

MONT A L'ABBE SCHOOL

Spring Term 1 Newsletter

13th February 2026



HALF TERM IS HERE AGAIN!

As we continue through what has been an exciting and lively—if somewhat windy and wet—half term, it has been a pleasure to see such engaging and meaningful learning taking place across all three of our sites. Each area of the school has embraced rich opportunities to develop communication, skills for life and confidence, making this term especially rewarding for both learners and staff.

In Primary, learners have immersed themselves in the enchanting book 'Over and Under the Snow' as part of their Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL) focus. This beautifully written text has sparked curiosity and conversation as learners explore the secret world that lies beneath the snow-covered landscape. Staff have made wonderful use of the story to support vocabulary development, sequencing, discussion, and imaginative responses. It has been lovely to see how the book has encouraged children to engage with nature, prepositions, and the magic of winter.

Secondary and L'Etacq learners have been busy strengthening their literacy skills through work on recounts in CLL, drawing on Jersey's own powerful and emotional experiences of the Occupation. This topic has meant some trips out to the War Tunnels, engaging role play and drama but has also deepened their understanding of the island's history and resilience. The learners have explored developing empathy for islanders at that time.

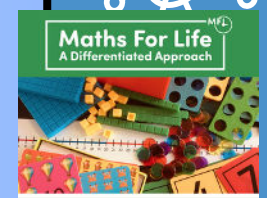
Across all three sites, we have seen fantastic progress in Maths for Life. This whole-school focus has helped learners apply mathematical thinking to real-world situations—whether through time, money, measurement, or problem-solving. Staff teams have also been exploring how maths is embedded throughout our school environment, identifying opportunities to make maths in the classroom environment always present through display and resourcing.

We were delighted to welcome Jay Tuck from Smartbox once again this term, who delivered excellent GRID training in collaboration with our speech and language therapists. Staff thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and have already been putting their new learning into practice. A highlight has been the installation of the fantastic new communication GRID in the primary dining hall. This visual and accessible resource is already supporting pupils to make choices, communicate needs and participate more confidently during mealtimes—with more GRID boards planned across the whole school.

Despite the stormy weather, this half term has been full of creativity, collaboration and new learning. We are incredibly proud of the progress all our learners are making and grateful for the continued enthusiasm and dedication shown by staff across all the school.

Have a lovely half term break,

Tricia Moloney





Turtle Class

Turtles have had an amazing Term! We have done a lot of learning, singing, playing and exploring. Turtles have loved the book *Over and Under* and have been enjoying the sensory experiences that come with the cold and Winter. We have been using language like Under, Over, Above and Below in Continuous Provision, including Outside in our playground. We have also made huge progress with language in maths, recognising Big, Small, Fast, Slow, Up and Down. We've enjoyed looking at Days of the Week and Months of the Year as well as ordering numbers to 10 and Subitising numbers to 5. We have been loving using the musical instruments in Phonics, playing quietly and loudly as well as learning to follow instructions of Stop and Go. Nursery Rhymes have been a huge hit this Term, with learners joining in with actions. Turtles have continued to work really hard to recognise our letter sounds and some are starting to Blend and Segment! We have also had some great Bucket times, moving onto Stage 3 which is all about taking turns. A brilliant half term full of huge accomplishments, Well done Turtles!!



Dolphin Class

Dolphins have been exploring lots of messy, sensory and food play this term! They have been working really well together during these times, sharing each others space and building confidence touching different textures and materials 🙌



Octopus Class

We've had a fab term in Octopus Class! The children have loved taking part in balance bike sessions with Jersey Sport, exploring winter through sensory play, and enjoying fun activities like Bucket Time and sessions at Jump Jersey. It's been a term full of smiles, movement, and exciting learning experiences. 🐙 ✨





Regal Tang Fish Class

It has been a very busy half term, filled with lots of learning and fun. The children have particularly enjoyed exploring maths through practical concepts such as fast and slow, hot and cold, and long and short, using songs and actions to bring their learning to life. Everyone has also worked incredibly hard in phonics, learning new sounds and using their growing skills to read unfamiliar words with increasing confidence. We have been developing our fine motor skills too, while listening to stories and songs, which has helped strengthen focus and control. The children have loved taking part in Bucket Time and learning about different feelings during PSHE. Our swimming and gym sessions have been real highlights as well, with the children growing in confidence each week. We hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable half-term break!



