



Website: www.marshhill.bham.sch.uk Tel: 0121 464 2920 Email: enquiry@marshhill.bham.sch.uk

Marsh Hill Primary School Newsletter

October 13th 2023

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

It has been a busy and productive week at Marsh Hill. As well as their regular lessons, the children have taken part in **World Mental Health Day**, and have continued preparations for their **enterprise projects** by presenting their proposals to Mr. Pritchard for consideration. You can read more about these events elsewhere in this newsletter.

A few weeks ago, I informed parents that I had written to our local councillors regarding the parking issues around school at the beginning and end of the school day.

Unfortunately, these issues do not appear to have desisted and so earlier this week I contacted the Car Free School Street (CFSS) scheme. I will be meeting with a representative of the CFSS in the next few weeks to complete a travel plan for the school, as this is a necessary requirement in order to be considered for the CFSS scheme. I will, of course, keep parents informed on the progress being made but, in the meantime, please, please, please be respectful of local residents, other parents and most importantly the children of our community who we all must strive to keep safe and protected at all times.

World Mental Health Day

Tuesday 10th October was World Mental Health Day. The children were given the freedom to participate in personal 'meet and greet' activities with their teachers and then were offered a healthy breakfast in class with their friends. It has been wonderful to see this new form of early morning greeting continuing throughout the week - it has really created a feeling of well-being.

We participated in a number of activities which included learning how to calm our minds and bodies, and how to re-focus and improve our resilience. Through an art activity the children were given a chance to talk about their feelings - those they found difficult as well as those emotions that are easy to share. Finally we shared our "masks" in a whole school assembly. **Freedom is this month's value** at Marsh Hill and sitting alongside the **British Value of Individual liberty** we were able to acknowledge how lucky we are to have the freedom to celebrate such important events as these.



Secondary School Application Information for Pupils Currently in Year 6

The online application process for entering Year 7 in Secondary School in September 2024, opened on September 1st 2023. The closing date for applications is October 31st 2023 at 11.59 p.m. **Applications received after the October 31st 2023 deadline will be classed as late applications and will not be processed until after the offer of places on 1 March 2024.**

Please follow this link to apply:

<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Shakespeare Workshop

Yesterday (11/10/23) the poet Spoz was in school to do a workshop with our Year 5 classes on the theme of Shakespeare Sonnets. The children worked together in groups of 6 to create their own sonnets (a sonnet is a poem of fourteen lines and a rhyme scheme that typically has ten syllables per line). The children very much enjoyed the day, as before lunch they had the opportunity to look at different types of poetry including writing raps.

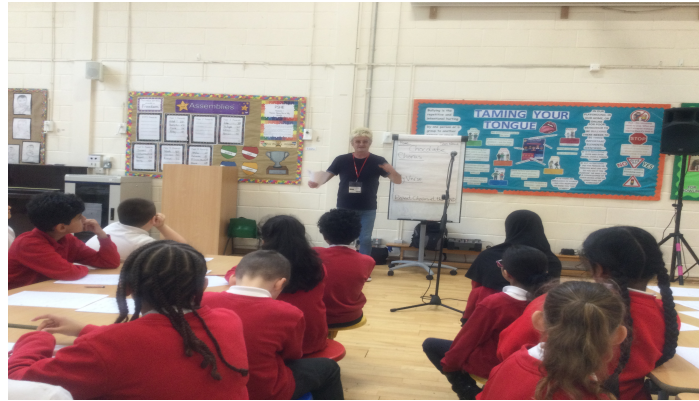
"I'm enjoying the fact that we are learning about poetry and learning to write our own poems. We wrote raps before lunch and after lunch we wrote sonnets which have 14 lines." – Noah

"We had to make songs in groups. Spoz is really funny and he helps us out with writing sonnets. Everyone had fun. Loads of people want to do this more often." – Mila

*"We're writing our own poems in the style of William Shakespeare. Spoz is cool." - Jordy
Spoz is awesome. I liked writing poetry in groups and listening to other groups reading their work." – Anne-Marie*

"I like working in different groups and working with different people. I like working with Spoz because I like his ideas and how he talks to us about different topics in poetry. And he helps us when we get stuck or need help." – Dinelle

"We are doing a William Shakespeare workshop and making our own poems. Spoz is really good and an experienced poet." – Vivan



I know from speaking with Spoz after the workshop, that he enjoyed working with our Year 5 pupils also:

"They were bouncy, enthusiastic and really skilled. They were great." – Spoz

One group of 6 children from Year 5 will now go on to represent the school in a Poetry Slam competition at the Library of Birmingham on the evening of Wednesday 6th December.

