



Maltese Road Primary School

NEWSLETTER FRIDAY 16TH JANUARY 2026

Dear Maltese Road Families

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and a happy New Year. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school this week, and I am pleased to say they have settled back into their routines very well.

I would like to take this opportunity to share a few important reminders with you:

School Start Times

The school gates open at **8:30am**

Gates close promptly at **8:40am** for registers to be taken

Lessons begin at **8:45am**

Any children arriving after **8:40am** will be marked as late. It is important that children arrive on time so they can start the day calmly and ready to learn. Punctual attendance also ensures that we meet the **DfE requirement of a minimum of 32.5 hours of schooling per week.**

Attendance

Regular school attendance is crucial for children's wellbeing and development. Being in school consistently helps children to build strong friendships, develop social skills, establish routines, and feel a sense of belonging. Good attendance also supports positive mental health and improves long-term academic success and future life outcomes.

Poor attendance can create a difficult cycle, where children may fall behind academically, feel disconnected, and experience increased anxiety, which can make returning to school even harder.

If the school has concerns about your child's attendance, you may receive a letter offering support. We work closely with families to help address any barriers to attendance, and further details can be found in our **Attendance Policy**, available on the school website.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child start each day on time and ready to learn. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Goodleigh Dental workshop

Thank you to those parents who attended the Goodleigh Dental workshop on Monday 12th January, which highlighted the importance of good dental and oral hygiene for children.

We are pleased to let you know that Goodleigh Dental will be visiting school on Monday 26th January to talk to the children in Reception and Year 3 about brushing their teeth and maintaining good oral health. The session will be child-friendly and informative, helping to reinforce positive habits in an engaging way. We appreciate your continued support in promoting healthy routines at home.

This week in science Year 2 explored bricks and rocks. To celebrate our learning, we went on a local walk to observe where bricks and rocks are used in our environment and to discuss how and why they are used in different ways.

The children absolutely loved our walk!



Key Stage 1 Phonics Workshop – Wednesday 21st January

We are pleased to invite parents of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children to attend our Key Stage 1 Phonics Workshop on Wednesday 21st January.

The workshop will be led by Mrs Almond (KS1 Lead) and Mrs Ingram (EYFS Lead) and will focus on how early reading and phonics are taught in school through the Little Wandle Phonics Programme.

This session will give parents the opportunity to:

- Gain a clear understanding of how phonics and early reading are taught in school
- Watch a phonics lesson take place
- Ask questions and find out how you can support your child's reading at home

If you are unable to attend the workshop, the presentation will be added to the school website at a later date.

We hope you are able to join us and look forward to seeing you there.



We are really excited to have signed up for the Mini London Marathon again this year. Last year we had a team of children from Maltese Road take part, and would love to get children signed up again this year. For more information please follow the attached link. <https://www.londonmarathonevents.co.uk/mini-london-marathon/tcs-mini-london-marathon>

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 4th 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.

Assemblies This Week

This week's assemblies have focused on **diversity** and celebrating what makes each of us unique and special. The children have been encouraged to recognise and value their own talents, as well as to appreciate and respect the differences in others. It has been a wonderful opportunity to reinforce our message that everyone is important and that our differences help make our school community a richer and more inclusive place.

Kind regards
Mrs White

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES: 

