

MOSSY LEA MESSENGER

Monday, 13th July 2026 XIII.VII. MMXXVI

Weekly Highlights at Mighty Mossy

The week began with the children enjoying the highlights from the England v Mexico World Cup match during lunchtime. As the game took place in the middle of the night, it was a brilliant opportunity for everyone (adults included!) to catch up on the action together.



Sports Day

The highlight of the week had to be our Sports Day! What an incredible afternoon it was. The children truly embodied our school values: We Aim High, We Persevere and We Stand Together. From the individual events to the team games, every child gave their absolute best, encouraged one another and had lots of fun along the way.

A huge thank you to all of our families for coming along and creating such a wonderful atmosphere with your incredible support and enthusiastic cheering. It really made the afternoon extra special.



Acorn Class

In Science, we investigated how different materials can change shape. We tested whether materials could be squished, twisted, stretched or bent and identified objects that couldn't be manipulated at all.

In Music, the children continued practising the glockenspiel with Ross. They showed fantastic concentration and followed the musical notes beautifully. We can't wait for you to see them perform at next Friday's Leavers' Assembly!



Oak Class

Our Year 5 mathematicians enjoyed a fun, hands-on week exploring measurement. They estimated and weighed the mass of different objects, measured the paper darts they had made and compared the lengths of different parts of their bodies. Did you know that, for most people, the distance from your hip to the floor is very similar to the length of your arm span?

In Geography, we completed our final lesson on plastic pollution. The children each made a personal pledge to reduce their use of single-use plastics. Ask your child what they have pledged to do over the next week! They came up with some fantastic ideas, including remembering reusable shopping bags, switching to bamboo toothbrushes and choosing tap water instead of bottled water.

In Science, we explored the characteristics we inherit from our parents. Children with siblings compared similarities in appearance and features, helping us understand how traits can be passed down through families.

Our Year 6 children enjoyed one final trip with their friends from St George's before they head off to high school. They spent the day at Duxbury Park, where they had great fun playing crazy golf before enjoying a picnic lunch together. It was a lovely opportunity to make some lasting memories, celebrate their friendships and mark the end of their primary school journey.



Here we are again.

The final newsletter of the school year. The moment where we stand with one foot in what has been, and one foot in what comes next.

A threshold.

I've been thinking about thresholds a lot recently. Doorways. Gateways. Those ordinary little lines we cross every day without thinking — into classrooms, into church, into the playground, into a new school year, into a new chapter of life.

Most thresholds do not look dramatic at the time. They rarely come with trumpets, dry ice, a swelling orchestra, or me walking through smoke in a cape. More often, they arrive quietly: a child walking into Reception for the first time; a Year 6 pupil walking out of primary school for the last; a teacher preparing for a new challenge; a parent realising, with a slight ache, that their child has grown again when they weren't quite looking.

Schools are full of thresholds.

Some are joyful. Some are tender. Some are exciting. Some feel a little uncertain. But all of them matter.

This year, Mossy Lea has crossed many.

We have watched kids grow in confidence, resilience, humour, kindness and independence. We have seen nervous starters become settled members of the school family. We have seen friendships deepen, worries soften, talents emerge and kids discover they can do more than they first believed.

We have seen them sing, run, perform, read, calculate, worship, compete, forgive, apologise, try again, and occasionally tell me something so random that I have had to sit down and process it.

That, of course, is the joy of primary school.

It is not just about lessons. It is about formation. It is about the slow, patient shaping of character. It is about helping kids understand who they are, what they can become, and how they can carry themselves in the world.

To our staff, thank you. Truly.

You have given the kids your energy, your patience, your creativity and your care. Some weeks have been smooth. Others have required grit, humour, caffeine and the emotional resilience of a mountain goat. But through it all, you have kept showing up. You have taught, reassured, corrected, encouraged, listened, noticed and loved.

The best schools are not built by policies alone. They are built by people who care enough to do the small things well, again and again, even when nobody is watching.

To our governors, thank you for your wisdom, challenge and support. Good governance is often quiet work, but it matters deeply. It helps keep the school rooted, ambitious and accountable. We are blessed by people who care about the long-term health of this school and the kids within it.

