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Marsh Hill Primary School Newsletter

November 24th 2023

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

The festive season is nearly upon us once more and as you can imagine this is a very busy time in the school year. While the children will continue to work hard in all subject areas in the build up to Christmas itself, we would like to invite all parents and carers into school to share a Coffee and Mince Pie after dropping your children off at 9 a.m. on Monday 4th December.

The ongoing cost of living crisis will have an impact on us all this year and a few minutes time out from your busy day is something we think you deserve in order to enjoy a coffee and mince pie as our treat. Whilst you're having this, please feel free to help yourselves to the pre-loved toys on offer and the school uniform swap shop will be available too. There will also be additional information about what's going on in the locality and events across Erdington itself. We look forward to seeing you then.



Road Safety Week

This week we have been taking part in Road Safety Week. The children have been thinking about what we need to do to make sure our journeys are safe.

The children know that one of the reasons that people get hurt on roads is because cars and other vehicles often travel too fast; and some of them have indicated that they do not always feel safe because of all the traffic around school at the beginning and end of the school day.

The children also discussed how we travel, who we share our roads with and how we can all use roads safely.

They agreed that grown-ups can help us too.

Younger children should always hold hands with a grown-up when walking near roads. They should always sit in a special car seat to protect them when travelling by car.

Children know that when they are riding their bikes, they should do so on a safe path away from traffic and wear a helmet to protect their head if they fall off.

Our older children learnt that we all share a responsibility to use roads safely, and this includes people who walk, scoot and ride, as well as people who drive.

The children have been asked to talk to their parents or carers and remind them to drive at safe speeds, especially around school and in areas where people live, work and play; to never use their phone while driving; and to always wear a seat belt.

We finished Road Safety Week by having a series of workshops in all classes delivered by PCSO Long.

End of the Day Collection of Children in the Key Stage 2 Playground.

It is the responsibility of parents and carers to monitor their children when collecting from school at the end of the day. Unfortunately, there are the same few children who repeatedly go on the school equipment without permission or supervision. It would greatly help a more peaceful end to the school day if parents and carers would exit the school playground once they have collected their children. I would like to thank the very large majority of parents who do monitor their children and leave the school premises promptly with them at the end of the day.

Children in Need

Well done and thank you to all our children who took part in the Great Spot-acular event last Friday for Children in Need. Cathy and the Student Squad were particularly impressed by the following children for their award-winning outfits: Daniel (EYFS), Mateusz (Ks1) and Ivy and Louis

(Ks2). I would like to thank all parents and carers who donated to this worthy cause and raised £396.62 that will go to support vulnerable children.



Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

In last week's newsletter, I informed you of the process we follow to elect our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and how it reflects the British electoral system and supports our promotion of the British Value of Democracy. Today I can reveal that there was a 59% turn out of voters - with 1.6% of the votes discounted due to incorrect completion of the ballot papers. Mrs. Sturridge-Packer, one of our governors, also took the opportunity to vote during a visit to the school. The four pupils voted in as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors are: Idrees, Hussan, Aria and Elaina-Mae. Their Deputies are Shane, Mohsin, Seerat and Vivan.



Enterprise Week

Very well done to all our children for their efforts during Enterprise week. Enterprise week gave the children a great opportunity to develop their business skills as well as learning more about how to plan and manage money. As you can see from the table below, we have a number of budding Lord and Lady Sugar's in school ... especially in Year 6!

Year Group	Budget	Cost of Purchase	Products	Sales	Profit (Sales Cost)
6	£50	£21.37	Bracelets	£129.00	£107.63
5	£50	£49.82	Pick & Mix	£111.24	£61.42
4	£50	£42.00	Slime	£95.00	£53.00
3	£50	£48.22	Cakes	£99.00	£50.78
2	£50	£37.78	Popcorn	£59.21	£21.43
1	£50	£41.09	Marshmallow	£60.05	£18.96
Reception	£50	£36.69	Iced Biscuits	£83.00	£46.31

Year 4 VR Workshops

This week, Year 4 were lucky enough to visit the Amazon rainforest! They started by flying over the Amazon river then arrived safely in the rainforest. They explored life in each layer, coming up close and personal with a variety of animals including jaguars, monkeys and sloths! We then saw the impact that deforestation is having upon our beautiful rainforests, it was very alarming to see!

It was really fun using the VR headsets - Amelia

It was exciting because we got to see animals we don't get to see in real life – Skyelar-Rose

It was fun seeing the sloth I haven't seen one up close - Renea

We learnt lots of things to help with our geography work - Haadi

It was great, my favourite animal was the jaguar! - Joshua

It was relaxing being in the Amazon - Zaima

Attendance

The class with the highest attendance this week is 3M who achieved 99.0%. Very well done and congratulations to 3M.

STARS of the Week



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

Reception – Kaya, Sedra, Fatima, Daniel

Year 1 – Ayesha, Mohamed, Christian, Inarah

Year 2 – Maher, Aiza, Areeba, Zara

Year 3 – Jayden, Raul, Sophie, Muhammad

Year 4 – Minnie, Zayn

Year 5 – Junior, Fatima, Imaan, Aizah

Year 6 – Nabeeha, Seerat, Zainab, Aleena

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.

Mrs. Mynett

It was lovely to see Mrs. Mynett visit us this week. Those of us who worked with her for a number of years know that her love of the Festive Season is legendary, so we were very happy when she contacted school to offer to put up and decorate the Christmas Tree in our foyer this year. I know that Mrs. Mynett still reads the newsletter and takes an interest in the goings on at Marsh Hill and I am sure that you will all join me in wishing her all the very best, and we look forward to seeing her again soon.



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.

3 – 5 year olds

	 https://bit.ly/2zguucn	<p>Shark in the Park <i>Nick Sharratt</i></p> <p>Storytime & draw-along Read by Nick Sharratt</p>
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5 – 7 year olds

	 https://bit.ly/2SKu5FW	<p>Grandad's Island <i>Benji Davies</i></p> <p>Storytime Read by Benji Davies</p>
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7 – 9 year olds

	 https://bit.ly/2L92ryi	<p>The Great Chocoplot <i>Chris Callaghan</i></p> <p>Storytime (extract) Read by Chris Callaghan</p>
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9 – 11 year olds

	 https://bit.ly/2WGo7Ht	Kid Normal and the Rogue Heroes <i>Greg James, Chris Smith & Erica Salcedo</i> Storytime (extract) Read by Greg James & Chris Smith
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Upcoming Events	
NOVEMBER	
Tuesday 21 st	Year 3 Virtually Reality Workshop: The Amazon Year 4 Virtual Reality Workshop: Volcanoes
DECEMBER	
Monday 4 th	Christmas Coffee Morning
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. Pantomime Visit
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