



Moss Lane School Newsletter

Friday 9th October 2026

**Whole School
Attendance**

96.74%



Our value for this term is

Friendship

Dear Parents/Carers

Well, we're into October already – the term is whizzing by! I am delighted to share some of the events and achievements that have taken place over the past few weeks. Our resilient children have continued to embrace our Woodland School outdoor activities with great enthusiasm, demonstrating their curiosity and zest for learning. It has been wonderful to see the children settling so well into their new classes, and we are particularly pleased with how confidently our new Reception children have adapted to school life.

It has also been lovely to hear the children practising their songs for our Harvest Festival. We are very much looking forward to sharing their wonderful singing with you all soon.

At Moss Lane, we are proud to continually reflect on and develop the curriculum and experiences we provide for our children. This month, we are celebrating Black History Month, which provides an opportunity for us to learn about and celebrate the contributions, achievements and experiences of Black people and communities.

This year's theme, "Honouring Our Communities," focuses on recognising the everyday individuals, networks and contributions of Black people that help to shape and sustain British life and our local communities. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate diversity, promote understanding and encourage our children to appreciate the many different people and communities that make up our society.

If you would like to support your child's learning further at home, please click on the link below for more information and resources. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

World Mental Health day 2026

This year, World Mental Health Day, on 10 October, focuses on the theme "Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change." At Moss Lane, we will use this as an opportunity to help our children understand that their feelings matter and that it is always okay to talk about how they are feeling. Through stories, conversations and activities, we will encourage children to listen to others, show kindness and empathy, and recognise the importance of sharing our thoughts and feelings with a trusted adult. Together, we can help create a school community where every child feels heard, valued and supported.



What's going on in school...

Bees

Bees were brilliant on our first short outing to the allotment, noticing lots of things growing and a few late bees collecting nectar from the sunflowers. They all collected an apple from our apple trees which we'll use to cook with next week. Everyone has been enthusiastically writing secret codes in our Goldilocks drawing club and comparing the size and weight of things in Maths. In phonics they have been working hard learning new letter sounds and blending short words. Keep practising with the letter cards we are sending home.

Year 1

The children in Foxes and Squirrels are also looking forward to performing their harvest songs next week. We have enjoyed mixing primary colours to see how many new ones we can make! We were inspired by Kandinsky's Concentric Circles and are currently in the middle of making our own! Watch this space....



Year 2

Year 2 have been challenging themselves during maths sessions. They have explored the connections between bonds to 10 and bonds to 100. The children have been busy designing fire engines for their DT topic which explores wheels and axles. Teachers are keeping an eye, and ear out, for fluent readers and look forward to seeing how many children have accessed their reading book on their Collins account.

Children in Need

BBC Children in Need 2026

BBC Children in Need is back on Friday 13 November 2026, with this year's campaign encouraging everyone to "Challenge Yourself" and help make a difference to children and young people across the UK.



To celebrate, on Friday 20th November, children can come to school dressed in yellow, spotty outfits or wear yellow bear ears. Be as creative as you like – whatever you choose to wear, make it something that will bring a smile to your classmates' faces! How about taking part in the CBeebies Bedtime Stories Big Read' challenge and enjoy as many brilliant books as you can. We kindly ask for a recommended donation of £1 to support BBC Children in Need. Every donation, big or small, helps to support children and young people when they need it most.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/children-in-need>

Speak to Mrs Forbes - Parent's Evening

Please do note that you are able to book an appointment to see Mrs Forbes our SENCo during our parent's evenings too. Although we always encourage you to speak to your child's class teacher first, Mrs Forbes is also available to talk to you about any concerns or worries you have about your child. If you would like to make an appointment please speak to the office.

Bikes and Scooters

A gentle reminder to all families that bikes and scooters should be parked responsibly in the designated areas. For everyone's safety, children should not ride bikes or scooters while on the school premises. Please ensure that bikes and scooters are walked through the car park and playground, both when arriving at school and when leaving. Thank you for helping us to keep our school site safe and accessible for everyone.

