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## **MARSH HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**September 13<sup>th</sup> 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have had a good week.

### **Marvellous Me**

Just a reminder to sign up to Marvellous Me, please ask your child's class teacher if you need your login details again. Staff use Marvellous Me to share news, important information and celebrate your child's successes.

### **Home Time**

Your child's safety is paramount and we therefore kindly ask for you to be patient with staff when your child is being dismissed. Staff must ensure the children are dismissed safely and that they go to the correct adult collecting them, therefore please stand back from the doors and do not shout your child's name. Staff will call your child and dismiss when they see the adult collecting. Thank you for your patience and support in ensuring all children are dismissed safely.

### **Year 6 Secondary School Information**

If you have a child in the current Year 6, applications for Secondary School Preference opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September and closes on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2024. Find out more information about the application process on the council's website at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions).

### **We Are A Nut Free School**

At Marsh Hill Primary School we aim to be a Nut-Free school. The school aims to protect children who have allergies to nuts yet also help them, as they grow up, to take responsibility as to what foods they can eat and to be aware of where they may be put at risk. Our "Nut-Free Policy" means that the following items should not be brought into school:

- Packs of nuts
- Peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts

- Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
- Cakes made with nuts
- Any home cooked meals for packed lunches that are made from nuts

We have a policy not to use nuts in any of our food prepared on site at our school. Our suppliers provide us with nut-free products. However, we cannot guarantee freedom from nut traces. We cannot give out any sweets brought in from home to be given out as birthday treats.

What types of food are nuts?

Almonds (badam)

Cashew nuts (kaju)

Hazelnut

Pistachio (pista)

Walnuts

Brazil nuts

Nut oils

Peanuts

Please see the power point below for further information.

Parents and carers must notify staff if their child has any known or suspected allergy to nuts and provide all medical and necessary information. This will be added to your child's care plan and if necessary, a meeting organised with the school nurse.

Homemade snacks or party food contributions must have a label detailing all ingredients present and the kitchen environment where the food was prepared must be nut free. If you are unsure about a selection, please speak to a staff member before bringing the food item into school.

The school requests that parents and carers observe the nut-free policy and therefore do not include nuts, or any traces of nuts, in packed lunches.

All children are regularly reminded about the good hygiene practice of washing hands before and after eating which helps to reduce the risk of secondary contamination. Likewise, children are reminded and carefully supervised to minimise the act of food sharing with their friends.

### **Why Are Grapes So Dangerous?**



Many of our children bring grapes to school for a healthy snack or as part of their packed lunch. But, for younger children especially (those in EYFS and Key stage 1), the Child Accident Prevent Trust report that:

*Doctors have warned that young children can choke to death on whole grapes, describing three cases of children who needed emergency treatment:*

The report further states that:

*Doctors warn that food is responsible for over half of all fatal choking accidents, with grapes the third most common cause of death in food-related incidents. Young children are particularly vulnerable to choking on grapes because:*

- *They don't have a full set of teeth and are still learning to chew properly.*
- *Their swallow reflex is still developing.*
- *Their airway is very small.*

*It's why we advise that grapes should be chopped in half lengthways and ideally in quarters.*

*How long are grapes a choking hazard?*

*It's best to cut up grapes for children up to five, as they have small airways that can easily be blocked by a grape.*

*But primary school children may still have small airways, though they're better at chewing and swallowing.*

*That's why there's no fixed cut-off age for cutting up children's grapes.*

*You know your child best. Do they sit down still to eat? Do they chew their food properly? Do they eat quickly when distracted, excited or in a rush?*

*If in doubt, give yourself peace of mind and cut them up.*

### **Year 6 Ties**

Now that Year 6 wear a tie, can they please wear a white collared shirt. Children should wear their tie to school every day apart from PE day on a Friday.

### **Value of the Month: KINDNESS**

Promoting the value of kindness helps children develop emotional intelligence, empathy, and understanding of others' feelings. These skills are crucial for building positive relationships and navigating social interactions throughout life.

As a school, we are aware that childhood experiences play a significant role in shaping a person's values and behaviours. What we do matters; so we show our pupils what kindness looks like, day-to-day, and through our charitable activities we aim to help them understand why it is so important in society as a whole. We role-model kindness, to establish an environment and community where kindness is the norm.

