



'At Moat Farm Infant School everyday we learn, achieve, have fun and play'



# Moat Farm Infant School

## Newsletter December 2025

A big well done to all the children who performed in our Rocksteady concert. It was wonderful to see you playing together as a band demonstrating the skills you have learnt with Theo over the term - we definitely have lots of budding rockstars amongst you. You made your adults super proud!

Thank you to everyone who came to the Reception, Rainbow and Sunshine Christmas craft and carol celebrations, Year 1 Cake and Carols concert, Year 2 carol concert from around the world and the Nursery Breakfast with Santa and craft sessions. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to our catering team who served 524 meals to children on the Christmas dinner day. I would also like to say a big thank you to all the people who organised our Christmas celebration week and made the week a really special week for the children.

**Merry Christmas and we will see you back to school on Monday 5th January.**



### School Values

Our school motto is 'At Moat Farm Infants everyday; we learn, achieve, have fun and play!' Our school has 6 core values: **Collaboration, Respect, Creativity, Perseverance, Caring and Reflectiveness.**

In the Spring term we will be focusing on **Creativity and Perseverance.** This is taught through our PSHE topic Dreams and Goals, and throughout our school curriculum.

#### **Creativity**

To show we are creative we need to:

- have our own ideas
- use our imagination
- ask questions
- try new things

#### **Perseverance**

To show we perseverance we need to show:

we don't give up  
we try our very best  
we are not afraid to make mistakes  
we learn from our mistakes

### Up to date contact information

Please ensure the school office has up to date mobile and landline phone numbers should we need to contact you in an emergency.

Thank you

### Applications for School Places

Please remember that the application process is open if you have a child starting Year Reception or Year 3 in September 2026. You must apply on line before **Wednesday 15th January 2026.**

We are aware there are a number of families who have done completed an application for their children. We have sent out reminder messages on Juniper.

[Applying for a reception place / Year 3 junior school place | Sandwell Council](#)

### Foodbank Vouchers

We are able to issue bank vouchers to any of our families for two local Food Banks.

Smethwick Food Bank, Church Hill Street & Oldbury Food Bank, 31A Church Street.

Please ask to speak to Mrs George or Mrs Davis if you would like one for you and your family.



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## Wellbeing

# Coping with Seasonal Affective Disorder

Seasonal Affective Disorder (S.A.D) is a form of depression where the changing seasons have an effect on your mood and energy levels.

Kim from Southampton shares her diagnosis journey and some ideas for coping during the winter months.

"I've always suffered with winter blues and struggled as days got shorter, but a few years ago I found it was worse than before. I struggled to get out of bed but also found it hard to sleep, and I had no motivation or energy to do anything. I felt like I was disconnected... simply "meh" all the time.

My family encouraged me to visit my GP, who told me about S.A.D. For me it's like an endless grey, not just in the weather but also emotionally, and sometimes it's hard to remember what an easy day feels like.

Medication helps many people to manage the symptoms, but I found that talking it through helped. I self-referred to [italk](#), Solent Mind and Southern Health's free talking therapy service and learned some self-help strategies to help me manage how I felt.



What currently helps me is to fill in a diary, only a short sentence or two per day, each night. It allows me to look back at both busy and quiet days and celebrate achievements, even when it feels like nothing at the time.

On a hard day, I know that if I just managed to get out of bed, or showered or did some colouring, I have accomplished something important for my wellbeing.

For me, SAD isn't going to simply 'go away', but I am always eager to find and try out new ways to help me cope."

## Kim's tips

Be gentle with yourself. Don't put pressure on yourself to complete a to-do list and adapt your routine as needed instead.

Keep the curtains closed on gloomy day and use lights (I love fairy lights!) to distract you from the weather outside.

Open the windows – fresh air will make you feel less claustrophobic and weighed down.

Try mindful exercises, like listening to the rain when trying to sleep or relax.

HOUSE PLANTS! When everything out of the window looks really dull and colourless, plants, cacti and succulents make indoors feel like a tropical jungle.



### Breathe Like Santa

Breathing exercises can really help children (and adults) feel calm and happy. This breathing exercise has a fun, festive twist that you will all enjoy!

Take a deep breath in, hold it for a moment and then slowly let it out with a slow "Ho ho ho". It may feel silly at first but it definitely helps release stress and worry at this busy time.





### Parents Toolkit: Wellbeing

Check out BBC Bitesize for their wellbeing tips designed for parents to help you support a healthy, happy childhood - with advice on food, sleep, mindfulness, as well as ways to look after you and your child's mental health.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/groups/cw9v6l8d0q6t>



There is also local support available from Sandwell Family Hubs.

[Family Services, Support and Help | Sandwell Family Hubs](#)



### School Nursery Places

Applications are now being taken for nursery places for September 2026, January 2027 and April 2027 intakes. Registration forms are available at the school office or it can be emailed to you on request. Don't leave it too late to apply for your place.

