

Newsletter

News from Miss Main

I really enjoyed welcoming all the children back to school on Monday morning.

We thought lots about snowdrops and discovered that they have a lot to teach us, especially as we are still in the midst of the cold and dark winter months.

Snowdrops are a sign of hope and new beginnings, and a promise of good things to come. Snowdrops grow even when things are difficult, they are strong and resilient.

We enjoyed watching a short video, that helped us with our thinking and encouraged our discussion about how it can feel when things are hard and we have to be strong.

I then challenged the children to think of one good thing that they would like to do during 2026. I have left some pieces of paper and some baskets out for children to write down their thoughts and to help them remember.

New Year's resolutions can be tricky and often leave us feeling a bit deflated when we don't stick to our goal. However, I hope the children can remember the one thing that they want to achieve this year and keep coming back to it in the months ahead.

I then encouraged children to think about how they can be more like a snowdrop. And that challenge was one for us as adults too. In our hearts and minds, how can we stand up to the challenges that we face? How can we keep going, even when things are hard and the winter seems to be going on for ever?

I closed by reminding the children that even in the midst of the winter there are beautiful things and I asked the children to let me know when they saw something of beauty. Perhaps this weekend you can help your children to find beauty all around them, no matter the weather?

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

It has been wonderful to return to work this week and to catch up with staff and children.

At the moment I am working reduced hours, but I am looking forward to spending increased amounts of time in the building over the coming weeks.

Signing in and out

Yesterday we had a new system installed, which will further strengthen our safeguarding procedures and also help us to more robustly monitor attendance.

If your child is late to school and therefore comes in via the office, you will need to use the iPad to sign them in. The process is straightforward, but it will take about a minute for each child and includes logging the reason for the child's late arrival.

Please do endeavour to get to school for 8:40am, so that your child can be in class and ready to learn as soon as the doors are closed at 8:50am.

My Child at School

Over the coming weeks we are going to be moving over to using a new system to communicate with parents, book parents evenings and eventually take payments.

My Child at School (MCAS) can be used online, or as an App.

All parents/carers should now have had an email with the log in details that you need – please email the office if you have not received this. We will not move over to the new system for a few weeks, but please do familiarise yourself with the system so that you don't miss any communication.

News from Around the School

It has been a chilly week! At the start of the week, children made the most of the snow that we had and were very inventive in their play! If we do have any further snow, sending your child in with spare clothing will ensure they can enjoy the snow and not regret it for the rest of the day.



We're still working on drains!

It was wonderful this evening to hold the disco that had to be postponed from last term when heavy rain meant that it was not safe for the event to go ahead. Many thanks to The Friends for all their hard work to make the event such a success.

Thanks to ODST, work on the drains for which we are responsible is now complete and as a result our site has been much drier during periods of heavy rain. We are however still working with Thames Water and OCC to address the issue with the foul drain that runs across our site. Despite our best endeavours, progress in relation to this is painfully slow. Should we experience any further exceptional rainfall some of our toilets/cloakrooms remain at risk of flooding.

Please be assured that we have plans in place to ensure children are safe, and to enable them to access toilets that are not affected. However, in the event of excessive and/or prolonged rainfall, until the issue is resolved, short term closure of some classes may be unavoidable.

Birdwatching

Our children in Year 3 today enjoyed taking part in the Big School's Birdwatch. The children spotted Red Kites, Pigeons, Magpies, Crows and a Blackbird.



Your children might be interested in taking part in the [Big Garden Birdwatch](#) with you, there are lots of resources online to help you.

WWW.APOLLOS.UK



FREE TEA & COFFEE IN THE CAFE!

**FREE
GIRLS
CLOTHES!**

**GIRLS
AGES
5-11**

HIGH STREET
METHODIST CHURCH
SAT JAN 10TH 2026
10AM - 11AM



Term Dates

The first day back of the next academic year will be Weds 3rd September 2026. A full list of next year's dates will be available next week.

***Loving, learning and flourishing
in community***