

January 2026

Malvern Primary School

You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have!

MAYA ANGELOU

Where Greatness Grows

This month at Malvern...

Happy New Year!

Dear Malvern Families,

Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition of our new monthly newsletter. From this term, I will be sharing a regular update at the start of each month to reflect on school life, celebrate success and keep families informed about what lies ahead.

It has been a pleasure to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break. The first week of term has brought some challenging winter weather, including snow and icy conditions. I would like to thank our staff team for their dedication during this period, arriving early and staying late to ensure the site remained as safe as possible. I am also grateful to families for their patience, understanding and support as we worked together through the conditions.

As we begin the new year, there is much to look forward to. The months ahead will be filled with learning, enrichment and opportunities for our children to continue to grow and thrive. I remain thankful for the strong partnership we share with families and for your continued support.

I look forward to sharing many positive moments with you through this new monthly newsletter as the year unfolds.

Mr James

Fantastically Great Children

Join us in celebrating the achievements of our wonderful pupils!

KIND Award

Neeve is only 6 and is already so kind and caring. She loves helping younger pupils during playtime and always makes sure everyone feels happy and included.

Reading Plus Award

Orlaith in 4AM has read over 113,000 words in Reading Plus this academic year. She has completed over 90 lessons and is champion of her class leader board. Well done, Orlaith!

Mathematical Marvel

Oliver in 1SH has completed all levels in story mode of Numbots. He has also worked incredibly hard in challenge mode to improve his speedy recall. Well done, Oliver!

Wonderful Writing

Oliver in 5ND is an exceptional writer who puts great care and effort into every piece he creates. His compositions are consistently outstanding, showing a real pride in his written work.

Spelling Frame Superstar

Delia in 4IP is top of our whole school leader board with over 130,000 spelling frame points. We are so proud of you, Delia!

Outstanding Contribution

Harry has become a Young Ambassador for Tom's Trust. This fantastic charity supports children with brain tumours. Read our 'Under the Spotlight' feature to find out more about Harry!

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JANUARY 2026

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating Harry: A Truly Inspiring Young Ambassador

Many of you will recognise Harry from previous newsletters and updates, and we are delighted to share some fantastic news about him.

Harry has recently been appointed a Young Ambassador for Tom's Trust, a role that reflects not only his journey, but the incredible young person he is. Courageous, determined and quietly resilient, Harry has faced challenges that no child should have to - and has met them with strength, perseverance and an inspiringly positive spirit. Supported by the Tom's Trust clinical psychology team through Alder Hey, Harry has worked incredibly hard to overcome obstacles, build confidence and keep moving forward. He is known for his motivation, his willingness to persevere and his ability to keep going even when things are difficult. These are qualities that continue to shine through in everything he does. Now, Harry wants to use his experiences to help others. As a Young Ambassador, Harry will support children and young people facing a brain tumour



diagnosis, help raise awareness and take part in charity events. He already has exciting fundraising plans for the year ahead, and we are very much looking forward to supporting him on this next chapter.

About Tom's Trust

Tom's Trust is the UK's leading charity providing specialist clinical psychology support to children with brain tumours and their families. By supporting the whole family from diagnosis onwards, their expert teams help children rebuild confidence, return to school and create the brightest possible future beyond diagnosis.

We are immensely proud of Harry - not just for what he has overcome, but for the kindness, strength and determination he shows every day. Well done, Harry. We are all so proud of you!

2026 - The National Year of Reading

2026 is the National Year of Reading, a Department for Education campaign delivered with the National Literacy Trust to tackle the decline in reading for pleasure among children, young people and adults. The programme aims to reposition reading as a modern and powerful activity that builds success in school, work and life while supporting wellbeing, bringing people together and strengthening empathy.

Primary and secondary schools will have access to a series of events designed to boost reading for pleasure. These include virtual assemblies with inspirational speakers, webinars and practical resources for teachers.

**Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.**

**GO
ALL
IN.**

Celebrating Success at the Cinema

A group of pupils were recently rewarded with a trip to Cineworld in Speke in recognition of their excellent achievements in Spelling Frame in Key Stage 1 and Reading Plus in Key Stage 2. The pupils had shown high levels of commitment and enthusiasm in their learning. As part of the reward, the children enjoyed watching Garfield and Tiddler at the cinema. They represented the school extremely well and the visit was a fitting way to celebrate their hard work and dedication.



UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Malvern at the Theatre

In addition to their own festive production of 'What On Earth Is Christmas', our Drama & Theatre Club children have enjoyed a few theatre visits in recent weeks.

Before Christmas, children and teachers descended on the Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescott to see a sparkling production of 'Cinderella'. Starring Knowsley's very own Tia Larsen in the lead role, the spectacular performance was set in the Kingdom of Prescotisia. Children had a wonderful time and received lots of praise from audience members for their excellent behaviour. Before the show, children had the pleasure of meeting director Nicole Behan. Nicole is a former Malvern pupil and acted in her Year Six summer play - back in the year 2000: 'Eleven Days' - a Malvern adaptation of Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night'.

During the first week of the spring term, Drama & Theatre Club children made their annual trip to Liverpool's Everyman Theatre for their legendary rock'n'roll pantomime. This year it was 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.



Children were taken on a musical adventure with the Everyman's awesomely talented actor musicians. Hero Jack battled the greedy giant to grab the gold and save the day. Filled with cheeky one-liners, soaring solos and heaps of wacky costumes, the show had everyone laughing, clapping and dancing from start to finish. We're already booked in for next year's 'Beauty and the Beast'.



NSPCC Number Day 2026

We are delighted to once again be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on Friday 6 February 2026. NSPCC Number Day is a national fundraising event that supports the vital work of the NSPCC in keeping children safe. All funds raised from Number Day help to support important NSPCC services such as Speak Out Stay Safe, which visits primary schools across the UK to teach children about the dangers of abuse and what they can do if they need help. Number Day is also a fantastic opportunity to promote a love of mathematics and to develop a positive, can do attitude towards learning. On Friday 6 February we will be hosting a fun day of maths activities and inviting children to take part in #DressUpForDigits. Children are invited to wear an item of clothing with a number on it. This could be a sports shirt, a cap or something more creative such as a homemade outfit with a maths or numbers theme. Children may also choose to dress as a TT Rockstar or Numbot.

We will not be asking for cash donations in school. However, for families who are able to contribute, we encourage an online donation to the NSPCC. Further details can be found at:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/ways-to-give/donate/>



Car Park

We fully appreciate that parking around school can be very difficult at times. Wherever possible, we urge families to walk to school as this promotes wellbeing. If this is not possible, we ask that drivers be mindful of local residents and do not obstruct driveways. We also need to remind parents that the school car park must not be used for dropping off or collecting children. Please park carefully and considerately and in a manner that does not pose a risk to our pupils.



#Where **GREATNESS** grows

WHAT'S ON

the

LIBRARY

BOOK

review

Term 1 | January 2026

RECENTLY released

Fiction

'Lost Evangeline' by Kate DiCamillo

'Small Poems for Big Imaginations' by Neal Zetter

Non-Fiction

'There Are Mammals Everywhere' by Camilla De La Bedoyere & Britta Teckentrup

'Shakespeare's Heroines' by Honor Cargill-Martin & Jaimee Andrews



LIBRARIAN profile

Buddy is in Year 6 and enjoys reading non-fiction books, especially about history. He takes the lead in organising the library on Wednesday lunchtimes and is always helpful and responsible. His favourite book ever read by a teacher is Holes, read by Miss Doherty.



Tom Gates Epic Adventure by Liz Pichon

Reviewed by: Teddy D in Y6

I really liked Tom Gates: Epic Adventure because it is adventurous and has lots of illustrations. The pictures make it more fun and help tell the story in a cool way. The book is funny and cleverly written across the pages, not just in normal paragraphs. When I read it, it makes me laugh in my head a lot. Tom always gets into silly situations, and it feels like something that could actually happen at school. I would recommend this book to anyone

who likes funny books with drawings and adventures.



