

# **Marsh Hill Newsletter**

## **January 13th 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

### **Homework**

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time and opportunity to complete the homework questionnaire. Together with my leadership team, I will be analysing the feedback we have received and will report back to you any changes that we propose making to homework in terms of amount, types and schedule before the end of this half term.

### **Value of the Month – Determination**

Determination is very important because it enables you to persist in the face of difficulties and it helps you keep going regardless of what's put in front of you to help you achieve your dreams and goals. Please take some time this weekend to discuss determination with your child and ask them for an example of when they have shown determination in school this week.

### **Applications for children to start Reception class in September 2023**

The closing date for entry into Reception classes for September 2023, is **January 15<sup>th</sup>**. If your child is eligible to start in Reception in September 2023, then please submit an online application through the Birmingham City Council website: [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) by the above closing date.

### **Vacancies**

We currently have two vacancies for General Assistants in the School Kitchen. The positions are for 12.5 hours per week (11.30 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. Monday to Friday). If you are interested in applying for one of these posts, then please contact the school office for an application form.

### **Reading Rewards Initiative**

I would like to thank Ms. Deans for her marvellous new initiative that will reward children who regularly read at home. I am sure that all parents and carers will agree that reading at home is the most important way in which you can support your child with their education. This week, your child will have brought home a letter from Ms. Deans outlining how the

Reading Rewards scheme will work. If you did not receive the letter or have misplaced it, then please ask for another copy at the school office.

### **10 Reasons Why Reading is Important for children:**

#### **1. It expands their vocabulary.**

While reading, they might come across words they have never heard – prompting them to find out what they mean. As a result, they add it to their vocabulary.

#### **2. It makes them better at it.**

Practice makes perfect. The best way to get better at reading is just to do it!

#### **3. It helps build independence and self-confidence.**

As they learn that they no longer have to rely on their parents to read things to them, children develop a sense of independence. Through reading, they can begin to understand the world on their own.

#### **4. It keeps them safe.**

Traffic signs have words and so do warning labels. Reading allows children to understand when something says it could harm them.

#### **5. It helps them make sense of the world around them.**

As children learn to read they are able to determine what things around them say – from signs to stickers to labels. Being able to read helps them understand what is what and the purpose it serves.

#### **6. It leads to their future academic success.**

A child must be able to read in order to even progress through school. Reading is essential to following the instructions on tests and being able to even understand or answer the questions.

#### **7. It enhances their imagination.**

As a child reads, they can begin to imagine where the characters are. They might even create their own little world, as well. Reading enhances their imagination by forcing them to picture what the character actually looks like and who they are.

#### **8. It entertains them.**

It gives them something good to do – especially once they can start reading chapter books with no pictures, forcing them to really get into their imagination and therefore, really get into the book as well.

### 9. It improves their grammar.

Through reading, they can see how the author composed their sentence structure and grammar. This can also help improve their communication skills as they determine how it should be read using clues such as punctuation.

### 10. It improves their writing skills.

Because reading helps children improve their vocabulary, communication, and grammar skills, it ultimately improves their writing skills as well.

Reading is essential to just about everything in life – from cooking to driving to just getting through school. It is important to start at a young age and teach your child the value of reading so they will grow to practice it often and value their ability to do so.

This weekend, why not sit down with a good book and your child and get to reading together!

### Attendance and Punctuality

It is important that children attend school every day. As a school we work closely with Birmingham Local Authority and parents to ensure that this is the case. Research clearly indicates that absence from school disrupts the education of children. Those who do not attend regularly:

- Do not achieve well in exams
- Find it more difficult to build and maintain friendships
- Are more likely to become involved in anti-social behaviour
- Miss out on the opportunities for further education and the world of work

### How does your child compare?

Attendance at school during an academic year	Equals this number of days absent	Which is approximately this number of days absent	Which means this number of days missed	<b>EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS</b>
<b>95%</b>	<b>9 days</b>	<b>2 weeks</b>	<b>50 lessons</b>	
<b>90%</b>	<b>19 days</b>	<b>4 weeks</b>	<b>100 lessons</b>	
<b>85%</b>	<b>29 days</b>	<b>6 weeks</b>	<b>150 lessons</b>	
<b>80%</b>	<b>38 days</b>	<b>8 weeks</b>	<b>200 lessons</b>	

We understand that at times children do get ill and need time at home to recover. If your child is ill we ask that those with parental responsibility make contact with the school on the first morning of the absence. If you do not make contact, we will ring or conduct a home visit in line with safeguarding procedures.

Whilst any child may be off school because they are ill, sometimes they can be reluctant to attend school. Any problems with regular attendance are best sorted out between the school, the parents and the child. If your child is reluctant to attend, please speak to us rather than report your child as unwell and we will work with you to resolve any issues that may be affecting attendance.

### **Understanding Types of Absence**

Every half-day absence from school has to be classified by the school (not by the parents), as either authorised or unauthorised. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required, preferably in writing. Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school for a good reason like illness, medical/dental appointments which unavoidably fall in school time, emergencies or other unavoidable cause.

### **Lateness**

Poor punctuality is not acceptable. If your child misses the start of the day they can miss work and do not spend time with their class teacher getting vital information and news for the day. Late arriving pupils also disrupt lessons, can be embarrassing for the child and can also encourage absence.

### **Ava Sturridge-Packer**

I would like to alert you to the following talk being given by Ava Sturridge-Packer via ZOOM on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Ava has had a long association with Marsh Hill Primary School. Before becoming a very successful Head Teacher, she had been Deputy Head Teacher at Marsh Hill. She is now once again a part of our school community as a valued member of our Governing Board, and I can highly recommend that you attend this virtual event to hear her inspiring story.



# UPCOMING ELA SEMINAR

With speaker,  
**Ava Sturridge-Packer CBE**

*A Windrush Generation Education Leader:  
my story*

Date: Tuesday 17th January 2023

Time: 16:30 - 18:00

Venue: Zoom

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Ava Sturridge -Packer CBE was Headteacher at St Mary's C of E Primary school Handsworth, Birmingham, for 22 years. She led the school from 'special measure' to 'outstanding' with Ofsted and it maintained the highest levels of performance throughout her headship. A member of the Windrush Generation, she overcame many obstacles to reach the pinnacle of her profession along the way. Her experiences early on were chilling and a reminder that institutional racism is never far from the surface today.



**Ava Sturridge-Packer CBE**

AVA WILL TALK ABOUT LEADERSHIP AS A BLACK WINDRUSH GENERATION HEADTEACHER AND THE LEARNING FOR THOSE ASPIRING TO AND LEADING SCHOOLS CURRENTLY. CHAIRED BY SUKHBIR FARRAR, CURRENTLY INTERIM EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL AT WAVERLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

**[https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/  
schools/education/events](https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/education/events)**

### Dates for your Diary – Spring Term 1

January	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Egyptian Workshop
16 <sup>th</sup>	After School Clubs begin
16 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics Workshop for Year 1 Parents
18 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics Meeting for Parents of Year 2 children taking retakes
25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Chinese New Year Assembly (FOR Parents and Carers of pupils in 3M)
27 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Chinese New Year Assembly (FOR Parents and Carers of pupils in 3A)
30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Florence Nightingale Workshop
February	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 6 Hobgoblin Theatre Workshop
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 5 and Year 6 Cycling Skills Workshop
9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 SATs meeting for Parents and Carers

This section will be regularly updated once new dates are known and confirmed.

I wish you all a happy, safe and peaceful weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. J. Cusack  
Head Teacher