



## Maltese Road Primary School

### NEWSLETTER FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025

Dear Maltese Road Families

As we come to the end of another term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. It has certainly been a long and busy term for both the children and staff, and I am incredibly proud of how hard everyone has worked.

We have enjoyed some wonderful performances in recent weeks. Our youngest children performed their Nativity brilliantly, and it was a joy to see just how much their confidence has grown over the course of the term. The KS2 children filled the church with festive cheer through their beautiful Christmas carol singing, and it was lovely to see the talent of our choir and individual musicians shine.

The KS1 Christmas production was another highlight, with fantastic performances from our talented singers, dancers, and actors. The confidence, enthusiasm, and teamwork on display were truly impressive.

#### Christmas Dinner

A special thank you goes to Mrs Kirk, Mrs Flynn, and Mr North for providing a wonderful Christmas lunch. The children had the best time, and it was heart-warming to hear comments such as, *"I loved my Christmas dinner – it was the best!"*



Elfridges

We would also like to say a huge thank you to our amazing FOMS for making Elfridges such a magical experience for our children. An enormous amount of hard work and planning goes into making these events so special. One child commented, *"This is the best day of my life,"* while another said, *"I will never forget this experience."* Comments like these truly show the impact of all your efforts.



## Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Poppy Appeal. Through your generosity, we raised **£193** and your support is greatly appreciated in helping this important cause.

### Lockdown Drill



## Lockdown Practice

Just as we regularly practise fire drills, so everyone knows what to do in the unlikely event of a fire, we also practise what to do if we ever needed to stay safely inside the building for any reason. These drills are a normal part of our safety procedures and are **not** connected to any specific concern or threat. Therefore, I am writing to inform you that we will be carrying out a *lockdown practice drill* on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026. This is part of our ongoing commitment to keeping all children and staff safe in school. Before the practice takes place, we will explain the process to the children in a calm and age-appropriate way during an assembly and in classrooms. The focus will be on learning about safety, much like how we talk about road safety or fire drills. We will reassure the children that there is no danger and that practising helps us all know what to do, just in case. Please be assured that this is a routine exercise and that staff will take great care to ensure the drill is handled sensitively.



## A Personal Thank You

I would also like to say a very special thank you to all our parents and carers for the wonderful gifts I have received. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are truly appreciated and very much valued. Thank you for your continued support—it means a great deal to me.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support throughout the term. We wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Warmest wishes

Mrs White

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:**



Date	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22<sup>nd</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas Holidays</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026</li> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> January</li> <li>• 12<sup>th</sup> January</li> <li>• 21<sup>st</sup> January</li> <li>• 26<sup>th</sup> January</li> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> February</li> <li>• 9<sup>th</sup> February</li> <li>• 10<sup>th</sup> February</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Day of Spring Term</li> <li>• Year 3 Parents Invited to a Multiplication Talk – Year 3 Classroom 3:15pm</li> <li>• Goodleigh Dental Practice Parent Talk – 2:30pm – Details to Follow</li> <li>• EYFS, &amp; KS1 Phonics Workshop – Parents Invited 9am</li> <li>• Goodleigh Dental Practice – Reception Class &amp; Year 3 – Details to Follow</li> <li>• Reception Class &amp; Year 5 Essex Road Safety – EYFS Parents Invited – Details to Follow</li> <li>• Year 6 Cyber Bullying Workshop</li> <li>• Year 4 Super Stars Event at CSAC – Details to Follow</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February Half Term</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> March</li> <li>• 12<sup>th</sup> March</li> <li>• 16<sup>th</sup> March</li> <li>• 18<sup>th</sup> March</li> <li>• 19<sup>th</sup> March</li> <li>• 27<sup>th</sup> March</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lockdown Practice – Details to Follow</li> <li>• Sublime Science – Details to Follow</li> <li>• Goodleigh Dental – Flip the Lip, Reception Class &amp; Year 3 – Details to Follow</li> <li>• Parents Evening – 15:30pm – 18:30pm</li> <li>• Parents Evening – 15:30pm – 18:30pm</li> <li>• Last Day of Spring Term</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easter Holidays</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13<sup>th</sup> April</li> <li>• 17<sup>th</sup> April</li> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> May</li> <li>• 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> June</li> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June</li> <li>• 19<sup>th</sup> June</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> July</li> <li>• 17<sup>th</sup> July</li> <li>• 20<sup>th</sup> July</li> <li>• 21<sup>st</sup> July</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Day of Summer Term</li> <li>• Year 1 Trip to Mountfitchet Castle – Details to Follow</li> <li>• May Bank Holiday</li> <li>• May Half Term</li> <li>• Non Pupil Day</li> <li>• Year 6 Residential to PGL Overstrand Hall</li> <li>• Sports Day</li> <li>• Year 2 Mini Games at CSAC – Details to Follow</li> <li>• Last Day of Summer Term</li> <li>• Non Pupil Day</li> <li>• First Day of Summer Holidays</li> </ul>