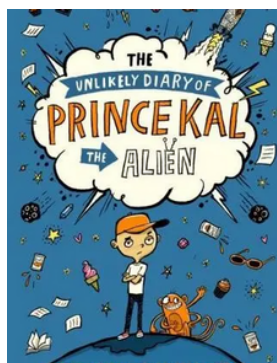
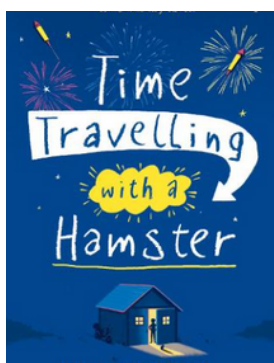
What's NEW

in the **LIBRARY?**

MR KYNASTON recommends

The Lone Husky by Hannah Gold: All of Hannah Gold's books are beautifully illustrated by Levi Pinfold and are highly recommended. Her latest - The Lone Husky - revisits the world of two of her previous books: The Last Bear and Finding Bear. April Wood is no stranger to adventure. After all, she lives in the Arctic and her best friend is a polar bear. But when April finds herself volunteering for the Polar Race - a long-distance dog sled race across the frozen tundra - even she wonders if this may be an adventure too far. April will need all the help she can get if she's to make it to the finish line. And competition is fierce - with experienced dog sledders, including new boy Finn, who will go to any lengths to win. But April has something the other teams don't: Blaze, a solitary husky with a troubled past, who may just prove to be her secret weapon...

Our library is currently featuring the books of Ross Welford. Ross was born in the north-east of England. His first book - Time Travelling With a Hamster - was published in 2016. It was shortlisted for many noteworthy national book awards, including the Costa, Blue Peter and Waterstone's prizes. His most recent book - The Unlikely Diary of Prince Kal the Alien - was published in June of 2025. Find out more about Ross and his books by visiting his website: www.rosswelford.com



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Attendee of the Month...

Attendance Target

Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed a relaxing break and that the children have returned feeling refreshed, positive and ready for the exciting weeks ahead. As we move further into the season, winter is certainly making itself felt — with crisp mornings, the chance of snow and the occasional challenge of getting everyone out of the door on time!

At present, our whole-school attendance stands at 96.5%. While this is a strong figure, it is slightly below our school target and we know that by working together we can improve it further. We greatly appreciate your continued support in ensuring that as many pupils as possible are in school each day, on time and ready to learn and make the most of every opportunity.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing commitment and partnership in supporting our children's success.

How can we help?

School

To help everyone attend safely, we will:

- Keep school open wherever it is safe to do so
- Grit and treat key paths and entrances
- Keep grounds as safe and accessible as possible
- Use staggered end-of-day times to reduce congestion
- Encourage pupils to dress appropriately for the weather

Home

To support attendance during winter weather, families can:

- Allow extra time for journeys to school
- Take care on icy paths and pavements
- Aim to attend whenever it is safe to do so
- Be aware that if a child does not attend, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised
- Dress pupils in suitably warm clothing



We are delighted to celebrate Reshmi as our Attendee of the Month. Reshmi consistently demonstrates excellent attendance and shows a fantastic commitment to her learning. Not only this, but whenever she has an appointment during the school day, she always returns straight back to school afterwards, showing a brilliant attitude and determination to make the most of every learning opportunity. We are incredibly proud of you, Reshmi - well done and keep up the amazing effort! ★

Whole school target...

96.5%

we are below target!!

"Education is the passport to the future, and attendance is the stamp that gets you there."

Attendance Query?

If you require attendance advice or support, please contact our attendance champion, Miss Baker!