Enterprise Project

As noted in last week's newsletter, the children have been discussing ideas and creating business plans. This is part of helping the children understand about economic wellbeing which is a vital skill for their futures. As part of the enterprise initiative, the pupils were given the chance to meet with Dr Lovemason, Managing Director of Model Risk Management for the International Bank Credit Suisse. Dr Lovemason is based in New York and he held a meeting with our entrepreneurs on Microsoft Teams. I am very grateful to Cathy Lomas our Pastoral Manager for arranging this incredible opportunity for our children.

Dr. Lovemason was impressed by the quality of the questions he received, particularly those from Junior, Noah, Freyah and Hafsah. These were about the purpose of money, how to make a profit, the risk involved of producing the wrong product, investment and re-investment! He was very keen to impress upon them the importance of Maths and the future work opportunities it provides for children if they decide to focus on this subject.



Following this event the children then went on to pitch their product ideas to the Enterprise Executives, led by Mr. Pritchard, to gain the funding for their initiatives - marketing, production and sales. In order to get funding, children in each year group had to explain:

- How much the product will cost to produce
- How it will be promoted
- What its unique selling point is
- How much it will sell for
- What is the projected profit that will be made

Reception and Key stage 1 will sell their products on Thursday 19th October

Key stage 2 will sell their products on Friday 20th October.

Please send your children to school with money to participate.

| Year Group | Items for sale | Cost |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Reception | Iced Biscuits/Decorated | 20p each/3 for £1 |
| Key stage 1 | | |
| Year 1 | Chocolate Covered Marshmallows | 50p each |
| Year 2 | Popcorn | 50 per bag |
| Key stage 2 | | |
| Year 3 | Shop Bought Cakes | 25p – 60p |
| Year 4 | Pots of Slime | £1.50 each |
| Year 5 | Pick & Mix/Bracelets | £1.50 each |
| Year 6 | Keyrings and Fidgets | 50p each |

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.

STARS of the Week



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

Year 3 – Hassan, Afizah, Lilly, Emmanuel

Year 4 – Faith, Aziz, Abdullah, Fahad

Year 5 – Dawood, Rimsha, Lucas, Taleah

Year 6 – Amina, Kalal, Arshi, Maria

Attendance

Whole School attendance for this week was 94.09% The class with the highest attendance was 5J who achieved 100% attendance. Very well done and congratulations to 5J.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor. If you are interested in applying for the role, please contact the school office for a candidate form and return to the school office for the attention of Michelle Dunkley (School Business Manager) by midday on Monday 16th October. If we receive more applications than there are vacancies, a secret ballot will be carried out. We will inform you closer to the time if we have to do this. The four year term of office for this role will commence on Wednesday 6th December.

The role of the governing board

The school's governing board is responsible for providing confident and strategic leadership, and creating robust accountability, oversight and assurance for the school's educational and financial performance.

The board is passionate about education and committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

The role of a parent governor

As a parent governor, you'll work with the board to make sure it effectively carries out the duties referred to above. You'll also play a vital role in bringing a parental perspective to the governing board, but you are not there to speak 'on behalf' of the parent body.

To be a parent governor you should have:

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children
- Good inter-personal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills

In addition, the governing board is keen for the successful candidate to have skills in the area of finance.

Focus on the Curriculum

We use a scheme called Jigsaw to deliver the PSHE curriculum. Jigsaw 3-11 offers a comprehensive Programme for Primary PSHE including statutory Relationships and Health Education, in a spiral, progressive and fully planned scheme of work, giving children relevant learning experiences to help them navigate their world and to develop positive relationships with themselves and others. With strong emphasis on emotional literacy, building resilience and nurturing mental and physical health, Jigsaw 3-11 properly equips schools to deliver engaging and relevant PSHE within a whole-school approach. Jigsaw lessons also include mindfulness, allowing children to advance their emotional awareness, concentration and focus.

Pupils in EYFS also work towards being an "Independent Individual" and "Fantastic Friend" through circle times and child-initiated activities in the continuous provision.

| Upcoming Events | |
|----------------------------|--|
| OCTOBER | |
| 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 |

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|----------------------------|---|
| Thursday 9 th | Bonfire Night themed lunch |
| Monday 13 th | Year 3 Trip to Edgmont 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. |
| 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

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