### **National Fitness Day - Wednesday 18th September**

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September we will be celebrating National Fitness Day. The purpose of National Fitness Day is to encourage pupils to have fun and enjoy exercising. Miss Black will be running sessions in the hall for pupils from Years 1 to Year 6. The nature of the activities means that children will not need to wear their PE kit on the day (other than Year 4 who will still have a PE lesson on the day).

## **Focus On Reading**

Reading at home is the most important way in which you can support your child. It is proven that children who are encouraged by their parents and carers to read widely and as part of their leisure time develop the crucial reading skills and develop a love of reading that lasts a life time.

### **10 Reasons Why Reading is Important for children:**

#### **1. It expands their vocabulary.**

While reading, they might come across words they have never heard – prompting them to find out what they mean. As a result, they add it to their vocabulary.

#### **2. It makes them better at it.**

Practice makes perfect. The best way to get better at reading is just to do it!

#### **3. It helps build independence and self-confidence.**

As they learn that they no longer have to rely on their parents to read things to them, children develop a sense of independence. Through reading, they can begin to understand the world on their own.

#### **4. It keeps them safe.**

Traffic signs have words and so do warning labels. Reading allows children to understand when something says it could harm them.

#### **5. It helps them make sense of the world around them.**

As children learn to read they are able to determine what things around them say – from signs to stickers to labels. Being able to read helps them understand what is what and the purpose it serves.

#### **6. It leads to their future academic success.**

A child must be able to read in order to even progress through school. Reading is essential to following the instructions on tests and being able to even understand or answer the questions.

#### **7. It enhances their imagination.**

As a child reads, they can begin to imagine where the characters are. They might even create their own little world, as well. Reading enhances their imagination by forcing them to picture what the character actually looks like and who they are.

#### **8. It entertains them.**

It gives them something good to do – especially once they can start reading chapter books with no pictures, forcing them to really get into their imagination and therefore, really get into the book as well.

### **9. It improves their grammar.**

Through reading, they can see how the author composed their sentence structure and grammar. This can also help improve their communication skills as they determine how it should be read using clues such as punctuation.

### **10. It improves their writing skills.**

Because reading helps children improve their vocabulary, communication, and grammar skills, it ultimately improves their writing skills as well.

Reading is essential to just about everything in life – from cooking to driving to just getting through school. It is important to start at a young age and teach your child the value of reading so they will grow to practice it often and value their ability to do so.

This weekend, why not sit down with a good book and your child and get to reading together!

## **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.

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

## **Attendance**

The class with the best attendance this week were 6C with a very impressive 100%. Congratulations and very well done to 6C.

The whole school attendance figure was 95.94%.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Attendance Percentage</b>
Rainbows	94.0
Sunshines	94.14
1G	90.33
4H	98.33
<b>6C</b>	<b>100.0</b>
6M	94.21
2D	99.29

3C	98.23
4M	97.67
5C	98.57
2P	92.33
3D	97.67
5U	95.0
6W	99.0
1H	92.67
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>95.94</b>

### STARS of the Week



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

Year 1 – Henry, Evie, Ismaeel, Nalee

Year 2 – Eshaal, Matthew, Hesham, Olivia

Year 3 – David, Selena, Maymunah, Seher

### Diary Dates

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	National Fitness Day
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 3 Trip to Edmond Hall
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Maths Workshop: 9.10 – 10.10
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	EYFS Phonics Workshop: 9.00 – 10.00
	Class 1G Trip: Back-to-Back Houses
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Class 1H Trip: Back-to-Back Houses
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Y2 Trip: Black Country Living Museum
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Maths Workshop: 9.10 – 10.10
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Maths Workshop: 9.10 – 10.10
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Trip: Santorini Greek Restaurant p.m.
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Maths Workshop: 9.10 – 10.10
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening: 3.30 – 6.00
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parents' Evening: 3.30 – 6.00
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Conservatoire Music Performance in the school hall for Years 1 – 6: 1.45 – 2.45

<b>DECEMBER</b>	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 & Year 2 Carol Concert: 9.15 and 2.15
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Pantomime Trip for Years 1 – 6: a.m.
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 & Year 4 Carol Concert: 9.15 and 2.15
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 & Year 6 Carol Concert: 9.15 and 2.15
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Nativity: 9.15 and 2.00
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Christmas Lunch
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Parties p.m.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	School Closes at 1.00 for the Christmas Holidays

**This section will be updated once new dates are known and confirmed.**

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr. J. Cusack  
Head Teacher