## 2025-2026 Term Dates

Date	
• 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	• First Day of Spring Term
• 16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> February	• February Half Term
• 27 <sup>th</sup> March	• Last Day of Spring Term
• 30 <sup>th</sup> March – 10 <sup>th</sup> April	• Easter Holidays
• 13 <sup>th</sup> April	• First Day of Summer Term
• 4 <sup>th</sup> May	• May Day Bank Holiday
• 25 <sup>th</sup> May – 29 <sup>th</sup> May	• May Half Term
• 1 <sup>st</sup> June	• Non Pupil Day
• 17 <sup>th</sup> July	• Last Day of Summer Term
• 20 <sup>th</sup> July	• Non Pupil Day

## 2026-2027 Term Dates

Date	
• 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2026	• Non Pupil Day
• 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	• First Day of Autumn Term
• 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	• Non Pupil Day
• 26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> October	• October Half Term
• 17 <sup>th</sup> December	• Last Day of Autumn Term
• 18 <sup>th</sup> December	• Non Pupil Day
• 21 <sup>st</sup> December – 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2027	• Christmas Holidays
• 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2027	• First Day of Spring Term
• 15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> February	• February Half Term
• 25 <sup>th</sup> March	• Last Day of Spring Term
• 26 <sup>th</sup> March – 9 <sup>th</sup> April	• Easter Holidays
• 12 <sup>th</sup> April	• First Day of Summer Term
• 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	• May Day Bank Holiday
• 31 <sup>st</sup> May – 4 <sup>th</sup> June	• May Half Term
• 7 <sup>th</sup> June	• Non Pupil Day
• 20 <sup>th</sup> July	• Last Day of Summer Term
• 21 <sup>st</sup> July	• Non Pupil Day



## SEND News

I'm writing to let you know about a **free** online support opportunity for parents and carers that we run through the Autism Family Support Service.

The next drop-in takes place on 6th January 2026.

We'd love it if you could share this with families who may benefit from this free support service.

Please find attached a leaflet about the '**You Are Not Alone**' drop-ins to hand out to the parents & carers.

### **You Are Not Alone - Free Online Parent Drop-In**

Parenting an autistic child can feel amazing, confusing, and overwhelming, sometimes all in the same day. That's why we host our **no-cost monthly online drop-in sessions for parents and carers**.

#### **What these sessions are all about**

We've created a safe, non-judgemental space where parents can bring their questions, share worries and connect with others who 'get it'.

#### **Topics often included:**

- Understanding and responding to challenging behaviour
- Making sense of autism on a deeper level
- The ups and downs of family relationships and dynamics
- Working with schools and professionals
- Meeting like-minded parents and realising you are not alone

#### **What we would like parents to take away:**

- Feeling heard, appreciated, and understood
- Knowing they are seen as the experts on their own child and family
- Feeling hopeful and having gained practical ideas

#### **Who runs the sessions?**

I'm Erik Wagter, co-founder of Autism Family Support Service. Alongside being a social worker, trainer and Solution Focused family coach, I also bring over two decades of personal lived family experience of autism. From time to time I will be joined by Sally Wagter who is a teacher, author and trainer.