Date	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st January • 23rd January • 26th January • 5th February • 9th February • 10th February • 13th February 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYFS, & KS1 Phonics Workshop – Parents Invited 9am • FOM Doughnut Sale After School • Goodleigh Dental Practice – Reception Class & Year 3 • FOM Music Bingo – Adults Only – 6:30pm in the School Hall • Year 6 Cyber Bullying Workshop • Year 4 Super Stars Event at CSAC • FOM Valentine Tuck Shop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16th – 20th February 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February Half Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23rd February • 24th February • 2nd March • 4th March • 5th March • 5th March • 6th March • 12th March • 13th March • 16th March • 17th March • 18th March • 19th March • 24th March • 25th March • 27th March 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book Fair – Under the Year 6 Canopy Straight After School • Book Fair – Under the Year 6 Canopy Straight After School • Whole School Dance Workshop • Lockdown Practice • World Book Day – Dress Up as Your Favourite Book Character • FOM Wonka Bars – Details to Follow • FOM Colour Run – Details to Follow • Sublime Science • FOM Mother’s Day Daffodil Sale – After School outside the Hive • Goodleigh Dental – Flip the Lip, Reception Class & Year 3 – Details to Follow • Year 2 Music Festival – Details to Follow • Parents Evening – 15:30pm – 18:30pm • Parents Evening – 15:30pm – 18:30pm • Year 3 and Year 4 Performance – Parents Invited – 1:45pm – 2:45pm • Year 3 and Year 4 Performance – Parents Invited – 9:15am – 10:15am • Last Day of Spring Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30th March – 10th April 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Holidays
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13th April • 17th April • 20th April 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Day of Summer Term • Year 1 Trip to Mountfitchet Castle – Details to Follow • Year 6 Visit to Chelmsford Theatre – Details to Follow
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th May • 25th – 29th May • 1st June 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Bank Holiday • May Half Term • Non Pupil Day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8th – 10th June • 19th June • 1st July • 17th July 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6 Residential to PGL Overstrand Hall • Sports Day • Year 2 Mini Games at CSAC – Details to Follow • Last Day of Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20th July • 21st July 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non Pupil Day • First Day of Summer Holidays

2025-2026 Term Dates

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

2026-2027 Term Dates

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



SEND News

Wilderness Foundation will be running our Neurodiversity Outdoor Camp on Friday 20th February, from 10am-3pm for young people age between 9-14 at £80 per participant per day.

The Neurodiversity Outdoor Camp is for young people experiencing challenges with mental health, behaviour and neurodiversity needs. Many young people can present with all these challenges together and we are increasingly aware that we need to support those with neurodiversity in a more dedicated and focused way. We have traditionally organised holiday camps and, recognising increasing needs for families and young people, we are running a specialist camp for those with neurodivergent needs.

The camp aims to develop personal skills, resilience, communication, social skills and a lot more. We cook on an open fire, are creative, adventurous and accepting. A range of outdoor activities that may include one of the following, cooking, art, bushcraft, nature walks, and crafts. We will also encourage positive social engagement and group skills, using a strength-based approach which helps participants become more aware of what they do well.

It will be a small group with not more than 8 participants and advance bookings are required.

For more information and booking form, please visit <https://wildernessfoundation.org.uk/neurodiversity-holiday-camps/>



FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY

DOUGHNUT MISS OUT!

After school, outside The Hive.

Sprinkle some joy into the new term!

Start the weekend in style with a
sweet doughnut treat.

All proceeds go back to the school.

Thank you for your support.





MUSIC BINGO



Grab your friends and blow away the winter blues with a night of old skool hits and prizes to be won!

THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY | 6.30 PM

SCHOOL HALL, MALTESE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

£12PP - INCLUDES FIRST DRINK & NIBBLES ON THE TABLE



ADULT ONLY EVENT

Bar with soft & alcoholic beverages, plus pizza slices will be available to purchase.

Please book your tickets via the QR code or visit:
<https://pta.events/FOMBingo26> by Friday 30th January.



Online booking preferred but cash can be paid & returned with this slip completed in an envelope to the FOM mailbox outside reception by Friday 30th January.

Name: _____
Number of tickets required: _____
Contact number: _____



Gift Amnesty

Parents, staff and friends,

Can you help us raise funds for the school this year?

If you received any Christmas gifts that aren't quite to your taste, or perhaps ended up with two of the same item, we would love to receive them as donations. These will be used as prizes or at future school events.

Please bring any donations and give them to your child's teacher on either of the last two Fridays in January. Alternatively, donations can be dropped off at reception at any time.



Thank you for your support!

