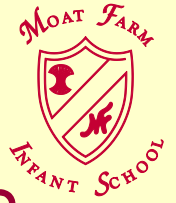




'At Moat Farm Infant School every day we learn, achieve, have fun and play'



SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

A Warm Welcome Back to Our Moat Farm Families!

It has been lovely to welcome back our families over the last week, we have had home visits, transition sessions, stays and plays for our younger children and year group meetings already.

A special heartfelt welcome to all our new families joining our Moat Farm Infant School family, we are delighted to have you with us!

Our children have been settling beautifully into their new routines and classes, and I must say, they all look incredibly smart in their school uniforms. Thank you for your support with this.

As we begin this new term, we are excited to work closely with every child, family, member of staff, and our governors. Together, we will continue our journey towards excellence, ensuring the very best for all our children.

If you ever wish to discuss any aspect of your child's experience at school, please don't hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher. We are here to support you and your child every step of the way. Working in partnership with you is really important to us.

Please remember, where possible we are a 'paper free' school and which means most of our letters and newsletters will be sent out on School Life app and uploaded to our website. We encourage you to download the app and check it regularly. Additionally, our school website is also updated with letters, newsletters and contains lots of useful information for you and your family. Some reminders will go on our social media pages but our main correspondence is via the School Life app. We only send out paper letters where a reply slip is required.

[Moat Farm Infant School - Home](#)

Over the summer holidays we had a lot of improvement work in parts of our school. Our two new classrooms, Frog and Kingfisher have been completed and we have also expanded our SEND provision so we now have two classrooms, new toilets and sensory room for our Rainbow and Sunshine classes.

Just so you are aware, Mrs Davis got married in the summer holidays and her new name is Mrs Bayliss. It will take a little bit of time for us all to get used to her new name 😊

Thank you for being part of our wonderful school community!

Warm regards,

Mrs Deborah Walker (Executive Headteacher) & Mrs Jayne Bayliss (Head of School)



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New Y2 building and classroom



Sensory room



Old badger class which is now Rainbow class

Starting Reception or Junior School in 2027

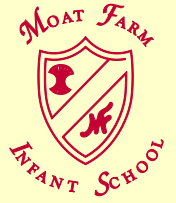
You can apply for your child's Reception or Y3 from **Monday 14 September 2026**.

To apply, first register or sign in (if you have an account already) on the Parent Portal, you will then receive an email with a link to complete and submit your application (Non-Sandwell residents should contact your home Authority).

Please note: To have the best chance of getting the school you want, you must apply by the closing date of **15 January 2027**. [Applying for a reception place / Year 3 junior school place | Sandwell Council](#)



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School Nursery Places

Applications are now being taken for next year's nursery places – 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 ask at the office for Miss Bourne (Nursery teacher & EYFS lead) alternatively you can email her direct on: Beth.Macdonald@mfi.school

[This is the range of options for our families:](#)

- **30 hour** funded places for **3 and 4-year** olds (8:40 – 3:00) you can apply for the eligibility code on this website. 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 the 'Golden ticket' code or letter offering them free nursery places for their child.
- **15 hour** funded places for eligible 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
- We have the option for families to pay for additional nursery hours, individual sessions will cost £25 for 3 hours.



www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



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

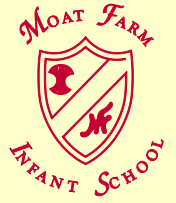
Relish

Hopefully by now, all families have been able to access Relish to order your child's school meals. Just a reminder, the menus are on a 3-week rotation. You can order in advance for the term, but you cannot order on the morning. Only school staff can order a child's meal on the morning. Please get into good routines of ordering for your child in advance.

If your child is not in class for the register at 8.50am, they are marked as absent and their meal order is cancelled. If your child then arrives late, you will need to re-order a meal for them with the ladies in the office.



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Important update re changes to Free School Meals

Changes to Free School Meal Eligibility from September 2026

The Government has updated the rules for free school meals, and we would like to make families aware of how these changes may affect some children from the 2026/27 academic year.

What has changed?

Since 2018, pupils who were eligible for free school meals have been protected and could continue receiving them, even if their family's circumstances later changed. This protection was introduced during changes to the benefits system. This has now ended.

From September 2026, free school meal eligibility will be based on a family's **current circumstances** rather than previous entitlement. All families need to reapply for their children.

Pupil Premium: Benefits Beyond Free School Meals

Did you know that registering for Free School Meals (FSM) could unlock valuable additional support for your child and the school?

Children eligible for FSM may also attract Pupil Premium funding, which provides schools with extra resources to enhance learning, wellbeing and intervention to support children's learning and progress. This helps schools deliver targeted support such as academic interventions, pastoral care, and access to additional resources.

What does this mean for families?

Some children who currently receive free school meals may no longer be eligible if their household no longer meets the national criteria.

Families who are receiving **Universal Credit** may still qualify and should ensure their details are up to date.

What should you do?

If you are currently receiving Universal Credit, or if your financial circumstances have changed recently, please contact the school so that we can check your eligibility. Forms are available from the school office.

