



Maulden Lower School

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHER UPDATE



As we begin our third week of the new school year, I wanted to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you for such a warm welcome to Maulden Lower School.

I have genuinely loved my first couple of weeks as Headteacher. It has been wonderful getting to know the children, visiting classrooms, spending time on the playground and meeting so many of you at the school gate. I have been so impressed by how positively the children have settled into their new classes and routines, and it has been lovely to see so many happy, confident faces around school.

One of the things that has stood out to me already is the real sense of community at Maulden. Our staff know the children incredibly well, the children clearly care about their school and there is a lovely warmth when you walk around the buildings. There is already so much here for us to be proud of and I am really looking forward to getting to know the school and its community even better over the coming weeks.

You will often see me out on the gate at the beginning and end of the school day, so please do come over and say hello! I am always happy to have a chat, answer a question or help with anything I can. Building strong relationships with our families is really important to me and I hope you will always feel welcome and able to speak to us.

I am incredibly excited about the year ahead and about working alongside our children, staff, families and governors as we continue Towards a Better Life together. Thank you again for making me feel so welcome, I already feel very fortunate to be part of the Maulden community.

Mr David Cox

Green Flag Award - Merit

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Merit for 2026-27.

This fantastic achievement recognises our whole-school commitment to environmental awareness and sustainability.

A huge thank you to our staff for their support and enthusiasm, and especially to our Eco Council, whose commitment, ideas and hard work played a vital role in achieving this award. We are incredibly proud of what they have accomplished and look forward to continuing our environmental journey together.

Well done to everyone involved!



SCHOOL LIBRARY

LIBRARY UPDATE

Over the summer holidays, we have been working hard to make our library even better for everyone!

We carefully reviewed the feedback from the library surveys completed by children in Years 2, 3 and 4. Using your fantastic suggestions, we have added a range of exciting new books that we hope will inspire a love of reading and provide something for everyone to enjoy.

We have also introduced speakers in the library, allowing us to create a calm and welcoming atmosphere with relaxing music, as well as giving children the opportunity to enjoy audiobooks. We hope these improvements will make our library an even more enjoyable place to read, learn and explore.

We can't wait to share our new books and library enhancements with all of our pupils this term!

SCHOOL LUNCHES

APETITO

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new catering provider, Apetito, and we are looking forward to introducing a range of exciting new meal options for our children.

Over the coming months, we will be trialling a variety of dishes to give pupils the opportunity to sample new flavours and help us identify the meals they enjoy most. We hope this will make lunchtime an even more enjoyable experience while ensuring children continue to receive nutritious, balanced meals.

We are also planning a special tasting event for parents, where you will have the chance to sample a selection of dishes from the new menu and find out more about what Apetito has to offer. Further details and a date for this event will be shared soon.

We are excited to begin this new partnership and look forward to hearing feedback from both children and families as we continue to develop our school meal provision.





Every student. Every day.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

SPOTLIGHT ON PERSISTANT ABSENCE

What is persistent absence?

If your child takes too much time off school they will become categorised as PA or persistently absent. (Attendance below 90% = persistent absence).

Missing school will make your child fall behind in lessons and will impact on their academic progress and achievement.

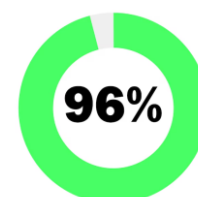
Below shows how many days missed each half term will make your child a PA student:

Half term 1	3.5 days off school from September until October half term
Half term 2	7 days off from September until Christmas holiday
Half term 3	10 days of absence from September until February half term
Half term 4	12.5 days of absence from September until Easter
Half term 5	15.5 days of absence from September until May half term
Half term 6	19 days of absence for the full academic year.

Our Attendance Target



2025/26 Attendance



Every day in school counts...



and every minute counts...



For more information regarding Studybugs and how to download the app please visit <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

BIG NEWS!

THE HIVE

WRAPAROUND CARE AT MAULDEN LOWER SCHOOL!

