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# Marsh Hill Primary School Newsletter

## November 17<sup>th</sup> 2023

### Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

This week we have held our Parents' Evening events and I have been very glad to see the number of parents and carers who have turned up to discuss the progress being made by their children and to get an insight into how they are doing in class and school generally. If you were unable to meet with your child's teacher this week then I would urge you to make an appointment to speak with them as soon as possible. It is a good opportunity to discuss how school and home can work together to support your child's achievement.

Today we have held our very own Great Spot-acular Event to raise money that will go towards supporting and making a real difference to the lives of vulnerable children. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this very worthwhile cause and offer my congratulations to the Student Squad for organising the event. The Student Squad is just one of the ways in which we provide pupils with a wide range of responsibilities to develop their character and opportunities to enable them to become active citizens who feel motivated and inspired to make a difference and help others.

There will be more on the 'Great Spot-acular' Event in next week's newsletter.

### Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Today in school the whole of the pupil population from Year 1 to Year 6 were given the opportunity to vote for the pupil from Year 5 or Year 6 who they believe would best represent them as an Anti-Bullying Ambassador. This is one way in which we promote the **British Value of Democracy** in school. The children who put themselves forward to be Anti-Bullying Ambassadors had to first put in an expression of interest. They were then asked to apply in writing for the position. Following this, they were interviewed and the final eight

children were put forward for election. These eight had to make speeches which included characteristics important for an elected official and their suitability for the role. They then had to advertise what they will offer/provide in the role through promotional posters. The election of these pupils reflects the British electoral system. The rest of the school's pupil population voted in secret using ballot boxes. The successful candidates will be informed in assembly on Monday morning.

### **Rainforest Homework**

I am delighted to share the Rainforest homework created by two of our Year 4 pupils this week. The projects below were done by Abdurrahman and Renea and they were inspired by their geography topic. Very well done to Abdurrahman and Renea.



### **Focus on the Curriculum:**

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression; it can play an important part in the personal development of children. As technology is increasingly available, music is more accessible in the culture and society we live in. Therefore, the teaching and learning of Music enables the children to better understand the world around them. Music can help children to appreciate and connect with others past and present. It can also help children to understand and celebrate their own distinctiveness. Music has the potential to promote responsibility and leadership and to prepare and inspire children.

Marsh Hill uses Charanga, a progressive, spiral scheme which reflects the suggested guidelines of the current National Curriculum, to teach Music across EYFS, Key Stages 1 and 2. This ensures continuity and progression in knowledge and application of: music appraisal, games for rhythm and beat, singing, playing instruments, improvisation, composition and performing and sharing learning. These seven components of teaching and learning have been modified and adapted to cater for individual classes and children. Furthermore, specialist music teachers work regularly to teach an instrument in Year 3, in addition, electives are also available for children in Key Stage 2. Click [here](#) to find out more about Charanga.

At Marsh Hill, we encourage musical development in the Early Years Foundation Stage by encouraging pupils to be Proud Performers to achieve the Early Learning Goals. Through planned play based and child initiated activities, Music opportunities take place in the continuous provision. Pupils have the opportunity to perform and compose music on the

outdoor stage using percussion instruments and dance resources such as rhythm ribbons and feathers. There is an outside Bluetooth speaker that provides exposure to different genres of music. Pupils are encouraged to sing, move their body to the music and use percussion instruments. As a result, pupils gain knowledge of the elements of music to prepare them for Year 1. Charanga is taught once a week to teach them the skills such as following and finding the beat and rhythm. The social aspect of music making provides unique opportunities for children to be part of collaborative activity during whole class music sessions.

Learning music enables children to explore and to think imaginatively and innovatively. It can help children to develop a risk taking approach when engaged in learning.

Here is the [Long Term Plan for Music](#) for the whole school.

### Attendance

The class with the highest attendance this week is 2S who achieved 97.05%. Very well done and congratulations to 2S.

### 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 Mr. Cusack, Mrs. Leavey, Mrs. Clover, Mr. Moheen, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Hunt, and Mr. Pritchard.

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

### Storytime

Please click on to the QR code for this week's stories to share at home. These stories come with a suggested age range, but of course, can be enjoyed by all. I would love feedback from parents, carers and children on this fantastic new initiative, so please feel free to get in touch.

	 <p>SCAN ME</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/35L1PID">https://bit.ly/35L1PID</a></p>	<p><b>Octopants</b> <i>Suzy Senior &amp; Claire Powell</i></p> <p><b>Storytime</b> Read by <b>Suzy Senior</b></p>
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	 <p>SCAN ME</p>	<p><b>The Monkey with a Bright Blue Bottom</b>  <i>Steve Smallman &amp; Nick Schon</i>  <b>Storytime</b>          Read by <b>Steve Smallman</b></p>
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<https://bit.ly/2L4OwC>

	 <p>SCAN ME</p>	<p><b>You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum!</b>  <i>Andy Stanton &amp; David Tazzyman</i>  <b>Storytime (extract)</b>          Read by <b>Andy Stanton</b></p>
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<https://bit.ly/2SL76dT>

	 <p>SCAN ME</p>	<p><b>Artemis Fowl</b>  <i>Eoin Colfer</i>  <b>Storytime (extract)</b>          Read by <b>Eoin Colfer</b></p>
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<https://bit.ly/3bfLoFx>

Upcoming Events	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Trip to Edmond Hall
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening (3.30 – 6.00)
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening (3.30 – 6.00)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need Day (Non-School Uniform)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Year 3 Virtually Reality Workshop: The Amazon  Year 4 Virtual Reality Workshop: Volcanoes
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Christmas Discos (times TBC)
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Carol Concert: 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Concert: 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Carol Concert: 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Nativity: 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.  Pantomime Visit
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Christmas Lunch
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Christmas Party Afternoon
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	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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