A school year is never one thing.

It is joy and sadness.

Success and frustration.

Laughter and tiredness.

Plans that work beautifully and plans that require a deep breath and a second brew.

And somewhere in the middle of all that, community is formed.

To parents and carers, thank you for walking with us.

That phrase matters: with us.

The strongest schools are not places where everything is perfect. They are places where relationships are strong enough to manage imperfection well. This year, as always, we will have got some things right, and we will have got some things wrong. Where we have fallen short, thank you for your patience and forgiveness. Where we have made decisions you may not have fully agreed with, thank you for trusting that they were made with the kids' best interests at heart.

Where you have encouraged us, challenged us constructively, supported us, turned up, paid up, helped out, cheered loudly, read emails, checked calendars and kept going — thank you.

It matters more than you realise.

This year has also reminded us that change is part of school life. People move on. New people arrive. Roles evolve. Kids change classes. Some doors close. Others open.

That can feel unsettling, because people rarely struggle with change itself. They struggle with the loss of certainty that often comes with it.

But change is not always a threat.

Sometimes it is growth in disguise.

Sometimes it is opportunity wearing the clothes of uncertainty.

Sometimes it is the doorway we did not know we needed to walk through.

Ted Lasso puts it like this: “Taking on a challenge is a lot like riding a horse. If you’re comfortable while you’re doing it, you’re probably doing it wrong.”

There’s truth in that.

Good things stretch us. New things unsettle us. Growth asks something of us.

But if we approach change with curiosity rather than anxiety, confidence rather than speculation, and optimism rather than fear, our kids are far more likely to do the same.

And that is our job as adults.

To steady the room.

To set the tone.

To remind children that change is not something to fear, but something to walk through with courage.

To our Year 6 kids.

Well.

This is your threshold now.

You are ready.

You may not always feel ready, but you are. You are more capable than you think, stronger than you know, and more loved than you probably realise.

Secondary school will feel big at first. That is normal. New corridors. New routines. New teachers. New expectations. But do not shrink. Do not forget who you are. Do not let one difficult day convince you that you cannot do it.

You can.

When things feel hard, ask yourself the question we have spoken about before:

Can I cope with this?

You may not like it. You may not have chosen it. But can you cope with it?

Yes.

You have power within you. Use it well. Be kind. Be brave. Be curious. Be the person who includes others. Be the person who says sorry properly. Be the person who tries again. Be the person who remembers where they came from, not with sadness, but with gratitude.

And remember this: leaving Mossy Lea does not mean you stop belonging to Mossy Lea.

You simply cross the threshold into the next part of your story.

So, as we step into summer, may we do so with gratitude for what has been, hope for what comes next, and enough wisdom to notice the beautiful ordinary moments that make up a school year.

The smile at the gate.

The muddy shoes.

The lost jumper.

The certificate clutched proudly.

The song sung loudly.

The friend forgiven.

The teacher who noticed.

The parent who kept going.

The child who crossed another threshold and grew.

Thank you for another year of trust, partnership and shared purpose.

Mossy Lea is not perfect.

No school is.

But it is strong. It is loved. It is full of good people. And it remains, in every sense, a place worth championing.

Have a wonderful summer. Rest properly. Make memories. Let the kids be a bit bored occasionally — it's good for them. Read something. Walk somewhere. Laugh often. Come back ready.

Because in September, another doorway opens.

And through it, we go again.

All the very best.

As we continue writing and shaping the school, can I please ask parents to take a few minutes to complete our latest questionnaire:

Your views really do matter. Sometimes schools can only improve properly when we understand what families are seeing, feeling and experiencing from their side of the fence.

Please be honest, constructive and specific where you can. If something is working well, tell us. If something could be better, tell us that too. The aim is not to gather praise or dodge criticism — it is to listen properly and keep strengthening the school together.

Thank you in advance for taking the time. It genuinely helps.

Mossy Lea Priamry School —
Parent/Carer Questionnaire



Attendance Update

Your overall attendance
94.2%

You are in decile 8, the bottom
20-30% of schools

Updated Quick Read

A few final things just beneath the surface as we close the year:

Outstanding debts

Please can any outstanding balances be cleared as soon as possible — Late Stay, Breakfast Club, trips, lunches, PGL, Bibby's Farm, and anything else still sitting on SCOpay. I know it is not the most glamorous end-of-term task, but it really does help us finish the year properly and start September cleanly.