A warm welcome, lots of smiles and hive loads of fun!

The Hive is our exciting wraparound care provision before and after school, where children can relax, play, learn and make wonderful memories every day.

MORE THAN JUST CARE...

At The Hive, we believe in creating a happy, safe and stimulating environment where every child can be their best.

- Safe & Secure** - Delivered by our trusted Maulden Lower staff who know and care about your children.
- Fun & Engaging** - A fantastic range of sports, games and activities each month.
- Relaxing and inclusive** - A quiet space and helpful staff on hand.
- Healthy & Tasty** - Breakfast in the morning and a nutritious tea in the evening.
- Friendships & Confidence** - Building connections, trying new things and growing together.

WHAT WE DO

- The Hive is high-quality wrap around care provided by Maulden Lower school staff for our families. As our wraparound care is run by the school, there is consistency of policies and expectations.
- The Hive is available to all pupils who attend our school and pre-school.
- We publish a monthly calendar of activities including a range of sports, games and crafts. We are fortunate to have the use of both our indoor and outdoor areas. Please see our newsletter for the most up to date information of the sessions we currently have planned.
- Breakfast is served between 07.30 and 08.15. Those attending after school sessions will be served tea at 17.30.
- Sessions can be booked and paid for via the Weduc app or by contacting the school office.

BOOK TODAY!

Spaces fill up fast - don't miss out! Book via the Weduc app or contact the school office.

VISIT
MAULDEN LOWER SCHOOL
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07902 238761

ONLINE
WWW.MAULDENLOWER.COM

EMAIL
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AT THE HIVE, EVERY CHILD IS VALUED, EVERY DAY IS AN ADVENTURE!



Free breakfast club provision available to children in Year R - Year 4 from 08:10-08:45. Breakfast served until 08:25

Please contact the office for more information.

These sessions are free to all pupils. Everyone welcome - Just turn up and give us a try.



OUR RECYCLING STATION HAS A NEW LOOK!

We're excited to share that our recycling station has been refreshed and expanded to help us reduce waste even more effectively. You can now drop off the following items:

-  **Batteries**
-  **Bread packaging** (plastic bread bags, crumpet packets etc)
-  **Ink cartridges**
-  **Book donations** (used as new books for our library and pre-loved book sales)
-  **Coffee packaging**
-  **Biscuit wrappers**

Thank you for helping us support a greener, cleaner community!



ONLINE SAFETY GUIDANCE

ONLINE SAFETY FOR UNDER 5S

According to Ofcom's most recent research, a significant proportion of children are already online by the time they start school, with 17% of 5 year olds owning their own mobile phone and 50% using messaging platforms. It is crucial that trusted adults recognize both the benefits and the risks of infants and toddlers using digital devices. National Online Safety have compiled their top tips to help the under 5s start their online journey safely:

1. Use devices together
2. Activate parental controls
3. Manage screen time
4. Talk about being safe online
5. Set a good example
6. Block in-app purchases
7. Choose safe apps and sites
8. Involve the family
9. If in doubt, ask
10. Support creative and active play

<https://www.mauldenlower.com/parents-carers/online-safety-guidance/>





Healthy living and wellbeing



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

School avoidance refers to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. In 2022-23, more than one in five children in England were found to be absent from school over 10% of the time. This guide focuses on school avoidance with an emotional basis, offering expert mental health advice. However, it's important to remember that school avoidance is a hugely subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes understood by several factors rather than one single reason. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school, a child may have coping responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics; building and maintaining difficulties at school; pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams; or moving from primary school to secondary school.

PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absence or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is avoidant, there is some evidence to suggest there are fears aspects of school life which can cause distress – such as changes in the environment, changes in routine and sensory stimuli.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include tummy aches, headaches, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School avoidance can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic achievement but is also important for the development of life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. Anxiety, for example, leads to reduced future opportunities, poor educational attainment, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their negative beliefs about the school and their own abilities – increasing their desire to stay at home.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or mitigation. This involves a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, then making up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine when it comes to going away from school can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Routines can help create a structured routine for the child's school day, if required.