01514778230

malvern@knowsley.gov.uk



Community Action

Register to Vote

Knowsley local elections take place on Thursday 7th May 2026. You must be registered by the deadline in late January. You can register if you live in the area and you are a British or Irish citizen, a Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of a European Union country and you are 18 or over, with some 16 and 17 year olds eligible depending on their date of birth. People who are away from home, lodgers and overseas electors can also register. Full details and the online form are on the Knowsley website under Voting and Elections.

Roby Field Funding Boost for Trees and Wildlife

Roby Field has secured new external funding to improve biodiversity in this valued green space with the support of Knowsley Council and local councillors. Funding from the Urban Tree Challenge and the Mersey Forest will allow new native trees to be planted across the field.

In spring, native bulbs and wetland wildflowers will be planted with the help of local councillors, volunteers and children from Malvern Primary School. This will support wildlife and pollinators and build on the flowers already growing on the field.

- Cllr. Bannon - Cllr. Morgan - Cllr. Dever



If you need any help feel free to contact me.



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If you need any help feel free to contact me.



graham.morgan@knowsley.gov.uk



If you need any help feel free to contact me.



colin.dever@knowsley.gov.uk

MUSIC

updates

THIS MONTH'S MUSICAL MAESTRO

Summer has been selected as January's Musical Maestro due to her perseverance and commitment in flute lessons. She has been putting in lots of effort, and this really shows in the progress she is making. Well done, Summer! 🎵👏



Year 1 have started their new music topic, 'Blast Off!', with music inspired by space travel. They learnt and performed the song, 'Zoom, zoom, zoom, we're going to the moon!' and practised using music vocabulary to describe classical pieces of music inspired by space travel, such as 'Also Sprach Zarathustra'. We were so impressed with their enthusiasm and understanding of musical words. Well done year 1.



Year 3 are learning about The Beatles in their music lessons this half term! They could recall so many facts about the members of this iconic band and we started learning one of their most famous songs: All You Need Is Love. We also talked about the lasting legacy The Beatles have left in Liverpool, inspiring music, culture and creativity around the city and beyond.



This term, year 6 pupils are learning the ukulele in their music lessons. We recapped some of the ukulele-basics, including how to hold, strum and pluck a ukulele, and recalled some of the songs we learnt last year, using a C chord. We can't wait to start learning more complex songs as our ukulele-skills grow each lesson!



Sport News



Sports personality of the month is awarded to...



Frankie has been presented this award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to our whole school interform competition. Frankie was a fantastic competitor and was the first pupil in year five to score 3 in a row for his team in the cornhole cup. Well done, Frankie!

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS...

A Special Reward for Our Sports Leaders

Before Christmas, our Sports Leaders were invited by the Liverpool FC Foundation to watch Matilda the Musical at the theatre as a reward for their hard work and commitment.

They had a fantastic afternoon and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We would like to thank the Liverpool FC Foundation for this wonderful opportunity and for the generous gift bags. We are very proud of our Sports Leaders and the way they represent our school.



Year 5 Begin Their Bikeability Journey

Year 5 have started their Bikeability journey, developing key life skills that will support them both now and in the future. Pupils are learning how to ride their bikes safely and confidently, as well as how to signal correctly when on the road.

These important skills help to build independence, awareness and road safety. We are proud of the way Year 5 are approaching this opportunity with enthusiasm and responsibility.



Sports Leaders Visit LFC Academy

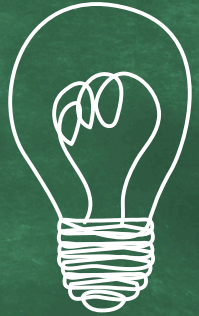
Our Sports Leaders visited the LFC Academy as part of the Onside Leadership Programme. They took part in coaching carousels, met young footballers on their own coaching journeys and had the exciting opportunity to see the Premier League trophy.

This experience gave pupils a valuable insight into leadership, teamwork and the pathways available within sport.



Beyond the School Day!!!

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$



Holiday Club



Malvern is committed to supporting families with reliable childcare during school holiday periods. Our holiday club runs during all school holidays, apart from Christmas, and provides full day childcare for children from Reception to Year 6.

