Moldgreen Primary School

Newsletter, Week 8

22 October 2026

And so, somehow, we have arrived at half term.

September seems simultaneously five minutes ago and a very long time ago. We had barely found our feet when, in week two, Ofsted arrived. There are, I think, gentler ways of easing ourselves into a new academic year.

What I remember most, though, is how proud I felt. Our children simply carried on being themselves, our staff showed the care and commitment they bring to school every day, and our families supported us throughout. Thank you particularly to those of you who took the time to share your views during the inspection.

Since then, school life has carried on at its usual pace: plenty of learning and laughter, Parents' Evening, successes large and small, mysteriously abandoned jumpers (and coats) and a considerable number of conversations beginning by bursting through my office door saying, *"Mr Lonsdale, can I just tell you something?"*

It is often the smaller moments that stay with me. A child finally mastering something they have struggled with. Someone being quietly kind when they think nobody has noticed. Coming through the gates on a morning when school feels difficult. Or simply finding the courage to have another go.

Those things matter.

So, after a half term that has fitted rather a lot into a relatively short space of time, I think we have all earned a break.

Wherever you're spending half term, I hope you enjoy it. Enjoy the slower mornings, spend some time together and, for a few precious days at least, forget about packed lunches, PE kits and locating school shoes at 8.35. My 04:15 alarm has been banished for a week!

Thank you to our staff, our families and, most importantly, our children for giving Moldgreen its energy, warmth and character.

Have a wonderful half term. Stay safe and we'll see everyone when we return.

Stephen Lonsdale | Interim Headteacher

Strengthening the leadership team

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Poskitt, who will be joining us as our new Leadership Team Administrator.

Lydia's appointment will add further capacity to our leadership team, helping us to strengthen the systems and organisation that sit behind the day-to-day running of the school and, importantly, allowing our leaders to spend more of their time focused on children, families, staff and school improvement.

Anyone who has spent much time in a school will know that there is an extraordinary amount happening behind the scenes. Keeping all of that moving in roughly the same direction requires rather more organisation than might sometimes be apparent: especially given Mr Lonsdale's aversion to timetabling issues!

We are therefore thrilled to have Lydia joining the Moldgreen team and know that she will make a valuable contribution to the work of the school.

Attendance focus

As we reach half term, a genuine thank you to families for getting children into school, on time and ready to learn. We know that family life is not always straightforward and that illness, in particular, cannot be neatly scheduled around the school calendar.

We have been working closely with families where attendance has fallen below 90%, including challenging some children to see what improvement they could make before half term. It has been really encouraging to see many responding positively.

After the break, we will continue to focus closely on attendance. Where there are barriers making it

difficult for a child to attend regularly, please talk to us. We would much rather work together to understand what is getting in the way and find a way forward.

For the next week, however, attendance is something nobody needs to worry about. **Enjoy it**.

Safeguarding: half-term update

Half term brings a welcome change of routine, along with darker evenings, children spending more time online and, occasionally, children developing a rather optimistic interpretation of what "I'll be back soon" means.

A few simple reminders:

- Make sure you know where your child is, who they are with and when they are coming home.
- Please reinforce road safety, particularly as the evenings are now getting darker.
- Keep an eye on online gaming, messaging and social media, including who children are communicating with.
- Remind children that if anything makes them feel worried, uncomfortable or unsafe, they should tell a trusted adult.

None of this is intended to take the fun out of half term. Quite the opposite. A little awareness from adults gives children the freedom to enjoy themselves safely.

If you thought this half term was busy…

The second half of the autumn term will soon be upon us and, as anyone familiar with primary schools will know, the approach to Christmas is rarely noted for its tranquillity.

There will be plenty of learning to fit in alongside the usual performances, celebrations and events that make this part of the school year so special.

We'll keep you updated with everything you need to know, but please keep a close eye on school communications and get those important dates into the diary as soon as they arrive.

Before we go…

Coats: named, please.
Water bottles: also named.
Reading: little and often over half term is plenty, including Reading Plus.
School alarm: switched firmly off.
Children: returned after half term rested and ready to go.
Parents: you are permitted to switch off too

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
2 Nov	Children return to school
2 Nov	Cinderella pantomime (in school)
11 Nov	Remembrance event (Y3)
16 Nov	Odd Socks Day
20 Nov	Children in Need Day
20 Nov	Musica Big Sing
23-27 Nov	Parliament Week
24 Nov	Boccia competition (Y3/4)
26 Nov	Huddersfield train station visit (Y2)
30 Nov - 4 Dec	Assessment Week
3 Dec	Rocksteady concert
4 Dec	Boxercise (Y4)
9 Dec	Church Christmas Concert (Y2)
10 Dec	Christmas jumper day
16 Dec	Kirkwood Reindeer Dash - raising money for the Kirkwood Hospice
18 Dec	Children break up for Christmas
4 Jan 2027	Staff training day
5 Jan	Children return to school
15 Jan	Road Safety: cross with care (Y2)
4 Feb	Mick Kirkby Geddes DT (Y2)
4 Mar	World Book Day
8-12 Mar	Science Week
8-12 Mar	Assessment Week
12 Mar	Roman workshop (Y4)
19 Mar	Red Nose Day
25 Mar	Children break up for Easter
12 Apr	Children return to school
10-14 May	SATS Week
20 May	Bronze Age workshop (Y3)
27 May	Children break up for half term
28 May	Staff training day
7-18 Jun	Multiplication Tables Check (Y4)
14-18 Jun	Phonics tests (Y1/2)
16-18 Jun	York residential (Y6)
21 Jun	Sports Day (R, Y1/2)
22 Jun	Sports Day (Key Stage 2)
9 Jul	End of year reports distributed
12-16 Jul	Tour de France week
15 Jul	Prom (Y6)
20 Jul	Leavers' assembly (Y6)
20 Jul	Children break up for summer
21 Jul	Staff training day