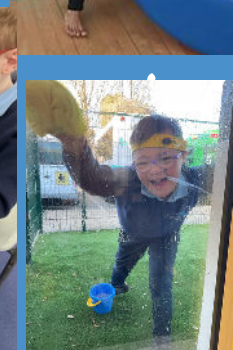
Parrotfish Class

This term, our class has been immersed in the world of the story 'Over and Under the Snow'. We engaged in sensory activities featuring ice and arctic animals, bringing the story to life. In addition, we integrated our theme into maths lessons, focusing on key concepts such as time, capacity and counting. We have seen a big progress, not just in skills, but also in building friendships.



Lionfish Class

Lionfish Class have been working incredibly hard this half term. We've enjoyed reading our new book Over and Under the Snow, alongside lots of snowy sensory play and creating beautiful winter artwork inspired by the animals that live in these environments. The children have shown great focus in maths and PHSE, and we've had so much fun learning in and out of school with swimming, The Wave Rider at The Merton, and the Dark Studio. We were also delighted to welcome a new student, Charlie, who has settled into the class amazingly. It's been lovely to see strong friendships growing across the class.





Clownfish Class

We have had lots of fun with our story 'Over and Under the snow', exploring different cold objects and animals, and going over and under things. We also enjoyed our first visit to the immersive suite, where we went under the sea and watched music come to life with animusic.

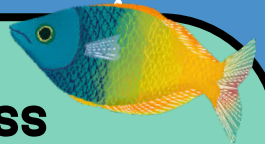
Mandarinfish Class

Mandarin Fish class have enjoyed engaging in lots of Over and Under activities linked to our CLL story for the term. The class have continued to make progress with their targets, including dressing skills, communication skills, as well as developing their independence. The 'Cycling Without Limits' sessions have been a big hit, with some of our pupils using the pedals and gears to cycle round the track. We hope that everyone has an enjoyable half-term week, and we look forward to welcoming everybody back for the next half term.



Rainbowfish Class

The Winter Worlds topic this term has really grabbed everyone's attention in Rainbowfish Class. We have listened to the Over and Under the Snow story and learnt about winter animals building dens and hibernating. We also enjoyed learning about freezing and melting especially when it came to making and eating our own ice lollies!





Victory Class

This half term, we have been learning all about time, focusing on the Jersey Occupation. Our learners have loved role-play and comparing their schooling now to the past. We have also continued enjoying our fantastic weekly learning opportunities at Jump Jersey.



Mary Rose Class

Mary Rose class has had a good half term with lots of collaborative learning opportunities, using technology to advance our communication, and fun sensory experiences.



Santa Maria Class

Santa Maria have really enjoyed learning about Occupied Jersey this half term. We have looked at time lines of the events, compared the 1940's with today's society and written diary entries from the perspective of a Jersey evacuee. Other highlights include welcoming a special guest to talk about her parent's ordeals during the Occupation and tasting a beancrock (a traditional Jersey dish made regularly during the war, as rationing times were hard) as well as visiting the Jersey War Tunnels to give an immersive understanding of what life would have been like. The learners have been inquisitive and enthusiastic throughout this topic. Great learning, Santa Maria!



Mayflower Class

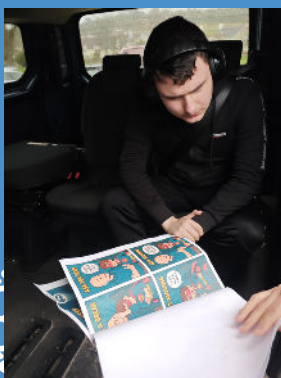
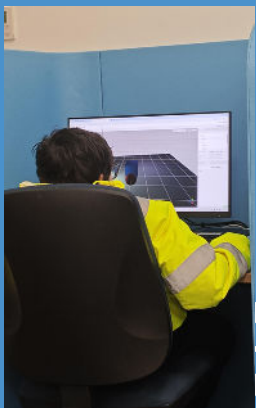
Mayflower have loved learning about the Occupation of Jersey. We have been learning about what people went through and how they were treated. We visited the Jersey War Tunnels to further our understanding of war times which was enjoyed by all.