A Positive Start to the School Day

We know that saying goodbye in the morning can sometimes be difficult, particularly if your child is upset or finding the transition into school challenging. The best way to support your child is to keep the goodbye quick, calm and positive. Our experienced staff are ready to take your child from you, comfort them and help them settle into their day. Please allow us to take your child, even if this means gently lifting them from you and putting them down safely, and then say a brief goodbye and leave promptly. Waiting nearby, looking back or watching to see if they have settled can often make the separation more difficult and prolong their upset. Children usually settle much more quickly once their parent or carer has left and they become involved in the familiar routines and activities of the classroom. Thank you for trusting us and working with us to make morning transitions as happy and successful as possible.

What's coming up

Monday 12th October

Woodland School Squirrels

Thursday 15th October

Harvest Performance 9.15am – 10am

Bee's and Otter's Parents

Autumn Mufti

Friday 16th October

Harvest Performance 9.15am – 10am

Squirrels, Foxes and Hedgehogs parents

Autumn Mufti

HALF TERM (NB a 2 week half term)

Monday 2nd November

Inset day (no children in school)

Tuesday 10th November

Parents Evening 3.30pm – 7pm

Wednesday 11th November

Individual School Photos

Thursday 12th November

Parents Evening 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Friday 20th November

Flu Vaccinations in school

Check out our online calendar of events

<https://www.moss-lane.surrey.sch.uk/web/calendar/156581>

Inset days 2026-2026

- Monday 2nd November
- Friday 12th February
- Friday 12th April
- Friday 28th May

Harvest Festival

We are delighted to invite families to join us in the school hall for our annual **Harvest Festival celebrations**:

- **Thursday 15 October at 9.15am** – Bees and Otters families
- **Friday 16 October at 9.15am** – Year 1 and Hedgehogs families

We would also love the children to wear autumnal mufti on both these days, in lovely autumn colours such as red, orange, yellow, green or brown. This year, we are once again supporting the Godalming & Villages Community Store, which provides food and essential items to local people and families in need. The Store works closely with local organisations to identify those who need support and relies on the generosity of the local community.

Last year, the incredible generosity of Moss Lane families enabled us to donate a whole car full of items, and we would love to provide the same wonderful support again this year.

If you are able to contribute, particularly useful donations include:

- Tinned meat meals and tuna
- Curry sauces
- Dried pasta and rice pudding
- Tinned custard
- UHT semi-skimmed milk
- Instant noodles (packets rather than pots)
- Sugar and biscuits
- Multipack crisps



- Toilet and kitchen roll
- Washing-up liquid

Other non-perishable food items are also very welcome.

Please bring donations into school during Harvest Collection Week, from Monday 12th October, and leave them on the table outside the school office. Every donation, however small, will make a difference. Thank you so much for your generosity and continued support of our local community.

Safeguarding

Keeping Our School Site Safe

At Moss Lane School, we are committed to ensuring that our children are safe, happy and aiming high. Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do, and this includes taking every possible step to keep our children physically and emotionally safe.

We are asking for the support of our wider Moss Lane family with a few important reminders that help us maintain a safe and secure school site:

- If the back door is closed, please do not open it under any circumstances.
- Please ensure that the small red pedestrian gate is closed and bolted whenever entering or leaving the site outside of normal drop-off and collection times.
- Please do not allow anyone to follow you through the gate outside of normal drop-off and collection times. We appreciate that it can sometimes feel awkward to ask someone to use the buzzer, but this is an important safeguarding measure.
- Please do not be offended if another member of our school community asks you to close and bolt the side gate or to use the buzzer. We are all working together to keep our children safe.
- Please do not park in front of the red gates or on the yellow line at the front of the school, even if you are running late or dropping off or collecting outside of the usual times. These gates must remain accessible at all times.
- Please share these important messages with anyone who may be dropping off or collecting your child.
- As a reminder, dogs are not permitted on the school grounds, even if they are being carried.

Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and continued support. By working together and following these simple procedures, we can help to maintain a safe and secure environment for all of our children.

Attendance Matters – Holidays During Term Time

This week, I have received a significant number of requests for holidays to be taken during term time. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers of the importance of regular school attendance and our responsibilities in line with government guidance.

Holidays during term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. This is in accordance with Department for Education guidance and applies equally to all children, from Reception through to Year 2. Every school day matters. The learning that takes place throughout Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is vitally important in securing the strong foundations children need for their future education. Learning is carefully planned and builds progressively from day to day, meaning that even a few days of absence can result in children missing important teaching, experiences and opportunities to consolidate their understanding. These gaps can be difficult to close and may have an impact on children's confidence, progress and attainment.

Whilst I fully appreciate the value of family holidays and the memories they create; I must emphasise that holidays should be arranged during the designated school holiday periods. Requests for term-time leave will only be considered where genuinely exceptional circumstances exist, and authorisation remains at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Parents and carers should also be aware that unauthorised absences may result in a penalty notice being issued by the Local Authority. Under the national framework, where a child has 10 sessions (equivalent to five school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school-week period, the school must consider whether a penalty notice is appropriate. The current penalty is £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, increasing to £160 if paid within 28 days. Further unauthorised absences may lead to additional action being taken. These arrangements apply to children of compulsory school age.

Our intention is always to work positively with families to promote excellent attendance, rather than focus on penalties. However, we have a responsibility to ensure that government expectations are followed consistently and fairly. Every day in school counts, and every day of learning matters. Thank you for your understanding and continued support in ensuring that every child has the best possible opportunity to learn, achieve and thrive at Moss Lane.

Keeping Everyone Safe at Pick-Up

A reminder to all families that children must walk their scooters across the school playground at all times, including before school, at the end of the school day and when leaving KOOSA Club.

- Collecting from KOOSA: Parents/carers should go to the main front door and ring the bell. A member of the KOOSA team will answer and bring your child to you. This arrangement is important in helping us to keep the school site safe and secure. If your child has a scooter, KOOSA staff will ask them to collect it and will bring them to the black playground gates with their scooter.
- Car Park and parking safety: Please be particularly vigilant at this time of day as the school car park can be very busy. If you see a vehicle moving, please stop, stand safely to the side and wait until the vehicle has passed or stopped before continuing. Please do not park on the yellow lines or immediately outside the school gates. Vehicles parked in these areas can obstruct drivers' visibility when entering or leaving the school site, making it difficult to see pedestrians and other vehicles and creating an unnecessary safety risk.

Scooters

Finally, please remind children that when using scooters on the pavements around school, they must remain close to their accompanying adult. Moss Lane is a very busy road, and we all have a responsibility to help keep our children safe.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to maintain a safe and secure school site for everyone.

Supporting Children with Technology and Online Safety

As children grow, their use of technology changes, and we recognise that knowing what is appropriate at each age can sometimes feel challenging for parents and carers. Throughout the year, we will share online safety information, guidance and practical tips through our school newsletter. Our children also receive a dedicated online safety lesson each half term, helping them to develop the knowledge and confidence they need to stay safe online.

If you are looking for advice and guidance about keeping your child safe when using technology, websites such as Parent Zone, Common Sense Media, the NSPCC, Internet Matters and LGfL provide helpful resources for parents and carers. The NSPCC also has a useful guide to help parents think about what is appropriate for their child in terms of technology ownership and use at different ages and stages, including under 5s, under 10s, pre-teens, teenagers and children with SEND.

