Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians.

I hope that you have all enjoyed the summer break. The weather this year has been exceptional even if it has been a little wet and cloudy these last few days. We all hope that you have been able to spend quality time as families and friends and are ready for the exciting new school year. School staff returned on Tuesday and we worked together to plan actions around this year's priorities and the next learning steps for each child before they returned on Wednesday.

It has been a wonderful first few days in school. The children arrived back with us looking so much taller and very smart in their uniforms and shiny black school shoes. The start of the school year is always fun as the children are happy to be back with their friends and adults and they enjoy settling back to learning. All of our classrooms are calm and industrious and time in the playground has been busy and happy. We have been hearing lots of stories about the wonderful things that the children have done during August and the exciting places that they have been to.

Even though this year has only just begun, we are already thinking about the children and families that will join us in September 2027. We have a number of opportunities for families with children who will begin school next year to come and look around Meadowbank, talk with us about our school and see our children learning. If you know of any parents with young children who may like to come and visit us, then please share these dates with them and ask them to contact school on **0161 428 6286** to book a place on one of our tours.

Date	Time
Tuesday 13th October 2026	9.30 am
Tuesday 13th October 2026	1.30 pm
Wednesday 18th November 2026	9.30 am
Wednesday 18th November 2026	1.30 pm
Monday 24th November 2026	4.00pm (after school)

After school club is closed Monday 7th September - As we advised before the summer break, next Monday evening all school staff will take part in compulsory safeguarding training. Therefore, our after school club will not be open so that the staff can attend. I recognise that this may cause some inconvenience but I hope that you understand that this training is essential for all adults who work with children. The club will be open again on Tuesday 8th September. Payment accounts will not be debited next for Monday.

I have attached the school term dates for both 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 to the bottom of this letter and they are also available on our school website. Please keep these dates in mind when you are considering booking holidays as we must work together on improving our children's attendance at school. Please remember not to book holidays during days when your children must be in school and also to book appointments outside of school time.

When looking at the term dates you may also notice that we have six INSET days (professional development) planned rather than five. This additional INSET day is across all Education Learning

Trust schools providing staff with valuable time to focus on curriculum refinement and evidence-informed practices strengthening classroom delivery and further driving improved outcomes for all children. As part of ELT's wider priorities, we continue to invest in developing its people and supporting staff wellbeing**,** recognising that a well-supported and highly-skilled workforce is essential to delivering the best possible education for our pupils. We appreciate your understanding and ongoing support in our journey of improvement.

As it is the start of a fresh new year, we would like to share our annual reminder of ways for families to support school and your children in being safe and flourishing at Meadowbank Primary. Please take the time to read it. I will continue to write to you all close to each school holiday with dates for the following half term.

- **Attendance** - We must continue to improve children's attendance at school. We want every child to have at least 97% attendance each year as non-attendance has a significant impact on learning and future aspirations. Please ensure that your child is in school, on time, all day, and every day and do not make appointments during the school day or ask for your child to be picked up early from school. Unless it is for a hospital appointment, it is not okay to take your child out of school. Further information about this will come to you soon.

- **Children walking home without an adult** - The NSPCC recommends that children aged 6–12 are usually too young to walk home from school alone. We agree with this and do not want any child to walk home unsupervised. However, we recognise that as our year six children move closer to the transition to secondary school a few parents may wish for their child to walk home without an adult, developing independence. Parents will make this decision based upon how busy the roads are to navigate and their confidence in their child's readiness. If you wish your child to be allowed to leave their teacher and walk home without an adult, or to be able to meet you at the exit gate, please message your child's class teacher and this will be put on their record. Following this, they will be dismissed from the line at the end of the day without sight of an adult. We are extremely reluctant to allow this arrangement for children younger than year six, but if you would like to discuss this please contact your child's class teacher.

- **Children's mobile phones** - the Department for Education expects all schools to be mobile phone free. Therefore, children are not allowed to bring phones to school. However, the DfE does recognise that a small number of parents with year six children who would like them to walk home unsupervised as part of their transition to secondary school preparation. Therefore, if you are a parent of a year six child and as the year progresses you wish your child to walk home independently and for them to bring a phone to school to keep in contact with them on their journey, please contact their class teacher or the school office for a form to complete. If you are collecting siblings, please collect your year six child also. Phones will be locked away whilst in school. No other child may bring a phone.

- **Parent's mobile phones –** the Department for Education expects all schools to be mobile phone free and this has been our position for many years. We ask that when any adult, including parents are on school grounds that phones are kept in pockets or bags. This includes any area within the school boundary - from entrance gate to exit gate. Safeguarding our children is our first priority and we need to have a strong culture of 'it won't happen here'. Therefore, having an environment that is phone free ensures that nobody can misuse them on school grounds.

- **The school gate opening times -** the school gates open at 8.45 am. Please do not arrive before the gate opens as this creates an unnecessary queue that blocks the pavement. Arriving at 8.45 am gives ample time to walk to your child's class door. Similarly, lessons begin at 8.55 am, therefore if you are coming through the entrance gate at 8.55 am your child will be arriving after learning has started and you will be delaying the teachers in the playground from being with their classes.

- **Start and end of the school day** - we ask families to use the parent path to walk around school as they drop off and collect children. Please do not enter or exit school grounds by the incorrect gate.

- **Bikes and other wheeled vehicles** - we are very happy that so many of our children travel to school on bikes and trikes. However, we ask that they dismount before they enter the school gates and do not climb onto them until they have passed the exit gate.