If you would like to know more information, ask at the office for Mrs Davis or alternatively you can email her direct on:

[jayne.davis@mfi.school](mailto:jayne.davis@mfi.school)

This is the range of options for our families:

- **30 hour** funded places for working families of **3 and 4-year** olds (8:40 – 3:00pm) you can apply for the eligibility code on this website. [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)
- **15 hour** funded places for **3 and 4-year** olds - children may start with us the term after they turn 3 (8:30 – 11:30am or 12-3pm)
- **15 hour** funded places for eligible 2-year olds (12-3pm) some families may receive an ELT code or letter offering them a free nursery place for their child.
- **15 hour** funded places for working families with 2-year olds (12 – 3pm everyday) You can apply for the eligibility code on this website – free childcare for 2-year olds [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)
- We also have the option for families to pay for additional nursery hours, individual sessions will cost £25 for 3 hours from September 2025.



[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)



[Family Information Service Hub \(sandwell.gov.uk\)](http://sandwell.gov.uk)



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Thank you for all of your support in our December Attendance Challenge. All children who have been in school, on time everyday since 1<sup>st</sup> December were entered into the raffle prize draw today. These children are our winners of the December Attendance Challenge:

£20 Sainsbury voucher – Zahra Y2 & Poppy-Mae YR

Food Hampers – Diya AM Nursery, Ayah YR, Adeeba Y1, Isaac Y2

Toy/games – Lake FT Nursery, Zoraan YR, Bella Y1, Kian Y2



A massive well done also to Robin, Heron and Rabbit class who had the highest attendance in their year group for Half Term 2, they have won the biscuits for their class which they enjoy in January 😊

### Reminders

- **Parking:** I'd like to remind parents to park responsibly and safely when dropping children off at school and when collecting them at the end of the day. The safety of our children is paramount and your co-operation is appreciated. Can I also remind parents that we are only allowed to park on Tesco car park when you are shopping there. We have received a number of complaints from residents in Moore Crescent about inconsiderate parking. Please ensure that you are not blocking any driveways, so that we can remain considerate of the local residents. If you do have any concerns regarding parking please contact Sandwell Council.
- **Named clothing:** Can I remind parents to ensure that all children's clothing is clearly named to avoid 'mix-ups' with uniform. We have a full box of lost property in school so if you are missing some of your child's school uniform, please ask at the office or the class teachers if you can come in and look through this box.
- **Reporting absence:** If your child is absent from school you must telephone the school office before 9 am to report this absence every day. You can choose option 1 to report the absence on the answerphone at any time or you can speak to one of the lovely ladies in the office from 8am. Please ensure that you state your child's name and class and the reason for the absence, giving as much detail as possible. We do complete home visits on the third consecutive day of absence as a way of supporting children when they return to school.
- **Play equipment in the playgrounds:** Please do not let your children use the climbing frames and trim trails before and after school. This equipment is for use by the children during playtimes and lunchtimes only.

### Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for benefit related free school meals and you register them for this, school will receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources in school. Families who are eligible for free school meals may also register children with the 'Holiday Activities and Food' HAF Sandwell scheme to gain access to free activities during the school holidays [Sandwell Holiday Activities](#). Sandwell Council are also supporting families by providing food vouchers to families too, eligible families should have received £40 for the Christmas holidays.



#### What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. School will get an extra £1,385 for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money can make a real difference to the funding we receive from the government. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals (*this is different from the universal free meals funding scheme for all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils*)
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

Your child might be eligible if you access:

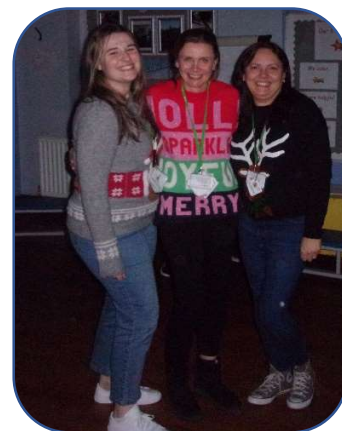
- Income Support
- Income-based jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance
- Support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

• Universal credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month) You can apply for free school meals via the Sandwell Council Website [Free school meals | Sandwell Council](#) or alternatively you can complete a form in school and we can apply for you. These forms are available from the school office.

## Christmas Celebration week

For the last week of term, we had Christmas week in school. This was a very exciting week for the children and they were able to take part in lots of different activities.

Throughout the week, Christmas discos took place. Children came to school in their party clothes ready to boogie. The children got to do a Christmas activity, have a snack and then have a dance in the hall.



This year we held a new event in school. We invited EYFS and year 1 parents, to come in to school and listen to a Christmas story read by the class teacher. The children then received a Christmas present which they got to open with their grown-up. All children received their very own Christmas story which they got to then share and read with their adult. This was such a lovely event and it was a lovely start to our Christmas celebrations.



Children also had the chance to take part in Secret Santa and have chosen a gift for their adult to open on Christmas day. We hope you like what they have chosen for you. We have had visits this week from Father Christmas in our special grotto. It was lovely to see the children's faces!