The recommend amount of screen time: -

- **Age 4:** Aim for no more than around 1 hour per day, with less being better where possible. The 2026 government guidance for under-5s recommends trying to keep screen time to 1 hour a day or less.
- **Age 5:** There is currently no fixed government daily limit. New guidance for ages 5–16 was announced in June 2026, but the government said it would be published later in the year.
- **Ages 6–7:** Similarly, there is no single recommended number of minutes per day in the current UK government guidance. Families are encouraged to consider whether screen use is interfering with sleep, physical activity, family time, play, learning and social interaction.

Screen Time and Online Gaming

The internet is a brilliant resource for children and offers many opportunities for learning, creativity and entertainment. However, we appreciate that navigating screen time and online gaming can sometimes be challenging for parents and carers.

One of the most important things you can do is keep an open conversation with your child about what they are doing online, particularly if they have independent access to a device. Take an interest in what they enjoy, ask them about the games they are playing and encourage them to talk to you if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable or worried.



As a general guide, we recommend that infant-aged children have limited screen time on personal devices, with around 30 minutes a day being a useful starting point. Every family is different, so it is important to consider what works best for your child and to ensure that screen time does not replace sleep, physical activity, play or time together as a family.

If your child is accessing a particular game or online platform, Internet Matters provides helpful parent guides and information about age ratings, potential risks and safety settings. These resources can help you make informed decisions about whether content is appropriate for your child and how to keep them safer online.

Are you worrying about putting food on the table?

If your family is experiencing a difficult time or an unexpected crisis and you are worried about being able to afford food, please don't struggle alone. We are here to help and support you. If you need assistance, please speak to Mrs Abbott or contact Mrs Forbes-Patching, our Home School Link Worker. You can also seek support through your local Citizens Advice service or a local church. These organisations can help families access short-term support from local food banks and other community resources.

Please do not worry about asking for help. Families can face difficult circumstances at any time, and there is no judgement. We are all here to support you and your family in whatever way we can.

Attendance

Is my child too ill for school? It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason. If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

Video

Is my Child Well enough to go to school?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_i5KxggkPTw

Is my child well enough for school?

A quick guide for parents and carers

YES - usually send them in

If your child has only mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or slight cough, and is otherwise well with no high temperature, they can usually attend school.

NO - keep them at home

If your child has a high temperature, is clearly unwell, or has an illness with a public-health exclusion period, they should stay at home until the relevant return point.

Quick return-to-school guide

Condition / symptoms What should I do?

- Diarrhoea or vomiting **Stay home.** Return 2 days (48 hours) after diarrhoea and vomiting have stopped.
- Chickenpox **Stay home.** Return 5 days after the rash first appeared.
- Scarlet fever **Stay home.** Return 24 hours after starting antibiotics.
- Impetigo **Stay home.** Return when all blisters have formed scabs, or 2 days after starting antibiotics.
- Measles **Stay home.** Return 4 days after the rash started.
- Mumps **Stay home.** Return 5 days after the swelling started.
- Ringworm **Stay home until treatment has started.**
- Flu / respiratory infection **Stay home if more than mildly unwell**, for example if they have a high temperature. Return when better and no longer feverish.
- Conjunctivitis **No routine exclusion required.** If otherwise well, they can attend.
- Hand, foot and mouth **No routine exclusion required.** If otherwise well, they can attend.
- Head lice **No routine exclusion required.** Please treat promptly and let school know where appropriate.
- Slapped cheek **No routine exclusion required.** If otherwise well, they can attend.

Ask yourself: Is my child well enough to take part in a normal school day?

If they are otherwise well and only have mild cold-like symptoms, attendance is usually appropriate.

If they are significantly unwell, have a high temperature, or need more care than school can reasonably provide, keep them at home and seek medical advice if needed.

If your child is absent

Please contact the school on the first day of absence and tell us the reason. If your child has an infection that may be passed to others but does not require exclusion, please let the school know.

Important

This is a quick parent guide, not a diagnosis. Some infections have additional or different advice, and public-health guidance may change.