- **Dogs on school grounds** - we understand that dogs are very important members of our families however, we ask that they are not brought to school as some children are can become frightened or are allergic to them. Our playgrounds are not places for pets.

- **School car parks and parking in our school neighbourhood** - please do not park in our school carpark at the start and end of the school day and remember to park respectfully of our neighbours and community by not blocking driveways.

- **Smart school uniform** - please ensure that your child is in full uniform, which can be branded or unbranded and please only use blue accessories, such as bobbles and headbands. We do allow birthday badges and birthday headbands. Also, ensure that your child's name is in every item of school uniform. We have 430 children in school with the same uniform and if an item is lost, it is almost impossible to return it to the child if it does not have a name in it. We have small mountains of lost property each year that is not claimed, which is so much of our families money wasted.

- **Drinking water** - Please only send water in a bottle no bigger than 75cl into school for child to drink during the day, not juice of flavoured water. This can be refilled during the day but large bottles and Stanley Cups are consuming far too much space in classrooms. However, a small juice in a separate bottle in a lunchbox is acceptable to drink with a packed lunch.

Families should receive the half-termly curriculum letter from class teachers via Class Dojo today. These letters will share the learning that will take place in your child's class this half term.

Key dates for this half term Autumn 1 (Wednesday 2nd September – Friday 23rd October 2026)

Whole School events

School reopened after the Summer break	Wednesday 02.09.26	8.55 am
	(Gates open at 8.45am & close at 8.55am)	
After school club closed for safeguarding training	Monday 7th September 2026	
Children's individual photographs	Wednesday 23rd September 2026	
Non-uniform day - Please donate chocolate for Christmas hampers	Friday 23rd October 2026	
School closes for the October half term break	Friday 23.10.25	3.20 pm
	(Gates open at 3.15pm & close at 3.25pm)	

If you have any queries during the year please do not hesitate to contact school. Most questions or concerns can usually be resolved quickly through a conversation. Please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance using Class Dojo or the school office team. Class Dojo messages do not come directly to me, so if you would like to communicate with me please do this via the school office or admin@meadowbankprimary.com and I will respond from there.

We are all looking forward to working with you in support of our children this year and to seeing you in school.

Kind regards



Janine Appleton

Meadowbank Primary School

Flourish & Inspire

Lifelong Learners, Leaders of Change, Lasting Legacy

Term Dates and Holidays

2026 - 2027

INSET 1 - Staff Development Day Tuesday 1 September 2026

Autumn Half Term 1	Wednesday 2 September 2026	-	Friday 23 October 2026
Mid-term Holiday	Monday 26 October 2026	-	Friday 30 October 2026

INSET 2 - Staff Development Day – Monday 2 November 2026

Autumn Half Term 2	Tuesday 3 November 2026	-	Friday 18 December 2026
Christmas Holiday	Monday 21 December 2026	–	Friday 1 January 2027

Spring Half Term 1	Monday 4 January 2027	-	Friday 12 February 2027
Mid-term Holiday	Monday 15 February 2027	-	Friday 19 February 2027
Spring Half Term 2	Monday 22 February 2027	-	Thursday 25 March 2027

Good Friday - Friday 26 March 2027 **Easter Monday – Monday 29 March 2027**

Easter Holiday	Friday 26 March 2027	-	Friday 9 April 2027
Summer Half Term 1	Monday 12 April 2027	-	Friday 28 May 2027

INSET 3 - Staff Development Day - Friday 30 April 2027

Early May Day Holiday - Monday 3 May 2027

Late May Day Holiday - Monday 31 May 2027

Whit Holiday	Monday 31 May 2027	-	Friday 11 June 2027
Summer Half Term 2	Monday 14 June 2027	-	Friday 23 July 2027

INSET 4 - Staff Development Day Monday 26 July 2027

INSET 5 - Staff Development Day Tuesday 27 July 2027

INSET 6 - Staff Development Day Wednesday 28 July 2027

Meadowbank Primary School

Flourish & Inspire

Lifelong Learners, Leaders of Change, Lasting Legacy

Term Dates and Holidays

2027 - 2028

INSET 1 - Staff Development Day Wednesday 1 September 2027

Autumn Half Term 1	Thursday 2 September 2027	-	Thursday 21 October 2027
Mid-term Holiday	Monday 25 October 2027	-	Friday 29 October 2027

INSET 2 - Staff Development Day – Monday 1 November 2027

Autumn Half Term 2	Tuesday 2 November 2027	-	Friday 17 December 2027
Christmas Holiday	Monday 20 December 2027	–	Monday 3 January 2028

INSET 3 - Staff Development Day - Tuesday 4 January 2028

Spring Half Term 1	Wednesday 5 January 2028	-	Friday 11 February 2028
Mid-term Holiday	Monday 14 February 2028	-	Friday 18 February 2028
Spring Half Term 2	Monday 21 February 2028	-	Friday 31 March 2028

Good Friday - Friday 14 April 2028 **Easter Monday – Monday 17 April 2028**

Easter Holiday	Monday 3 April 2028	-	Monday 17 April 2028
Summer Half Term 1	Tuesday 18 April 2027	-	Friday 26 May 2028

INSET 4 - Staff Development Day Friday 28 April 2028

Early May Day Holiday - Monday 1 May 2028

Late May Day Holiday - Monday 29 May 2028

Whit Holiday	Monday 29 May 2028	-	Friday 9 June 2028
Summer Half Term 2	Monday 12 June 2028	-	Wednesday 26 July 2028

INSET 5 - Staff Development Day Thursday 27 July 2028

INSET 6 - Staff Development Day Friday 28 July 2028