Finally, we had our Christmas raffle. Well done to the following children who won a Christmas hamper.

Aeowyn - Nursery

1 child – Mole

Milijana – Rabbit

Amrit – Otter

Omar – Badger

Parmmeet -Squirrel

Ahmed - Rainbow



Thank you for all of your support with our Christmas activities. We managed to raise a huge £2,500!

Thank you for all your support  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



# OPAL at Moat Farm Infant School

We have been working hard to continue to develop OPAL at Moat Farm Infant School. OPAL focuses on developing and improving playtimes for our children. Playtimes are crucial for a child's development so we want to ensure that we can provide the right environment for children to thrive.

## Recent changes

- Digging area
- Slide area
- Den building



## Play Detectives

We have recently introduced play detectives. Year 2 children had the opportunity to apply to become a play detective. Six children across Year 2 have been selected. They will support tidy up time, look after an allocated zone, take photos and speak to children in assembly about OPAL.

**Well done to our play detectives - Georgia (Otter), Japtej (Frog), Hazal (Frog), Lucas (Rabbit) and Denby (Kingfisher).**

## How can you help?

We are always on the look out for additional donations. If you have any spare toys, play balls, dressing up costumes or dolls, please hand them into your child's class teacher. All donations are greatly appreciated and enjoyed by the children.

## Thank you

Thank you for bringing wellies into school. These will help children to access the new, muddy areas in all weathers.



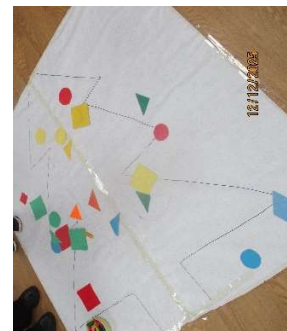
## Rainbow Class Trip to the farm

This half term, Rainbow Class have been on their first trip to Forge Mill Farm. All the children in Rainbow Class enjoyed the minibus journey to and from the farm. Once at the farm, the children had the opportunity to visit a number of animals including goats, donkeys, sheep and cows and they also got to feed some of them. It was wonderful for our children to engage in this experience and the children were all really well behaved. Thank you to Forge Mill Farm for allowing us to visit and meet your animals.



## Nursery's Christmas Breakfast and Christmas Crafts

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, the Nursery children and their families enjoyed a special Christmas Breakfast in the dining hall. The children sang Christmas carols and then got to meet Santa. In the afternoon we held a sensory craft session for our afternoon Nursery children and their parents. The children enjoyed participating in a range of activities including; decorating a shape Christmas tree, decorating bauble baubles for Christmas trees and making playdough Christmas cookies.



## Year 2 Design Technology Workshop

This half term, year 2 have been learning about the topic 'A chair for a bear' in Design Technology. The children worked together to design and build a chair that was **stable, comfortable, and strong**. With help from their parents, they made sure the chair wouldn't wobble and that it could hold the bear safely. For the legs, they used **card rolled into cylinders**, because cylinder shapes are strong and can hold weight well. They also added a **backrest** so the bear could sit comfortably and not fall backwards. Everyone helped by testing, adjusting, and making sure every part was just right. In the end, the children created a sturdy, comfy chair that their bear could enjoy! Well done children!



## Year 1 Trip to Londonderry Baptist Church

This half term, Year 1 have been learning about how Christians prepare for Christmas. As part of our learning, we went to visit the local LBC Church. The children were taught about how Christmas is celebrated in the church. They also watched a video about the Nativity story and had the opportunity to take part in fun activities such as sequencing the story and colouring in a Nativity scene. It was so wonderful to see how the community around us is getting ready for Christmas and to share what we have been doing in school. We finished our visit by singing a song from our Christmas concert. The children were so respectful while in the Church and really enjoyed their trip. Thank you to Abigail Yates for sharing this fantastic experience with our children.

*"This was the best day ever!" – Hedgehog child*

*"I loved walking down to the church" – Badger child*



**SCHOOL HAS TO ALLOCATE 6 DAYS EACH YEAR FOR STAFF TRAINING. SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS.**

**We have had 4 already at the beginning of this term, 2 are remaining.**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

## **Sandwell School Term Dates 2025-2026**

### **Autumn term 2025**

- Term starts: Monday 1 September 2025
- Half-term holiday: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025
- Term ends: Friday 19 December 2025
- Christmas holiday: Monday 22 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026

### **Spring term 2026**

- Term starts: Monday 5 January 2026
- Half-term holiday: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026
- Term ends: Friday 27 March 2026
- Easter holiday: Monday 30 March 2026 to Friday 10 April 2026

### **Summer term 2026**

- Term starts: Monday 13 April 2026 (Bank Holiday Monday 4 May)
- Half-term holiday: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026
- Term ends: Monday 20 July 2026 (Inset Day)
- Summer holiday starts: Tuesday 21 July 2026