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Marsh Hill Primary School Newsletter

September 23rd 2023

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well.

The children have worked hard this week and there has been many opportunities to celebrate their achievements. I always enjoy the time I spend looking at children's work and visiting classes to see their learning and progress.

On a less pleasant note, on Tuesday of this week (19.09.23), your child will have brought home a letter regarding concerns raised by residents about parking on Woolmore Road at the beginning and end of the school day. On the following day, a parent of a children at school informed me that a car narrowly missed hitting her child as the family were crossing the road to enter school. I am again pleading with parents and carers who are dropping off/collecting children from school to be considerate and mindful of the safety of all our children. Please do not park on the zig zag and double yellow lines that have been painted there by the council; or across residents' driveways.

I have contacted the Police and the Council regarding the complaints that I have received. I have also written to the Stockland Green Ward Councillors Jane Jones and Amar Khan to assist the school in tackling the issues of road safety. I am hoping that together we will be able to secure the closing of Woolmore Road to cars at the beginning and end of the school day during the short period when children are being dropped off/picked up from school.

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that our school area is a safe place and I thank the very large majority of parents who act responsibility when dropping off and picking children up from school.

Marvellous Me



This academic year, we will be communicating more through our parent communication service, Marvellous Me.

This will include sending badges, thumbs up and activities to pupils across the week as well as sending you information about events taking place in school, important messages, and information from teachers, curriculum information and the weekly newsletter.

Please ensure you download the app onto your mobile phone and sign into the service. If you require your login details again, please speak to your child's teacher.

Forest School Assembly

Last Friday (15.09.23), we celebrated the latest Graduation Ceremony for our Forest School participants. The graduates were from the summer term cohort of pupils and it was a lovely way to begin the new academic year by celebrating their achievements through outdoor learning. Each pupil involved was presented with a certificate by our Forest School leader Rachel. Forest School has had a really positive impact on the pupils who have taken part. Through creating learner inspired experiences based on exploration and discovery, and presenting them with challenges to overcome, Forest School builds confidence in children and allows their character to blossom, while developing resilience and empathy. I would like to thank Rachel, Mr. Hamblett and Mr. Pritchard for their hard work and support for our children through this initiative. A new group of twenty children have now started the Forest School programme.

We have been overwhelmed by the feedback that we have received from parents about their children's experiences of Forest School.

"I think Forest School is a great idea for all children and is also beneficial. My son has an interest in animals and insects since taking part. Thank you."

"Forest School was a great adventure for my son. Thank you for everything."

"Elijah had an amazing time at Forest School, every Thursday he would come home so happy and tell me about the fantastic things he'd done, like building dens and fires."

"Carter really enjoyed Forest School. He told everyone about it and he looked forward to it every week. Such a brilliant idea."

"Freddie really enjoyed Forest School and keeps wanting to bring snails home."

"Aliysia enjoyed Forest School. She enjoyed telling me about making fires and having snacks."

"I just can't compliment enough the Forest School. So happy for Leila to become more confident around bugs and creatures, and so glad to see her happy face after each attendance."

"Forest School was a very good experience for the children. It has improved their discipline and allowed them to experience a new sense of nature. Well done Marsh Hill Primary."

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Parents who are part of or would be willing to join the Marsh Hill Heroes are invited to attend a MacMillan Coffee Morning on Thursday 28th September at 10am, and this will then be followed by a cake sale for the pupils. All monies raised will be donated to the MacMillan Cancer Charity. We respectfully ask that children donate pre-packed cakes / biscuits (nut-free) for the sale prior to the day. We thank you in advance for your support.

The Value of the Month for September is KINDNESS

As well as the British Values of Democracy, The Rule of law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance; the ethos of our school is built on a foundation of 22 core values which are addressed directly through lessons, assemblies and which permeate the whole curriculum. Each month we focus on a particular value. We learn to understand what the values looks like and how we can demonstrate the value in the way we behave, in our attitude towards each other and in our learning.

We encourage parents and carers to develop the monthly value at home and we would love to hear from you to tell us how your child has demonstrated the value outside of school.

This month's value is kindness.

Kindness is an intentional act that benefits others for its own sake when one is not required to do so. A kind person shows a genuine, deep, and selfless concern for people without expecting anything in return. I have seen children perform many acts of kindness during this last week, including: holding the door open for other children and adults, helping a friend who was stuck on their classwork, hanging up someone's coat when it had fallen off its peg and offering to play with someone who was all alone in the playground. I am very proud of the children who demonstrated these acts of kindness, as they are such good role models for the other pupils in school.

Safeguarding

If you are concerned for a child's wellbeing, then please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Cathy Lomas through the school office. In the event of Cathy being unavailable – please ask to speak with another DSL in school. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads in school are Mrs. Leavey, Mrs. Clover, Mr. Moheen, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Hunt, Mr. Pritchard and Mr. Cusack.

Alternatively, you may ring The Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) on 0121 303 1888.

Focus on the Curriculum – Reading

In last week's newsletter, I outlined the systematic and progressive manner in which Phonics teaching is prioritised and is taught to our youngest children at Marsh Hill.

More broadly, the aim of our reading curriculum is to ensure every child leaves Marsh Hill Primary School able to read with fluency, understanding and enjoyment, reading is the fundamental skill needed to access the wider curriculum and the world around us. Not only do we strive for all of our pupils to achieve high standards in word reading and comprehension skills, we also aim for our children to develop a life-long love of reading.