Cutty Sark Class

This half term, Cutty Sark class has fully immersed themselves in our topic, The Occupation of Jersey. Through drama and role play, we imagined what evacuation must have felt like, waved the white flag in surrender and experienced being inspected by Commandant Kemp. We created our own identification cards and collected our SS Vega parcels from Gemma and tasted some of the food islanders would have received. We even managed to sneak food to our friends in Marie Rose class!

SS Vega Class

Jaiden has been working on a new project using a 3D application programming interface. It is amazing to see what he can create using the app. Lucas has been reading an Excited Feeling comic made by staff and practising some breathing exercises following the comic's instructions. David has been playing snooker with other schoolmates during his time at Grand Vaux. He enjoys playing different games with his friends. Kaci has been making friendship bracelets. She thought hard about what needed to go on the bracelet for her particular friend.



Ellen MacArthur Class

We've had a fantastic half term in Ellen MacArthur Class! Highlights have included learning about the Occupation of Jersey in CLL, getting out on the bikes with Cycling Without Limits, and enjoying shopping for ingredients before cooking delicious pancakes and fruit kebabs. We have also created some wonderful artwork and have been superb learners throughout. Well done, to everyone! 🌟



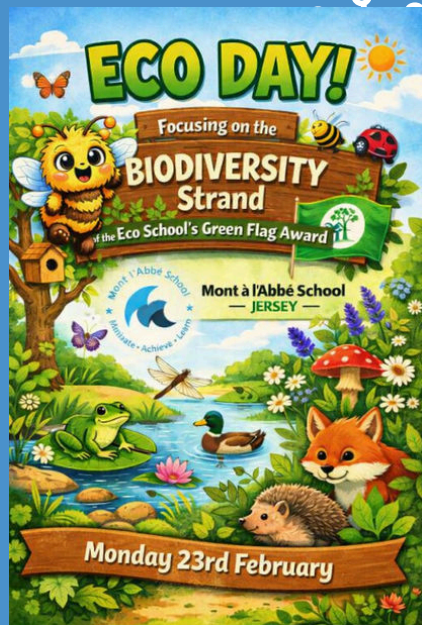
L'ETACQ



Vasco Da Gama Class

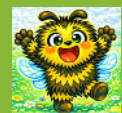
This half term we have started our life skills programme. The students have undertaken some food preparation, cooking and offsite trips. We are looking forward to undertaking some similar experiences in the near future.





Eco School

We are working towards the 'Eco Schools Green Flag Award' which encourages engaging pupils in nature and environmental awareness. Our focus after half term is Biodiversity which we will be exploring alongside our mascot Barry The Bee. The themes we are covering are: animals and insects, plants and flowers, habitats such as ponds and caring for living things. If you have any photos from your half term week that links in with any of these topics - please share them with us on Class Dojo for our Biodiversity assemblies. Thank you to Mrs Luke for leading the Eco Schools project!



Important Advance Notice:

On Tuesday 31st March afternoon there will be no buses for journeys home and no respite hours. This is due to whole staff mandatory government training on Adrenaline Auto-injectors which are now fitted in all three sites of the school. Please ensure that all children are collected promptly at 3pm Secondary and 3:15pm for Primary and L'Etacq. Many thanks for your cooperation and understanding.



EASTER DISCO!

TUESDAY 24th MARCH 2026

Primary Phase 1 and 2 - 3:30-4:30

Secondary and L'Etacq - 5:00 - 6:30

All welcome for lots of fun in the Primary Gym!
Fancy Dress, Party Clothes or School Uniform

