

Marsh Hill Newsletter

March 10th 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,
I hope this newsletter finds you well.

I am sorry with regard to any disruption to you and to your child's education following school's closure today due to adverse weather conditions. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, but I am equally sure that you respect our commitment to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils. I trust that the current weather conditions will be short lived and I look forward to seeing all the children return to school on Monday. Should a safe return not be possible, you will be contacted at the earliest opportunity.

Contact

Please ensure that you inform the school office of any changes to your contact details. For those of you who have not yet downloaded the Parent App or are unable to access Marvellous Me, then please do so at your earliest convenience. If you are having any difficulty in this area please speak with one of our Admin Team (Mrs. Mynett or Mr. Brewer) or school's Pastoral Manager: Cathy Lomas.

Mr. Kelly

Yesterday (Thursday 9th March), we were privileged to welcome Mr. James Kelly to school to speak with our Year 6 pupils who have been learning about World War II as part of their History Topic. Mr. Kelly is a World War II veteran who served as a Rifleman and Machine Gunner. As a boy, he lived in one room with his family (there were seven of them). Mr Kelly left school at the age of 14 to become a van driver's mate and at the age of 15 volunteered to join the army. His three younger siblings were evacuees who were relocated to the countryside. Mr. Kelly's initial training was in the Royal Irish Fusilliers and he later transferred to The Royal Ulster Rifles. Mr. Kelly told us that when the war began it seemed like "a big adventure", because he had grown up watching Western films where cowboys were shot but you "never saw any blood; but you soon learnt that it wasn't like that."

Mr. Kelly, served at Normandy (he was there between June 5th and August 24th, 1944); and on Christmas Eve of that year he and his Regiment were given two hours' notice before being sent to Belgium to take part in the Battle of the Bulge (also known as the Ardennes Offensive).

On VE Day, Mr. Kelly's Commanding Officers gave the Regiment permission to play football, and during the match, he fell and broke his wrist: the only injury he sustained during World War II. Mr. Kelly showed us the nine medals that he was awarded for his service in the Military (including the Legion of Honour, which was presented to him by the French

Government on the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings for his part in the liberation of France: the Legion of Honour is the highest French Order of Merit.

Mr. Kelly is a truly inspirational character; when he was in his eighties, he studied towards a maths degree with the Open University and today, at the age of 96, he still attends the gym three times a week.

The picture below is of Mr. Kelly with his great-great grandson, Archie (year 6). I would like to thank Mr. Kelly's granddaughter Ms. Clayton for arranging his visit.



Informal Coffee Morning

We are always interested in the views of parents and so I would like to invite you to an informal coffee morning in school on **Monday 13th March, 2023**, between 9.00 and 10.00 a.m. During the coffee morning, you will have the opportunity to share your thoughts, experiences and suggestions regarding school.

Support for Families

On Monday 20th March, we will be holding a very special event - Marsh Hill Market Place - in school aimed at supporting all of our families. External support groups will be in to advise on a range of issues including support for those struggling with debts and utility bills; there will also be advice around Early Help and in relation to employment and training opportunities.

There will be opportunities to get pre-owned school uniform free of charge and free grocery products. We will also be providing refreshments.

Your child will be bringing home a leaflet with further details on Monday. I would like to thank Cathy Lomas for arranging and co-ordinating this event and the Marsh Hill Heroes for all their assistance both on the day and beforehand.

Parents' Evening

If you have not yet done so, please make an appointment to meet with your child's class teacher. Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday, March 21st and Wednesday March 22nd between 3.30 pm and 6.00 pm.

Dates For Your Diary

March	
13 th	Head Teacher informal coffee morning with Parents/Carers
14 th	Year 2 Continent Explorers Workshop EYFS Writing Workshop for Parents
15 th	1G Mother's Day Assembly
16 th	Potential day of Industrial Action (Parents and Carers will be updated regarding if and how industrial action may/will affect school)
17 th	1W Mother's Day Assembly
20 th	Book Fair in school all week Supporting Families event in the main hall – 9.00 a.m.
21 st	Parents' Evening: 3.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.
22 nd	Parents' Evening: 3.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.
27 th	Deadline for Easter Bonnets (EYFS and Ks1) and Decorate An Egg entries (Ks2) to be brought into school
29 th	Year 5 Easter Assembly EYFS trip to the Think Tank
31 st	Easter Bonnet Parade Assembly (EYFS and Ks1) 9.00 a.m. Decorate An Egg Assembly (Ks2) 10.00 a.m.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Cusack". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a set of horizontal lines that serve as a guide for the text.

Mr. J. Cusack
Head Teacher