



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your families safe and well.

As always, it has been a busy and productive start to the second half of the autumn term.

You will of course, by now, be aware that we have entered a new period of lockdown, and so I would like to keep you informed of guidance that we have received from the Department for Education related to the new nationwide restrictions. The government and their scientific advisors have made clear that children are to attend school as normal. Only children who have been confirmed by a specialist or GP as being clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Today your child will bring home a letter setting out the revised arrangements from November 2020. These arrangements will be in place for the duration of the new lockdown period, and reviewed in the first week of December.

PE Kits

From Monday 9th November, all pupils must come to school wearing their PE Kit on their PE Day. This is to minimise the contact between staff and pupils, to ensure social distancing and to increase physical activity time. Children must wear a tracksuit (preferably a black tracksuit), a white PE t-shirt and trainers on their PE day, A reminder of PE days is below.

Reception	Friday
Year 1	Tuesday
Year 2	Wednesday
Year 3	Tuesday
Year 4	Thursday
Year 5	Monday
Year 6	Friday

Playground

It has been brought to my attention that some parents/carers are arriving early and gathering on the playground. Please enter the playground at the allocated time to maintain social distancing; our staggered home times are to ensure this. We ask that once you have collected your child/ren you leave the school site. Please do not gather on the playground, or stay in the seating areas. Due to new restrictions, we also advise you to wear masks when entering the playground.

Only one person per family should be dropping off and collecting at home time.

Staff contact

I'd like to remind you that if you need to discuss something with a teacher, please email the class email address and staff will reply within 5 days. If it is urgent, please ring the school office who will pass the message on to the class teacher. We would appreciate you not approaching staff on the playground in order to ensure social distancing is adhered to.

Breakfast Club

Following new guidance, I need to inform you that breakfast club should be used only where it is absolutely necessary in order to support parents to work, search for work, or undertake training or education.

School Meal Vouchers

Over half term, Birmingham City Council announced that families with children eligible for Free School Meals will receive vouchers. We are awaiting information on how these are to be distributed.

Children In Need

Non school uniform day on Friday 13th November for £1 donation to raise money for Children in need. Merchandise will be sold from next week starting from £1 to £2.50.



The Governing Board

We are fortunate at Marsh Hill to have a proactive and skilled Governing Board who give their own free time to fulfil their duties to the school. The role of the Governing Board is threefold:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Simon Davies for his service to the school over a period of eight years; latterly as Chair of Governors. Mr. Davies has stepped down from the Governing Board due to work commitments. Mrs. Eleanor Langston-Hughes has been nominated to the post of Chair of Governors. Mr. Paul Basil is the new Vice-Chair.

Mrs. Eleanor Langston-Hughes



“I have been in the teaching profession for twenty years, initially as a history teacher, but spent the last five years of my career as a senior manager with responsibility for teaching and learning. I am currently teaching two days a week in a sixth college as my husband and I adopted twin boys in December 2019. I have been a staff governor at two of my previous schools and became a governor at Marsh Hill in February 2020. I have greatly enjoyed being part of the governing body this year and look forward to continuing to work with staff, students, parents and the wider community in order to improve the life chances of the children in our care”.

Mr. Paul Basil



“I have had a long career in Management Accountancy and Business Advice offering support and guidance to Businesses from all sectors. I joined Marsh Hill Primary School as a Governor in May 2019 to support the Board of Governors in setting a clear strategic direction and ensuring the resources are used well and appropriately. With my experience in the financial sector I feel privileged to be able to offer my expertise to the Governing Board”.

Access to the school building via the front door

Please be patient when you are awaiting to be attended to by a member of the school office staff. While the overwhelming majority of parents and carers do show patience when and where it is required, there are a small minority who press the buzzer repeatedly when they do not get an immediate response. Please also avoid allowing younger children to press the buzzer on your behalf. As you can appreciate, the school office is a busy place and the staff have a number of duties to perform throughout the day; as such, it may on occasion take a little longer to respond.

Photographs

Please be aware that the last day that school can accept money for photographs is Monday 16th November. We are unable to accept money for photographs or order them after this date.

I wish you and your families a safe, enjoyable and happy weekend

Mr. J Cusack

Head Teacher