These sessions are a chance for parents to talk openly, learn, and connect. They don't have to do this on their own.



## **Friends of Maltese**

### **End of Autumn term update**

It's been another busy term for the Friends of Maltese and we're incredibly grateful for your continued support.

We kicked off the school year by hosting our ever-popular youth club for KS2, where students tried their hand at boardgames and other activities with their friends after school. KS1 students enjoyed a disco with the infamous DJ Emoji – with lots of fun and games for everyone! Our ever-popular Halloween event was also a great afternoon, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended and for the second year running we ran our wreath making evening with over 30 parents, carers and staff joining in the festivities.

If that wasn't enough, we hosted a fabulous Diwali tuck shop, selling homemade treats made by parents of the school community. And we finished off the term by running our hugely popular Elfridges event where we took over the school timetable for the day providing lots of activities and crafts for students to enjoy as well as the opportunity to pop along to our market and buy gifts for loved ones. As one of our year 2 students told us...“It was the best day ever!”.

We also managed to squeeze in the design your own Christmas card and second-hand uniform sales. And we kicked off celebrations for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Maltese Road School with sales of tea towels designed by the children, branded teddies and the 'Power of 10' half term challenge.

The money raised from these events goes straight back into the school to purchase equipment enjoyed by all the students. So far this year we have been able to buy new headphones, colouring pens, and more than £500 on other resources required for each class.

We also purchased a portable kitchen with baking accessories and apparatus (worth over £2,000!) which was presented to the children in assembly this week. The kitchen will bring the school's cooking sessions to life and help teach our children important life skills.



In discussion with the school, exciting plans are also afoot to invest in a dedicated outdoor space and equipment for the children to enjoy. More information on this to be announced next year.

Earlier in the term we hosted our AGM where members of the FOM committee were re-elected to serve in their roles for another year. Gemma Stokes, our KS2 lead, made the decision to stand down this year, bringing us to 7 members. We would like to thank Gemma for all her hard work. We are always looking for new members and volunteers to help with FOM. Please do contact one of us if you would like to find out more. We do have lots of fun!

A huge thank you to my wonderful FOM team, without them none of our events and fundraising would be possible. To them, and to the parent volunteers who so graciously give up their time, sometimes taking annual leave, to help us run the events. Along with our gratitude to the teaching staff who often stay after hours to help.

Lastly, a huge thank you to our parent/carer community for supporting our endless requests for donations and ticket purchases. We hope you and the children enjoy the events as much as we do. Together we are raising lots of money to help enhance our children's education and school experiences.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, and to a healthy and happy 2026.

With my very best wishes.

Nicola James  
Chair, FOM



**Thank you for continuing to support us  
These items are most needed at present:**

- Small jars instant coffee and hot chocolate
- Long-life fruit juice and fruit squash
- Tinned meat meals
- Tinned fish
- Instant mashed potato sachets
- Tinned vegetables, potatoes and tomatoes
- Tinned pulses, tinned spaghetti, tinned soup
- Rice
- Pasta sauce
- Ketchup and mayo
- Cooking oil
- UHT milk
- Tinned fruit
- Sponge puddings and tinned rice pudding
- Instant custard sachets and tinned custard
- Jam and spreads
- Packets of biscuits
- Chocolate biscuit bars/cereal bars/sweets/savoury crackers
- All toiletries inc: washing up liquid, toilet rolls, deodorant,  
shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, shaving foam,  
laundry tabs/pods Nappies sizes 5 to 7

Items can be delivered to our warehouse at  
450A Beehive Lane CM2 8RN

[www.chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk)

See also weekly Top 5 most needed items updates on Facebook



# **SUPERHERO'S NEW YEARS PARTY**

**COME DRESSED UP AS YOUR  
FAVOURITE SUPERHERO  
ST ANDREWS CHURCH, MELBOURNE  
AVENUE**

**SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup>  
JANUARY 4PM**



**St Andrew's Church**

Seeking God Together



# Winter Reading Challenge

10 January to 22 February

Join at your local library!



[libraries.essex.gov.uk](http://libraries.essex.gov.uk)

