



Dear Parents and Carers.

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

### Wellbeing Wednesday

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, exposure to too much screen time is not good for either children or adults. It was our recognition of this that led us to determining that for the remainder of lockdown, Wednesday afternoon's would be screen free and our children would be provided with activities that would allow them to be creative. This in turn supports and benefits their emotional wellbeing. I am pleased to report that this initiative has been an enormous success and parents and pupils have subsequently shared the results of their endeavours with staff. You can see some examples on our twitter feed. If any parents or carers have any ideas for our wellbeing Wednesday's we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me at: [enquiry@marshill.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@marshill.bham.sch.uk)

### Devices support Home Learning

The school has provided Chromebooks and laptops for families so that children can access the online learning that we are providing and so that they can engage in online sessions with their class and teachers. Unfortunately, there are a very small minority of pupils who have been provided with these devices who are not consistently participating in learning. I would ask parents and carers of all children in our school to ensure that online learning is being accessed.

### Half Term

If your child is currently eligible for free school meals, you will be contacted by the school office during the week commencing Monday 8th February. Parents who have previously asked for their vouchers to be printed out, will have them printed out again and you will receive a text message once they are ready to collect. All other claimants will receive a text message with a link, cheque number and validation code to redeem.

### Parent Governor Elections

I would like to thank the three parents who have registered their interest in becoming a school governor. The personal statements of each candidate will be sent to you via a link on a text message. Please follow the link and vote for the parent you would like to be appointed as the new parent governor. Please ensure that you only vote for one of the three candidates.

The vote will be open from 4.00 p.m. today and will close next Friday (12<sup>th</sup> February) at 4.00 p.m.

### Birmingham Fizz Free February 2021

This February Birmingham City Council will again be joining the national campaign to go Fizz Free. Fizzy drinks are the largest single source of sugar for children aged 11-18, and they provide an average of 29% of daily sugar intake. Fizzy drinks are also the [leading cause for hospitalisation among five to nine year olds](#) in the UK (over 140 children from Birmingham have been admitted to hospital over the last three years with dental decay). Cutting out fizzy drinks is an easy way to reduce sugar intake and make a considerable healthy diet change. You can get further information and find some helpful resources at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/fizzfreefeb](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/fizzfreefeb)

### Free Google Classroom Courses

Walsall College are offering a free two hour course for parents and cares that will show you how to support your child/ren on Google Classroom. The courses are online (see attached link)

[https://www.walsallcollege.ac.uk/shortcourses2021/?utm\\_source=CTA%20Button%20Website&utm\\_medium=Banner&utm\\_campaign=January%20Adult%20Offer%2020\\_21&utm\\_content=Short%20courses%20ad&hsCtaTracking=ac71f503-1466-4c1d-8c45-1bd536e7face%7C0e8f418f-561e-4163-bc04-203a7cb0232d](https://www.walsallcollege.ac.uk/shortcourses2021/?utm_source=CTA%20Button%20Website&utm_medium=Banner&utm_campaign=January%20Adult%20Offer%2020_21&utm_content=Short%20courses%20ad&hsCtaTracking=ac71f503-1466-4c1d-8c45-1bd536e7face%7C0e8f418f-561e-4163-bc04-203a7cb0232d)



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

Yours sincerely,

*J. Cusack*

Mr. J Cusack  
Head Teacher