



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well.

School Re-opening on March 8th

All of the staff at Marsh Hill were delighted to hear the Government announce on Monday 22nd February that schools will re-open to all pupils from Monday March 8th. I am sure that you, and most importantly the children of Marsh Hill, were overjoyed by this very good news too. For our part, it will be wonderful to see the children back in school where they belong and a return to a more normal way of life. That said, we will, of course, continue to follow Government guidance and review and update our risk assessments and school procedures as and when circumstances change.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers so very much for the outstanding and invaluable support that you have given to your children through home learning. This has been an extremely challenging time for all parents and we do not underestimate your input with supporting learning while simultaneously dealing with your own busy working lives and other challenges such as being denied the opportunity to see extended family or friends.

On behalf of myself and the Governing Board I would also like to thank all the staff at Marsh Hill. We are so proud of the commitment that they have shown to a new way of providing teaching and learning for all the children during this period of lockdown and I know, from all the messages of thanks and support we have received, that you all agree and are appreciative of our exceptional and dedicated team.

Attendance from March 8th

When we do return to school on March 8th, attendance will be mandatory. This means that your child must attend unless they are self-Isolating because they have:

- Have tested positive for coronavirus or have coronavirus symptoms
- Live with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus or has coronavirus symptoms
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus or has coronavirus symptoms

In line with the latest government guidance, pupils who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, school will continue to provide home learning for them.

Please be assured that we are here to support you, so if you or your child have any concerns about returning to school then please get in touch (through the school office on 0121 464 2920) with:

Mrs. Leavey (if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2)

Mr. Kinson (if your child is in Year 3 or Year 4)

Mrs. Clover (if your child is in Year 5 or Year 6)



Mrs. Garda

While there are very many positives associated with Marsh 8th at Marsh Hill, there is also one downside. This is the fact that after 20 years of dedicated service Saieda Garda will be leaving us.

During her time at Marsh Hill, Mrs. Garda has shown an instinctive and natural talent in knowing how children develop and learn, and has been unstinting in her desire to ensure that the children of our school community achieve the best possible outcomes. Moreover, she has built strong and trusting relationships with pupils, staff and parents and has always sought to go that extra mile to provide additional help and support to all who need it.

Mrs. Garda was a part of our community even before she began working here as both of her children attended Marsh Hill. After leaving Marsh Hill, Mrs. Garda's children attended Grammar School and as adults now have high profile and thriving careers of their own – a testimony in itself to the importance and value that Mrs. Garda puts on the value of education.

It goes without saying that we will all miss Mrs. Garda and that we wish her health, happiness and the very best in her retirement. I know that she won't be resting too much though, as she has a number of outside interests that will keep her active. I also hope that she will return to see us many, many times in the future.

World Book Day

Next Thursday is World Book Day. This year we will not be asking the children to dress up this year and will instead focus on the true meaning of World Book Day which is to encourage and celebrate reading for pleasure. Staff will be providing a series of activities, not only on World Book Day itself, but throughout the week.

We will also be ensuring that children receive £1 vouchers (these will be sent digitally for pupils working at home). I would like to thank school's Reading Lead, Ms. Deans for planning and overseeing our World Book Day events.

Parent Governor

I would like to very much thank the parents who volunteered their services to be part of school's Governing Board and to all those parents who took the opportunity to vote. I am delighted to announce that following the election Mr Mustafa has been elected on to the Governing Board. Mr. Mustafa knows the school well and I am confident that he will provide the support and challenge that is crucial to the running of a successful school.

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

Mr J Cusack

Head Teacher