Voluntary contributions

A reminder about trip contributions: they are called voluntary because, legally, they are. However, the practical reality is that trips still have to be paid for. If we cannot cover costs, opportunities become harder to run. Thank you for supporting these experiences wherever you can.

Keep reading

Please keep children reading over the summer. Little and often is the trick. Ten minutes here and there makes a real difference. Reading should not feel like a military operation — more a quiet habit that keeps the brain ticking and the imagination switched on.

Keep maths warm

A few age-appropriate maths moments over summer will help enormously. Times tables, number bonds, telling the time, counting money, measuring ingredients, working out change in a shop — all of it helps. Maths lives beautifully in real life if we let it.

Stay safe

Have fun, get outside, enjoy the break — but please stay safe. Roads, water, phones, online spaces, sleepovers, parks, bikes, scooters: the summer gives children freedom, but freedom still needs a bit of wisdom wrapped around it.

Let children be bored

One final tip: boredom is not always the enemy. Children do not need every minute organised. Sometimes the best games, ideas and memories come after the words, "I'm bored." Hold your nerve. Creativity often arrives just after the moaning.

Enjoy them

They are only this age once. Let them rest. Let them play. Let them help. Let them read. Let them make a bit of mess. Let them be kids.

Thank you for everything this year.

We are looking to enhance our learning and play environments and would be very grateful for any donations of the following items that you may no longer need.

Toys:

Dinosaurs

Farm animals

Safari animals

Trucks and other vehicles

LEGO people or other small character figures

Dressing-up clothes

Old costume jewellery

Walking sticks

Cameras (old or unused toy/real cameras)

Loose Parts:

Corks

Pebbles or decorative stones

Old curtain rings

Empty thread, wool or cotton spools

Shells

Gems or decorative jewels

Empty photo frames

If you have any of these items in good, clean condition and are happy to donate them, we would greatly appreciate your support. These resources help to inspire imaginative play, creativity, and exploration in our learning environment

Weekly Awards



Event for All

End of Year Assembly: Friday 17th July at 14:45. All welcome to join in with our end of year assembly.

Year 6 may also wish to bring a spare T-shirt/jumper and a sharpie that can be signed by their friends on the final day.

July	
16th	Year 5/6 Sleepover
17th	Water Safety Assembly by TriKidz End of Year Assembly 14:45—all invited Break up 15:30
Septem-	
1st/2nd	INSET for staff
3rd	Children back to school

And finally... As we prepare for next year, may I just remind you of our protocol regarding extreme haircuts, and cosmetic jewellery? We are determined to maintain our high standards at Mossy Lea, to that end; if you intend on letting your child have ears pierced or hair coloured please do so at the beginning of the holiday. (Earrings, indeed any cosmetic jewellery is not allowed in school, and hair should be of natural colour, contain no 'step' or line and shaven no shorter than a number 2 grade.)

Whatever you are doing in the Summer I hope you and your family have a relaxing, safe, enjoyable time, and come back refreshed for a very busy, yet hopefully more predictable year.

May I conclude the newsletter by thanking you all most graciously for your support, encouragement and forgiveness over the year, and in line with my imperfections, apologise to you all for any mistakes I've made, offence I've caused, or request I wasn't able to grant. Whilst it may not be obvious my decisions were always made with the very best of intentions.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to you all. Without the network of positive relationships and trust that we have built between school and yourselves, my job would be a lot harder and the experience of school for our children would be a lot less positive - so let's keep working together and moving forward as one.

Mossy Lea is a great team and I for one am proud to be a part of it. May I wish you all a pleasant, calm and relaxing holiday, and I look forward to working with you all again next year. Take care everyone, All the very best



Free school meals are expanding – what parents need to know



From September 2026, more children will be able to get free school meals. If your family receives Universal Credit, your child will be entitled to a free, nutritious school meal every day.

What do I need to do?

- Check if you receive Universal Credit and whether your child is currently receiving a free school meal. If they are not, please apply.
- Have ready:
 - the benefit claimant's date of birth and National Insurance Number

Who can get free school meals?

