtual)
Tuesday 21 October	9 – 10am	Prospective parent tour (studio)
Wednesday 22 October	3.20 – 7.00	Parents Evening (virtual)
Thursday 23 October	2.45 – 3.15	PFA Uniform Sale
Friday 24 October	3pm	**School closes for half-term holiday**

October half-term holiday

Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October

Diary Dates – Autumn 2

NOVEMBER 2025		
Monday 3 November		**School Development Day** – school closed to children
Tuesday 4 November	8.20	**Children return to school – Start of Autumn 2**
Wednesday 5 November	9 – 11.30 2 – 3pm	Choir rehearsal at Epiphany EYFS parent workshop (Reading@home focus)
Thursday 6 November	 6 – 6.30pm	Bovington – Year 6 Trip Prospective parents – evening information presentation
Monday 10 November		Start of Anti-bullying week + interfaith week Odd Sock Day
Tuesday 11 November		Remembrance Service & prayer stations
Wednesday 12 November	3.30 – 4.30	Stay & Play
Thursday 13 November	9 - 10	Prospective parent tour (studio)
Monday 17 November		Launch of Toy Appeal with the Salvation Army Fraser Portraits Individual and sibling photos
W/C 17 November		UK Parliament Week
Tuesday18 November		BST Heads meeting (am)
Fri 21 November		**School Development Day** – school closed to children
Wednesday 26 November	9 - 10	Prospective parent tour (studio) Pavillion Carol Concert
		Finance & AGM Directors Meeting
28th November		PFA Wreath night
DECEMBER 2025		
Monday 1 December	8.40	Advent service
Thursday 4 December	9 - 10	Prospective parent tour (studio)
		FDB Directors Meeting
Friday 5th December		PFA Christmas Fair
W/C 8 December		Pupil Progress Meetings
		Rocksteady Concert
Monday 15 December		Reception Nativity and Y1/2 Christmas Production

Tuesday 16 December		Reception Nativity and Y1/2 Christmas Production Carols by Torchlight
Thurs 18 December	2.45 – 3.15pm	KS2 Carol Service PFA Uniform sale
Fri 19 December	12.30pm	School Ends

Christmas holiday

Monday 22nd December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026