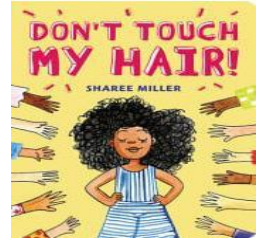
Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium is additional funding provided to schools to help improve the educational outcomes of children who may face additional barriers to learning. For 2026–27, funding is allocated for children who are eligible for, or have been eligible for, Free School Meals within the past six years (Ever 6), as well as children who are looked after or previously looked after, including children who have been adopted from care or left care through a Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangements Order. Service Pupil Premium is also available for eligible children from service families. For the

2026–27 school year, a child may attract Pupil Premium funding if they are eligible for Targeted Free School Meals (FSM) or have been eligible at any time during the past six years. This is generally based on a household receiving certain benefits, including Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less, after tax and excluding benefits. If you think you might be eligible, please go to the school office

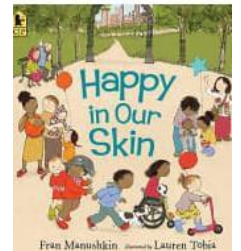
Black History Month – Recommended Picture Books

As part of our Black History Month learning, we have put together a selection of picture books that celebrate Black history, diversity, identity, self-confidence and the experiences and achievements of Black children, families and significant individuals. These are wonderful books to share together at home.



Suitable for Reception and KS1

- **Sulwe** by Lupita Nyong'o – A beautiful story about a young girl who wishes her skin was lighter, helping children explore self-esteem, identity and the beauty of being themselves.
- **I Promise** by LeBron James – An inspiring story that encourages children to believe in themselves, make positive choices and think about the promises they can make to themselves and others.
- **Don't Touch My Hair!** by Sharee Miller – A fun and engaging book that celebrates personal boundaries and encourages children to feel confident about speaking up for themselves.
- **Brown: The Many Shades of Love** by Nancy Johnson – A celebration of the many beautiful shades of brown, exploring family, love and the diversity of skin tones.
- **Bedtime Bonnet** by Nancy Redd – A warm and joyful story celebrating Black hair, bedtime routines and the special traditions shared within families.
- **Happy in Our Skin** by Fran Manushkin – A joyful celebration of skin and the many different colours and shades that make each of us unique.



More great choices for KS1

- **Coming to England** by Floella Benjamin – A child-friendly account of Floella Benjamin's journey from Trinidad to England as part of the Windrush generation. A wonderful introduction to migration, belonging, family and Black British history.
- **Look Up!** by Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola – An uplifting and funny story about Rocket, a young Black girl who loves science and space. It encourages curiosity, ambition and following your interests.
- **The Proudest Blue** by Ibtihaj Muhammad and S. K. Ali – A beautiful story about two sisters and the first day one wears her hijab to school. It explores identity, confidence, kindness and celebrating who you are.
- **Mae Among the Stars** by Roda Ahmed – Inspired by the childhood of Mae Jemison, the first Black woman to travel into space. An inspiring story about having big dreams, determination and believing in yourself.
- **Little People, BIG DREAMS: Rosa Parks** by Lisbeth Kaiser – An accessible introduction to Rosa Parks and her role in challenging racial segregation, helping younger children begin to understand fairness, equality and standing up for what is right.
- **Young, Gifted and Black Too** by Jamia Wilson and Andrea Pippins – Introduces children to inspiring Black figures from around the world and celebrates their achievements across science, sport, politics, the arts and many other areas.
- **My Hair** by Hannah Lee and Allen Fatimaharan – A joyful story celebrating Black hairstyles, identity and self-expression as a young girl decides how she would like to wear her hair for her birthday.
- **So Much** by Trish Cooke – A warm, joyful celebration of a Black family coming together for a special occasion, exploring family relationships, love and belonging.

Is my child too ill for school?

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	Cold sores Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels. Conjunctivitis Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly. Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP. Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly. Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.	Impetigo They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school. Ringworm See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment. Scarlet fever They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics. Chickenpox Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	Ear infection If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away. Measles They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system. Vomiting & diarrhoea Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'