From September 2026, all children whose families receive Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals. The current £7,400 household income cap is being removed.

When does this start?

The new rules will begin at the start of the 2026/27 school year (September 2026).

How will this help families?

Families who receive Universal Credit could save up to £495 per year for each child on school lunches. For families with more than one child, this can make a real difference to day-to-day household budgets.

Why should I apply?

Applying means your child can receive a free, healthy meal every school day, supporting their health, wellbeing and learning. Even if your child sometimes chooses packed lunches, registering still matters. It helps schools understand what support pupils may need and can unlock other help, such as support with trips or activities.

Will this affect me or my child negatively?

No. Applying for free school meals:

- does not affect your benefits or immigration status
- does not mean your child has to take a school meal if they do not want to
- does not label or single out your child
- does not reduce support for other pupils

Schools treat this information confidentially.

How do I apply?

You will need to apply if your child is not currently receiving free school meals.

Applying usually only takes a few minutes by visiting lancashire.gov.uk/schools and clicking on free school meals.

If you need help applying, your school office can support you.



FAMILY FAVOURITES

Visit our website for full dates, times, and details.



Adventure play

Openings vary
Splash, climb, and explore in our action-packed wet and adventure play areas.



Viking village

Step back in time at Mere Tun, with special events to bring history to life.



Boats and canoes

Apr - Oct (extra charge)
Paddle into adventure with a guided boat trip or set off on your own canoe safari.



Pond dipping

Apr - Sep
Grab a net and uncover fascinating pond creatures up close.



Gosling gang

Wednesdays
Waddle into midweek term-time fun with stories, songs and crafts.



Bug hunting

Explore our wet meadow and uncover the world of tiny wildlife with self-guided bug hunting.

BRAND NEW

Goosefest

5 Sep - 18 Oct

Celebrate autumn as thousands of pink-footed geese return to Martin Mere. Enjoy guided walks, late night openings, a family trail, and incredible wildlife encounters, finishing with the annual North West Bird Watching Festival.

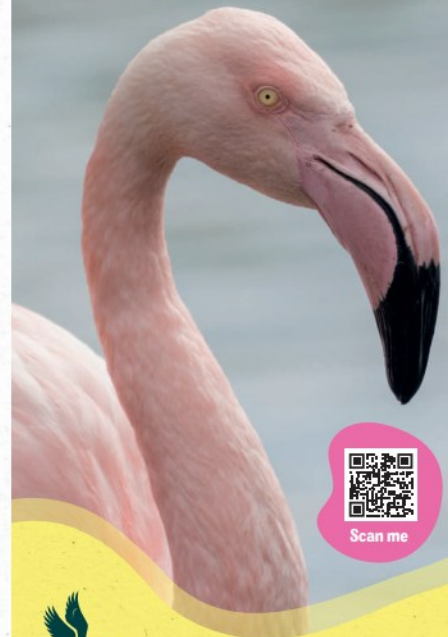


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WHAT'S ON

at Martin Mere Wetland Centre

2026-2027



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For wetlands. For life.

Find out more
www.wwt.org.uk/martin-mere

UPCOMING EVENTS



Gozzle

20 Mar - 31 May

Waddle into spring! WWT and Macmillan Children's Books bring Gozzle the gosling to wetlands with adventure trails, activities, and storytelling fun.



Duck race weekend

2-4 May

Ready, set, quack! Buy and enter your decorated rubber ducks into our races to win prizes!



Dragonfly festival

18 Jul - 31 Aug

It's back! Enjoy another dazzling line-up of dragonfly-themed events and activities this summer.



Explore the supernatural

24 Oct - 1 Nov

An October half term bubbling over with magical activities to show just how 'super' wetlands can be!



Sail to Santa

Weekends in December

Set sail to Santa's Island and get creative in the elves' workshop as part of this unique festive experience.



Mudfest 2027

13-21 Feb

Stomp, squelch and splash! Get gloriously muddy with obstacle courses, a mud kitchen, puddle jumping and more.

UNLIMITED VISITS

all year round with membership

Join a family membership from as little as £7.25 per month



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