It is also important to let us know if any of the information we hold about your family is incorrect or out of date.

Please contact the school office if you would like help checking your eligibility or making an application.

*Applications need to be done before Friday 25th September 2026 for school to process before School Census day on Thursday 1st October.

More information is available on Sandwell Council website

[Free school meals | Sandwell Council](#)

Attendance Matters - Every Day Counts!



Attend



Belong



Achieve

At Moat Farm Infant School, we are passionate about our children's attendance and know that education is the most effective way to ensure children reach their full potential and future opportunities. We expect all children to attend school regularly and we are here to support where families have difficulties with school attendance. The link between attendance and attainment in school is very clear. Children who attend school regularly have the best chance of success in their learning, have better friendships and a better understanding of our rules and values.

Punctuality is just as important. Lateness can cause your child to feel embarrassed when they come into the classroom late when the lessons have already started, and can count towards an unauthorised absences if they are more than 30 minutes late to school.

How you can help

You can:

- Ensure they have an early bedtime during the week
- Create a good routine for mornings at home so that your child can arrive to school on time
- Avoid absences from school wherever possible, unless your child is too ill for school
- Make routine appointments eg dentist , for children out of school hours
- Make time to encourage and show interest in their school work
- Attend parent/carers events and meetings
- Share any education concerns with your child's teacher or appropriate school staff as soon as possible

Holidays/leave in term time

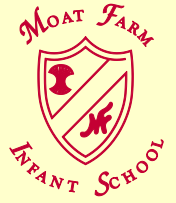
Parents/carers must apply for the authorisation of any leave prior to the absence. Leave of Absence requests must be applied for on the correct form and given to the school office at least 10 days prior to the absence. This form should be completed by the parent/carers the child usually lives with. You can request a form from the School Office if you need to apply for a Leave of Absence. Your application is then reviewed by Mrs Bayliss. You will be told before the absence if it is authorised or unauthorised.

All schools will be required to consider referring parents/carers for a penalty notice for an unauthorised term time leave of absence, or when there has been irregular attendance over a 10-week period. This is when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence. The Department of Education has significantly toughened the laws and increased the fines in relation to unauthorised school absence.

[School attendance | Sandwell Council](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/schoolattendance) www.sandwell.gov.uk/schoolattendance



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Friendly Reminders for Our Moat Farm Families

Parking:

Please remember to park thoughtfully and safely when dropping off and collecting your children. The safety of our children is our top priority, and your cooperation really helps us keep everyone safe. Also, kindly avoid blocking driveways so that we can be considerate neighbours to those living nearby. Thank you for helping us look after our community!

Named Clothing:

To help us keep track of your child's belongings, please make sure all clothing is **clearly named**. It makes it so much easier to return lost items when we know who they belong to. Thank you for helping us keep uniforms and belongings safe and in the right hands.

Reporting Absence:

If your child is unwell or unable to attend school, please call the school office before 9am on each day of absence. You can leave a message on the answer phone or speak directly to our friendly office staff. When you call, please let us know your child's name, class, the reason for their absence, and when you expect them to return. This helps us keep everyone safe and well informed.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

Teacher training days

These are the training days for this school year. Please make a note of them in your diary or calendar, as school will be closed to all children on these days.

~~Tuesday 1st September~~

~~Wednesday 2nd September~~

Monday 2nd October

Friday 4th December

Monday 17th May

Monday 7th June

Dates for your diary Autumn 2026

September

- 14th Y1 play village experience
- 14th KS1 PE starts – remember to remove earrings
- 29th Y2 Trip to Gurdwara/church/library – Otter & Rabbit classes
- 30th Individual photographs & staff photos

October

- 1st Black History Month begins
- 1st School Census Day
- 1st National Poetry Day
- 1st Y2 Trip to Gurdwara/church/library – Frog & Kingfisher classes
- 6th DECCA Y2 assembly 2:00pm
- 8th Coffee morning for parents 9am
- 8th -15th Book fair
- 9th World Mental Health Day - Wear Yellow t- shirt/accessories
- 9th October Flu sprays
- 13th Phonics 'learn together' for Y1 Badger and Squirrel families - 2:15pm
- Wednesday 14th Parent Consultations 3:15-7:50pm
- 15th Phonics 'learn together' for Y1 Heron and Hedgehog families - 2:15
- 21st Owl & Mole phonics & communication 'stay & learn' 2:15pm in classrooms
- 22nd Robin & Fox phonics & communication 'stay & learn' 2:15pm in classrooms
- 22nd Harvest assembly - food bank collection for local church food bank
- 23rd PE sponsored event Day (Fundraising for EYFS)
- 23rd Breakup for half term

School closed for half term holiday Monday 26th – Friday 30th October

Fundraising

On Friday 4th September some school staff donned their trainers and purple t-shirts and took part in the Birmingham 10K Shine Night Walk to raise money for Cancer Research. Congratulations to them all for raising over £1,120 for this very worthy cause and completing the walk around Birmingham!!

