Morley Primary School Newsletter – December 2025

As we approach the end of term, I want to reflect on what has been a truly wonderful start to the academic year. Our new Reception cohort have been magnificent, settling beautifully into school life with joy, curiosity and confidence. They have made a fantastic start to their school journey. A huge thank you also to our Year 1 children, who have shown such kindness and leadership in welcoming and supporting the younger children entering Class 1.

Autumn Highlights

We have already enjoyed many memorable moments this term. Our Year 4, 5 and 6 children had an incredible three-night residential in Hathersage, building resilience, togetherness and independence in the heart of Derbyshire. Our whole-school Togetherness Trip to Bluebells in September was a highlight, with staff there telling us we were the best school they have ever welcomed. And Class 2 and 3 were treated to the unforgettable experience of seeing *The Snowman* performed live by a full orchestra — a magical cultural Christmas opportunity.

Nativity

This week we were treated to a wonderful Nativity performance from Reception and Year 1 at St Matthew's Church. The children were absolutely amazing — confident, joyful and full of festive spirit. Thank you to all the staff involved for the time, care and creativity that made this such a special event. We are so very proud of our youngest children.

Year 6

A special mention must also go to our wonderful Year 6 children. They continue to work incredibly hard in their final year at Morley as they move toward SATs in the summer. Their attitude has been superb — attending revision sessions, putting in extra practice and approaching every challenge with maturity and determination. They are a credit to themselves and to Morley.

Rev Kate Plant

We would also like to share that Reverend Kate Plant will be leaving St Matthew's Church in the new year. Reverend Kate has become such a cherished part of school life, and we are deeply grateful for the warm, reflective and heart-touching assemblies she has shared with us over the years. Many of us will remember her messages on the small things, the quiet things and the hidden things — reminders of kindness and thoughtfulness that have stayed with the children long after the assembly ends. She will always be remembered as a gentle, compassionate and truly special vicar at Morley. We are very sad to see her go but wish her every happiness for the future.

Parent Safeguarding Bulletins

Thank you to all parents who read our weekly safeguarding bulletins. These short updates are designed to keep everyone informed about key safeguarding themes in school and online. They can always be found on our website under the Safeguarding tab, and we hope they continue to be helpful and easy to follow.

Springwood Leisure Centre – Class 2 and 3

After Christmas, Class 2 and 3 will once again be attending Springwood Leisure Centre during the colder months of January and February. Parents will need to drop children off at Springwood on Monday mornings from the second week back (Monday 12th January). Class 3 will attend for four weeks and Class 2 for five weeks. Children will then return to school by bus. Sessions will include tennis and volleyball, and will begin with a fitness workout each week. Families using Penguin Play should note that Penguin Play will run from 8am at Springwood, but breakfast will not be available. Please contact Penguin Play directly for more information.

Broomfield Collage

Thank you also to Broomfield College for their continued support with school trips and transport. Their partnership is incredibly valuable to us, and we are very grateful for the loan of the minibus and their broader support. A particular thank you to Jon Collins, Vice Principal and one of our governors, for always championing Morley so strongly.

Pupil Voice

Throughout the term, staff have been carrying out extensive pupil voice work across the curriculum. Children spoke enthusiastically about vocabulary — sharing how new words help them understand books more deeply and improve their writing. In safeguarding discussions, children talked confidently about who they can go to for help, and many could clearly explain the importance of speaking up if something doesn't feel right. In science, children described enjoying practical investigations and using scientific vocabulary accurately to explain their thinking.

Community Safeguarding

Our community safeguarding report tool is available through the QR code and on the school safeguarding page of the website. This initiative ensures that everyone can play a role in keeping our children safe, creating a stronger, more vigilant community. Thank you for your support in making Morley a safe and nurturing environment for all.

https://www.morley.derbyshire.sch.uk/can-i-talk-to-you-safeguarding-concerns/

Attendance this term has remained strong despite a flu-like illness and sickness bug that affected many children. Our whole-school attendance currently stands at **97.2%**, and we are grateful for parents' support and children's positive attitude in wanting to return to school as soon as they were well. We are confident attendance will continue to thrive as we move into the new year.

House Attendance:

Broomfield	Rolls Royce	Tissington	Morley Hayes
98.7%	98.2%	97%	98%

Start of the Day

Opening the school door from 08:30 has had a positive impact upon the start of the day which is calm and focused. Please can I encourage all families to ensure their child is dropped off at school for **08:45 at the very latest**. When children arrive at

school, they take part in morning maths and English activities which are vital – children miss out on these learning opportunities if they arrive late.

PE

Please note that **all earrings must be removed for PE lessons** for safety reasons, and we are unable to make exceptions. Earrings can be taped up if children are in the healing period after having their ears pierced. Earrings should be small studs only and no other jewellery is allowed in school.

Water Bottles

Please ensure your child has a clear, reusable water bottle in school everyday.

Contact Details – Keep Us Updated

Please remember to inform Mrs Taylor if your contact details change – particularly phone numbers and emergency contacts. It's essential that we have up-to-date information in case of emergencies.

Access to devices

The world is more digital than ever, and we share most of our updates through ClassDojo. If you don't have access to a device or would prefer paper copies sent home, please let us know, we're more than happy to help in school.

As we close the term, I want to wish every family in our Morley community a wonderful, restful and joyful Christmas. We hope you enjoy precious family time, lots of reading, warm fires, winter walks and a well-deserved break. Thank you for your ongoing support — we look forward to seeing everyone in January for another exciting term ahead.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Morley Primary School.

With my very best wishes,
Mr Taylor

Key Dates

20th-23rd October 2025	Year 4/5/6 Hathersage Residential
24th October 2025	Break Up for October Half Term
3rd November 2025	Return to School
17th November 2025	Individual and Sibling Photos
11th December 2025	Christmas Jumper Day
16th December 2025	Class 2/3 Christmas Performance Morley Hayes
19th December 2025	Break Up for Christmas
5th January 2026	INSET
6th January 2026	Start of Spring Term
12th January 2026	PE at Springwood Leisure Centre for 5 Mondays – drop off 08:45 at Springwood.
13th February 2026	Break up for half term
23rd February 2026	INSET Day
14th February 2026	Return to School
27th March 2026	Break up for Easter Holiday
13th April 2026	Return to School

11th May 2026	Year 6 SATS Week Begins
22nd May 2026	Break up
1st June 2026	INSET Day
Thursday 23rd July 2026	Last Day of the School Year