

Madginford Primary School Newsletter

Term 2 – End of Term Update
19th December 2025

From the Headteacher – Mrs A. Woolcombe

As we reach the end of a busy and productive Term 2, I would like to congratulate all of our children for their hard work and enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of the progress they have made in their learning.

Our new EYFS pupils have settled beautifully into life at Madginford. It has been wonderful to see each child grow in confidence, build friendships, and develop a real love for learning. Reading sits at the heart of our curriculum, and I have been delighted by how many books our youngest learners have already enjoyed this year. Each week a core text is used to inspire a wide range of learning activities during both child-initiated SPLASH time and targeted teacher-directed sessions. *Pumpkin Soup* proved particularly popular this term!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the EYFS Stay and Play sessions; we hope you enjoyed sharing your child's learning in action. These sessions will return in Term 4 and will also include useful information about how we teach phonics.

Parents & Carers Evenings

Thank you to all families who attended our Term 1 Parents and Carers Evenings. These will take place again in Term 4, but please remember that you can contact your child's class teacher at any time if you have concerns or questions.

Reading Stars & Phonics Focus

Reading across the school continues to flourish. Thanks to last year's fundraising efforts, our class libraries have been revitalised with exciting new titles; we plan to continue this momentum with another fundraising event in the new year.

Children have been earning dojo and monster points for their dedication to reading at home; thank you to parents for supporting this. Class reward targets are proving highly motivating, and the joy children show when choosing and discussing books has been wonderful to see.

A huge congratulations to our pupils who have achieved **Millionaire Reader Status** and earned their purple t-shirt—an outstanding achievement! I am pleased to tell you that a number of

children have now earned **Three Millionaire Status** and the rewards for this amazing achievement are winging their way towards us!

Our new Little Wandle phonics programme is already making a big impact in EYFS, Year 1, and Year 2. The Year 1 parent workshop was well attended and we look forward to offering an EYFS phonics session as part of the Stay and Play events in Term 4.

Rocking Times Tables

Pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 continue to build confidence and speed using *Times Tables Rock Stars*. Well done to everyone who has already reached **Rock Hero** level!

Fundraising Success

We are thrilled to share the continued success of our fundraising for the Reading Bus during the Autumn Term; below is a breakdown of how we succeeded at raising the money over the past few months:

- **Colour Run:** £2,795.44 raised
- **Spooky Disco:** £962 raised
- **Christmas Disco** £777 raised

Our next steps involve stripping and refitting the interior, and our community team is currently gathering quotes. Cabling to services has now all been laid ready for connection when the bus nears completion.

Fundraising will continue in the Spring Term; please look out for details.

EYFS, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 Performances

Our pupils in EYFS, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 all performed for parents this year! They were all amazing and it was so lovely to see all of parents and carers. The children worked incredibly hard to learn all the words and we are very proud of them all. A big thank you to Mrs Ames for providing refreshments and to all our staff who worked so hard with the children; some lovely memories made!

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch was very much enjoyed by all the children on Wednesday! I would like to say a massive thank you to our Catering Team who went above and beyond by decorating the hall and serving a delicious, special Christmas lunch! What an amazing team they are!



Sporting Highlights

Our PE provision, delivered through a combination of Impact Sports and our passionate teaching staff, continues to make Madginford an energetic and inspiring place to learn.

This year we have introduced the *Get, Set, Go!* scheme which is already proving to be a great success.

Impact PE this term:

- **Year 5:** Frisbee, Indoor Kurling, Archery
- **Year 4:** Spikeball, Orienteering, Cheerleading

Pupils in Years 4 and 5 have now completed their **Inter-House Archery Competition**; well done to them all, it was brilliant to see their skills in action.

We have also been proud to see so many pupils representing the school in netball and football tournaments. Thank you to parents for supporting transport and cheering on our teams. A huge thank you also to our dedicated staff for giving their time so generously.

Looking Back – Inter-House Competition

Last term, Year 6 pupils took part in an exciting Inter-House Competition featuring Ultimate Frisbee, Pickleball, and Archery. Their teamwork and sportsmanship were outstanding.

Congratulations to **Egremont House**, our current leaders. With five terms to go and more year groups yet to contribute, the overall result is still wide open!

After-School & Lunchtime Clubs

Impact Sports Term 3 Offerings:

- **KS2 After-School Club (Mondays):** Spikeball
- **KS1 After-School Club (Tuesdays):** Ultimate Frisbee
- **Year 3 & 4 Lunchtime Football (Tuesdays)**
- **Year 5 & 6 Lunchtime Football (Fridays)**

Bookings can be made at: impactsportsclubs.co.uk

For queries: impactsportsclubs@gmail.com

Rock Steady Music

Our Rock Steady programme is thriving, with 111 pupils now enrolled on the programme and growing in confidence as young musicians. The bands have been working really hard on their chosen pieces and are looking forward to creating an exciting concert for their friends and parents in the new year.

