

# Marsh Hill Primary School Newsletter

September 18th, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a good week and that you and your families are staying safe. Two weeks ago, I sent out to all parents and carers a request regarding how you believe we are doing as a school in terms of our strengths and areas for improvement. I was pleased to note that the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Below are a selection of comments we received:

"Firstly, my son is very happy at school. Secondly, the welcoming of staff every morning with happy smiling faces at the start of the day is very pleasant. Thirdly, all of my children attended and they were always happy here."

"Skilled and supportive teachers and administrators, reliable support for all pupils."

"Involving parents in productive and useful ways."

"Treating every child equally. Helping them individually to understand all the tasks and fulfil them."

"Marsh Hill is extraordinary."

"I love how the school is diverse"

"School listens to our views and concerns."

"I just want to say thank you for all the support given to parents over lockdown. I appreciate all the effort put in with regards to learning from home. Had numerous calls from my son's teachers to check in. It felt very reassuring that I was doing my best with attempting to school from home. Teachers have had a challenging year and I don't think it has been appreciated and acknowledged like it should be."

In terms of what we can do better, parents and carers have indicated that they want us carry on with the good work we are doing by: "continuing our ongoing goals and direction"; "having high expectations of pupils as well as teachers" and continuing to ensure that we have a "secure and organised school environment."

## **The Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands**

The whole school staff were delighted to receive the following message from the Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands, John Crabtree OBE, this week. The Lord-Lieutenant wrote:

'As the representative of Her Majesty The Queen in the West Midlands, I would like to thank you for the contribution you have made to the County during these extraordinary and difficult times.

No matter how large or small, the innovation, collaboration, humanity and selfless service shown by so many across the region during the Covid-19 pandemic has been truly inspiring. Thank you.'

## Reception Class 2021-22 Open Day

As you would expect, our open day for prospective parents who wish their child to join our Reception class for the academic year 2021-22 will be different this year, as you would expect. We will be filming a virtual tour of the school and this will be uploaded onto the school website from Monday 2nd, November.

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."* – Dr. Seuss

The value of reading and its positive impact on children cannot be underestimated. Research shows that reading for ten minutes every day improves academic performance and aids mental well-being. Furthermore, reading for this amount of time every day is more beneficial to a child's academic development than reading less frequently for a longer period of time.

Reading tips:

BOOKS and stories are important, but reading anything counts.

LET your child choose their own reading — it is more likely they will enjoy it.

TRY to integrate reading into everyday life; on the bus, watching TV or while out shopping

Workshops will not be taking place for parents in school for the foreseeable future, however we are keen to support you so that you in turn can support your children to develop their fluency and comprehension skills. As such, we will be providing an online version of reading workshops for parents and also sending home a resource pack for each year group.

The online material and packs will be uploaded and sent home for:

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October

Year 3 and Year 4 pupils Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Year 1 and Year 2 pupils on Wednesday 21st October

## Homework

Next Monday (21/09/20) all pupils will be given an exercise book to do their homework in. As I explained in last week's newsletter, these books are not to be returned to school - instead you may upload photographs of completed work to your child's class email address. Homework will be set every Monday (although it will be uploaded on to the website on the afternoon of the previous Friday) and the children have the following school week to complete it.

## What to do if a pupil is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

Yesterday (Thursday), the Department for Education issued updated guidance for school regarding coronavirus measures. You can access this guidance by following the link below:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/918525/What\\_to\\_do\\_if\\_a\\_pupil\\_is\\_displaying\\_symptoms\\_of\\_coronavirus\\_\\_COVID-19\\_\\_Schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918525/What_to_do_if_a_pupil_is_displaying_symptoms_of_coronavirus__COVID-19__Schools.pdf)

Have a good weekend and stay safe.



Mr J Cusack

Headteacher