Our reading curriculum has been carefully structured so that all pupils are immersed in a variety of rich literature, authors and genres, which reflect and celebrates the diversity of our school.

We are committed to ensuring our pupils:

- achieve the expected standard in reading or better
- develop the reading skills needed to access the wider curriculum including both word reading and comprehension skills
- read regularly, both in school and at home for pleasure and for purpose
- are exposed to rich, high quality texts that are varied and challenging
- regularly have opportunities to engage in discussions about the texts they read demonstrating understanding and give opinions
- are taught by positive reading role models who foster a love of reading
- leave our school with a bank of varied literature and a love of reading.

Reading is taught daily throughout the school both discreetly and cross-curricular in other subjects providing needed opportunities for the transition of the skills acquired in reading. The content is designed to be progressive and challenging for all.

Close Reading: KS2 Whole Class Reading

In KS2 children are taught reading skills through whole class reading which allows children of all abilities to be immersed in the same high-quality text and vocabulary. During these lessons, children participate in the discussions around texts. We believe it is essential that less confident readers are exposed to high quality texts and the reasoning discussions which take place, alongside appropriate reading interventions in order to close the gap and avoid it widening.

Close reading is taught discreetly for 40 minutes daily and is planned by the class teacher in line with the National Curriculum expectations and the needs and interests of our children.

Each week, a new text is carefully selected and explored in depth. Each day has a specific focus linked to the reading domains. Throughout the week, children have the opportunity to work with a partner and independently. All close reading activities are recorded in individual Close Reading books.

Reading for Pleasure

Throughout the day, time is timetabled and prioritised for children to read independently and to read to purely for pleasure. Across school, each class will be read to at the end of the school day and in Key Stage 2 they will be read to at the end of the day. Texts are selected from our school's 'Whole Class Reads Reading Spine' to ensure that they are rich, varied and appropriate to the year group.

The library is open at lunchtimes supported by staff and our trained pupil librarians. We take any opportunity to celebrate reading, nationally and as a school. Each week we celebrate a poet of the week and each month we vote for the author of the month, displayed in our library.

World Book Day is a firm favourite, allowing pupils to engage in fun and varied reading inspired activities. Other activities include visits from authors and theatre companies who have carried out reading workshops, twice a year we have the travelling book fair available in school also, visits to the theatre and Birmingham Libraries and much more.

STARS of the Week



Very well done to all our Merit Award Winners for this week. We are all proud of you:

Year 1 – Ibrahim, Erin, Zidan, Eshaal

Year 2 – Chelsea, Zak, Hooria, Sameer

Year 3 – Abdullah, Mia, Jannah, Alaa

Year 4 – Amelia, Ameena, Layla, Oskar

Year 5 – Anne-Marie, Jordy, Alan, Mia

Year 6 – Sameeha, Abdulmalik,

Attendance

Whole School attendance for this week was 94%. The classes with the highest attendance were 3M and 6C both of which achieved 98% attendance. Very well done and congratulations to 3M and 6C.

Upcoming Events	
SEPTEMBER	
Monday 18 th	After School Clubs begin (for 10 weeks)
Thursday 21 st	Deafness Awareness Assembly
Thursday 28 th	MacMillan Coffee Morning: 10a.m.
OCTOBER	
Tuesday 3 rd	EYFS Phonics Workshop: 9.00 a.m. Year 6 Ancient Maya Workshop
Tuesday 10 th	World Mental Health Awareness Day
Wednesday 11 th	Year 5 Shakespeare workshop all day – hall out of use
Thursday 12 th	Year 6 Virtual Reality Workshop
Monday 16 th	Whole School Photographs
Wednesday 18 th	Year 2 Trip to the Black Country Living Museum
Monday 23 rd	Harvest Festival Assembly
Tuesday 24 th	Year 5 Workshop: Portals to the Past
Wednesday 25 th	Year 2D Whole Class Assembly – Diwali: 9.15 a.m.
Thursday 26 th	PTA Halloween Discos (times TBC)
Friday 27 th	Year 2C Whole Class Assembly – Diwali: 9.15 a.m.
NOVEMBER	
Tuesday 7 th	Year 1G Trip: Back-to-Back Houses
Wednesday 8 th	Year 1W Trip: Back-to-Back Houses
Thursday 9 th	Bonfire Night themed lunch
Monday 13 th	Year 3 Trip to Edgmond Hall
Tuesday 14 th	Parents' Evening (3.30 – 6.00)
Thursday 16 th	Parents' Evening (3.30 – 6.00)
Tuesday 21 st	Year 3 Virtually Reality Workshop: The Amazon Year 4 Virtual Reality Workshop: Volcanoes
DECEMBER	
Thursday 7 th	PTA Christmas Discos (times TBC)
Wednesday 13 th	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Carol Concert: 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.
Thursday 14 th	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Concert: 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.
Friday 15 th	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Carol Concert: 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.
Tuesday 19 th	Reception Nativity: 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m. Year 1 – Year 6 Pantomime Trip
Wednesday 20 th	Children's Christmas Lunch
Thursday 21 st	Christmas Party Afternoon
Friday 22 nd	Last Day of Autumn Term – School closes at 1.00 p.m.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr. J. Cusack
Head Teacher