MANAGE OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

Acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss coping strategies together to help them manage difficulties. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk. This helps them understand that you are working together towards a common goal, and that these strategies can be used when bigger feelings arise.

RECOGNISE POSITIVE STEPS

Giving attention to a child's successes – no matter how small – can help to give them some much-needed confidence and motivation. Celebrate these daily victories – such as getting out of bed on time or completing schoolwork – and don't hesitate to let the child know when you're impressed or proud of them. Such an approach can go a long way.

Meet Our Expert

With 14 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and school executive head, Anna Holman has a special understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page 47: <https://www.thenationalcollege.org/guides/school-avoidance>

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f /www.thenationalcollege
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yt @wake.up.weds

None of this guide is to be taken as advice. No liability is entered into. Content as of the date of release 12.08.2024



Pre School (Robins)	Friday	Year 2 (Hedgehogs)	Tuesday
Reception (Wrens)	Friday	Year 3 (Woodpeckers)	Friday
Year 1 (Rabbits)	Monday	Year 4 (Kestrels)	Friday

We have had an exciting summer updating our sports equipment and are delighted to share some of the new resources that have arrived ready for the new school year!

These new resources will help children develop their physical skills, teamwork, coordination and confidence, while most importantly having lots of fun and staying active. We can't wait to see them being enjoyed across the school this term!

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Classlist
 Connect - Celebrate - Collaborate
Maulden Lower School Parents

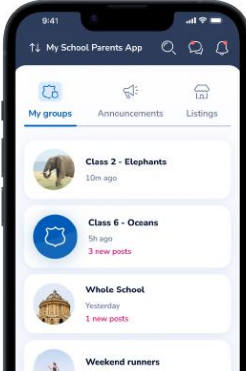



Join our parent app
 For quick approval, scan the code by Fri 11 Sep
 <https://app.classlist.com/s/H0QEUV>

Parents love using Classlist to:

- Connect with class families
- Hear what's happening at school and ask questions
- Organise meet-ups and birthday parties
- Get tickets to events

GDPR compliant, private and secure.
www.classlist.com




WELCOME TO THE MSA!
 Maulden School Association -
 bringing families, school and community together.

WHO ARE WE?
 The MSA is the school's parent and teacher association, run by parent volunteers dedicated to enriching school life.

WHAT DO WE DO?
 We organise fun events and raise vital funds to support our school and children. Examples include: discos, family events, fundraising days, Christmas activities, and special treats.

WANT TO JOIN US?
 Everyone is welcome - whether you can spare an hour or a little more. Your time, ideas, and support make a huge difference!

HOW TO JOIN:
 Ask your class rep on your WhatsApp group, send us an email: mauldenschoolassociation@gmail.com, or contact us via Classlist. The office would also be happy to pass a message to us directly :)



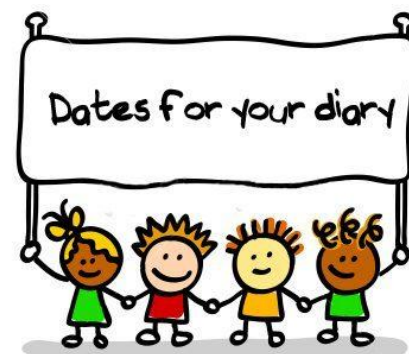


COME AND BE PART OF IT!

Every bit of help makes a difference to our children.
 We'd love to have you with us!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3 Welcome Back YR Phased Start	4 YR Phased Start
7	8	9	10	11 KS2 Swimming Hotshots
14	15	16	17	18 KS2 Swimming Hotshots
21	22 FGB Meeting	23 KS2 Singing Club	24	25 Open Morning KS2 Swimming Hotshots
28	29	30 KS2 Singing Club		

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Only dates for the current month are included in our newsletter. Please refer to the website or Weduc for dates in the future.