Our February holiday club will run from 8.00am to 4.00pm and will be led by familiar Malvern staff, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for all children.

A letter containing full details, including costs, booking arrangements and deadlines, will be shared with families. All bookings will be made via Arbor and places will be limited, so families are encouraged to read the information carefully once it is issued.



Wraparound Care

At Malvern, we take great pride in our wrap around provision. Currently, we offer Breakfast Club every morning for children from Nursery to Year 6, as well as a wide range of extracurricular clubs for children from Reception to Year 6. In addition to these activities, we provide a full wrap around service for all children from Nursery to Year 6. This service is designed to offer families greater flexibility, providing affordable childcare until 6:00pm.

To ensure we can provide the best care for your child, all bookings for wrap around provision must be made at least one week in advance via Arbor.. Bookings must be made by 2:30pm on the day. Bookings will only be confirmed once payment has been made via Arbor.

Please be aware that once a booking is made, there will be no refund, as these fees are necessary to cover the cost of the provision. As this offer has proven to be very popular, we kindly remind families to make bookings in accordance with the guidance to avoid disappointment.



KEY dates

January

February

Monday 12th : Y6 Visit to a Mosque
 Tuesday 13th : Year 4 Anglo Saxon Museum Trip
 Wednesday 21st : 3AP Liverpool World Museum Trip
 Thursday 22nd : 3CW Liverpool World Museum Trip
 Monday 26th : Y2 Ferry Trip
 Tuesday 27th : 3AP Fieldwork Trip
 Thursday 29th : Reception Trip to Court Hey
 Thursday 29th : 3CW Fieldwork Trip

Monday 2nd : 5ND - Life as a Tudor Workshop
 Tuesday 3rd : Y5 Visit a Synagogue
 Wednesday 4th : ISH Trip to Liverpool Museum
 Thursday 5th : 5JMc - Life as a Tudor Workshop
 Thursday 5th : IKS Trip to Liverpool Museum
 Friday 6th : Rockstar / NSPCC Rocks Day
 Tuesday 10th : School Performing at Shakespeare North
 Wednesday 11th : Y3 Parent Showcase
 Thursday 12th : Y5 Parent Showcase
 Friday 13th : School closes for half term 3:30pm
 Monday 23rd : Back to school
 Tuesday 24th : 6COB - Vibe, Moel Famau
 Wednesday 25th : 6CD - Vibe, Moel Famau
 Thursday 26th : 5JMc - Vibe, Rivington Pike
 Friday 27th : 5ND - Vibe, Rivington Pike

March

Tuesday 3rd : 4IP Vibe, Geo Cashing
 Wednesday 4th : 4AM Vibe, Geo Cashing
 Thursday 5th : World Book Day - Pyjamas or Book Character
 Thursday 5th : 3AP Vibe
 Friday 6th : 3CW Vibe
 Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th : Y3 Swimming
 Wednesday 11th : Parents Evening
 Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th : Y4 Swimming
 Thursday 12th : Parents Evening
 Thursday 12th : Y5 Visit to Albert Dock
 Friday 13th : Blue for Bobby
 Friday 13th : Y5 Swimming
 Monday 16th : Y2 Fieldwork Trip
 Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th : Y5 Swimming
 Wednesday 18th : Y1 Parent Showcase

Wednesday 18th Thursday 19th, Friday 20th : Y6 Swimming
 Thursday 19th : Y2 Visit to a Mandir
 Friday 20th : Comic Relief - Own Clothes
 Monday 23rd : Y6 Parent Showcase
 Monday 23rd : Y3 Gurdwara & Y4 Vihara Workshop
 Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th : Y5 Swimming
 Tuesday 24th : KS2 Easter Bingo
 Wednesday 25th : EYFS Easter Bonnet
 Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th, Friday 27th : Y6 Swimming
 Thursday 26th : KS1 Easter Bonnet
 Friday 27th : School closes for half term 1:30pm