Miss Simmons has also been running a Christmas Choir for Years 2-6 over the last two terms. The children worked really hard to learn a set of Christmas songs and perform them at the

Bearsted and Madginford Christmas light switch on events. They sang excellently and thoroughly enjoyed wearing their Santa hats! It was such a great way to get into the Christmas spirit!



Learning in Action

Our teachers continue to deliver rich and engaging learning experiences:

- **Year 1** explored the Great Fire of London through a hands-on workshop.
- **Year 6** successfully completed their Bikeability training.
- **Year 4** practised instructional writing by baking shortbread; sadly, none reached my office for tasting!
- This week our **Year 3** children have been designing and making Castles for Design Technology; they have worked really well together and have achieved some terrific results.

Mental Health at Madginford

Madginford Primary School Mental Health and Wellbeing Vision Statement:

The school is committed to creating a safe, supportive community where everyone's mental health and wellbeing are valued and actively nurtured.

At Madginford Primary School, we are pleased to share that Mrs Farrell and Miss Stamp have recently completed training as Senior Mental Health Leads and Mental Health First Aiders.

In their roles as Senior Mental Health Leads, they have been working closely with key members of staff including the PSHE Leads, Safeguarding Leads, SENCOs and School Governors in order to

develop a clear action plan and policy which supports the school's vision for positive mental health and wellbeing. This will be shared with the whole school community in Term 3.

Mrs Farrell and Miss Stamp are also undertaking ongoing training which will enable them to share their knowledge and expertise with teaching and support staff across the school. This work will help strengthen our whole-school approach to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our children, staff and families.

Special Mention – Community Support

Mrs Chambers and Miss Davies would like to give a huge cheer for Year R, Year 1 and 3FB for creating the most beautiful Christmas cards for Pilgrims View Care Home! The care, creativity, love (and glitter!) in every single card is simply amazing.

These cards will mean so much to the residents, many of whom are living with dementia. For some, this might be the only Christmas card they receive and knowing that a child has made something just for them will bring comfort, connection and a moment of pure Christmas joy.

We are so proud of our incredible children and grateful to the staff who supported this project during a busy term. What they've created is truly special and will light up hearts this festive season!



SEND Madginford

Both SENCOs continue to support families through the new *This Is Me* process. We are beginning to see positive outcomes for children and their families, with each meeting taking us closer to helping us achieve the best possible outcomes.

Depending on the amount of information to be shared, meetings typically last between one and two hours. Following these meetings, information is shared with class teachers so that school-

based input can be added. Once completed, the *This Is Me* documents are worked on at both school and home for approximately 12 weeks before being submitted.

We have also been fortunate to receive support at some meetings from a member of the *This Is Me* team. This has provided valuable opportunities to share good practice and ensure we are gathering the right information to support children and families moving forward.

Our School Governors

From the Chair of Governors, Toby Butler

I am delighted to have been asked by Mrs Woolcombe to make a contribution to this newsletter, on behalf of the Governing Body.

Christmas often feels like an opportunity to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. As we approach the school break, I would like to take a moment to remember James Steel and Maria Eady, two members of our school community who we sadly lost this year. Each played a different role in school and brought their own character and shining light to Madginford Primary. They will be very much in my thoughts as I gather with my family this festive season, and I know they will never be forgotten in school.

It is also a time for giving thanks for many things – gifts and presents, generous quantities of food and the warmth of being with those we love. Each of us in our school community plays a part in making Madginford Primary what it is today, and I would like to thank all our parents/carers, children, volunteer readers/helpers, kitchen staff, our cleaning/site team, office staff, all teaching assistants, those who help with our Breakfast and After School Clubs, midday supervisory staff, teaching staff, leadership team and, of course, my fellow governors. Everybody has made 2025 a fantastic year for our children and I feel incredibly confident that they will make 2026 even better.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all my genuine good wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

School Improvement Priorities 2025–26

- Reading (including phonics)
- Adaptive teaching (ensuring challenge and support)
- SEND provision

Communication Reminder

If you have any concerns, please first contact your child's class teacher. If needed, you may then reach out to the Head of Year:

- **EYFS:** Mrs South & Miss Perkins
- **Year 1:** Miss Verkely
- **Year 2:** Mr Bevan
- **Year 3:** Mrs Cross
- **Year 4:** Mrs Ralph & Mr Day
- **Year 5:** Mr Hollamby
- **Year 6:** Mr Roper

For ongoing concerns, please contact:

- **Mrs Best** – Assistant Head (EYFS/KS1)
- **Miss Stamp** – Assistant Head (KS2)
- **Mrs Woolcombe** – Headteacher

We are always here to help.

Key Dates for Your Diary

- **Monday 5th January:** Start of Term 3
- **Wednesday 21st January - Friday 23rd January:** Year 1 Cycle Ready
- **Wednesday 21st January:** Year 4 Ancient Greek Day
- **Monday 26th January:** EYFS Hearing Screening

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement this term. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff who go above and beyond every day to provide the very best experiences for our children.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break.

Warm regards,
Mrs A. Woolcombe
Headteacher

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