



Marsh Hill Newsletter

September 17th 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

New Reception Intake

It has been lovely this week to see that we now have our new Reception classes in full time. The children have settled in really well and they have been telling me about their first few days as members of our Marsh Hill family:

“I like playing with my new friends.”

“I like painting.”

“My favourite is playing with the Lego.”

“I like playing with the cars in the garage.”

“I like my teachers and playing with my new friends.”

The Reception staff have been full of praise for the children too:

“I have loved having the children in school. It’s been lovely to meet them and we already know them well.” - Mrs. Nehar

“They have all settled in really well.” - Mrs. Mountney

“We have had a fabulous week. They are lovely and really tried hard.” - Mrs. Holmes

“I am really impressed how they have settled in and already made new friends.” - Mrs. Savage

Reading

Reading is essential for children to become successful in school and in their journey through life. Most of a child’s learning is done through reading. The better a child can read, the easier it will be for them to learn. This is why, at Marsh Hill, we prioritise the development of reading. Research shows us that:

1. Children who read often and widely get better at it.

After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything humans do, and reading is no different.

2. Reading exercises our brain.

Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain rather than watching TV, for example. Reading strengthens brains connections and builds NEW connections.

3. Reading improves concentration.

Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.

4. Reading teaches children about the world around them.

Through reading a variety of books children learn about people, places, and events outside of their own experience.

5. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.

Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking.

6. Reading develops a child's imagination.

As we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.

7. Reading helps children to develop empathy.

As children develop they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.

8. Reading is fun.

A book or an e-reader doesn't take up much space and is light to carry, so you take it anywhere so you can never be bored if you have a book in your bag.

9. Reading is a great way to spend time together.

Reading together on the sofa, bedtimes stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.

10. Children who read achieve better in school.

Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English. Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.

To this end we have a series of reading workshops taking place for each year group (the details for each year group have been sent home and I thank those parents who have so far replied). These workshops will be led by Ms. Deans the Lead Teacher for the development of reading across school and I encourage all parents and carers to attend.

Also, this week we are delighted to be re-opening our school library! Both the children and the staff cannot wait to be visiting the library each week to change their library books.

Poems of the Week

Ms. Deans will also be sending home poems each week for children and families to enjoy. She explains:

Poetry is artistic writing, that attempts to stir a reader's imagination or emotions. The poet does this by carefully choosing and arranging language for its meaning, **sound**, and rhythm. There is much to be enjoyed and learnt from reading poetry and so this week we will be launching 'Poems of the Week'. Each week your child will come home with poems to share, discuss and enjoy at home. This week KS2 will have Poems by Christina Rossetti and EYFS and KS1 will look at poems: What is the Sun? and The Cave.

Reading Inspirations

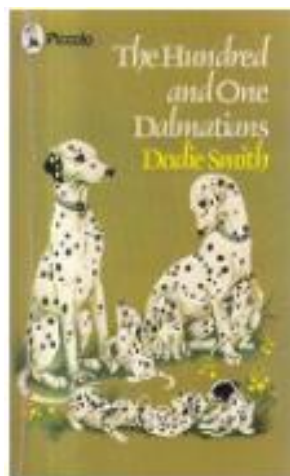
This week we will be introducing a new regular feature to our weekly newsletter. Each week a member of the school community will recommend a book appropriate for a 4 – 11 year old reader that means a lot to them personally. In this way we hope to encourage our children to read more widely and for leisure. If any parents or carers have a suggestion, then I would be happy to include them. Please contact me through enquiry@marshill.bham.sch.uk

This week's recommendation comes from Mrs. Coppock who teaches in Year 2.

My absolute favourite childhood book is 101 Dalmatians by Dodie Smith. I first read this book when I was 8 years old and read it time and time again. Whenever I hear the title, I instantly remember my Year 4 classroom and my teacher Mrs Drabble (an easy name to remember). She suggested the book to me and I can even remember the illustrations in the first version of the book that I read.

The book is full of different emotions and takes you on a journey of fear, excitement and bravery. Of course if you have seen the film, you will know the ending, but I don't think there is anything better than reading a story and letting your imagination paint the pictures for you.

Miss Coppock



Coronavirus

As you will be aware, the guidance around coronavirus has changed for this academic year. Below are some frequently asked questions that summarises the new guidance:

What do I do if my child has Coronavirus symptoms?

Should your child develop symptoms of Coronavirus they should not attend school. Please contact school on either 0121 464 2920 and let us know that this is the case so that we can record their absence accordingly. Parents should then arrange for a PCR test for their child and inform school of the result of the test when it is received before your child returns to school. School will also need to see the test result if your child tests positive. If the test is negative your child can, if well enough, return to school.

What if someone else in my household tests positive or my child is a contact of someone who has tested positive?

Guidance on this has now changed, as long as your child is not showing symptoms they no longer have to isolate. However, the government recommends that you should arrange a PCR test following notification of being a contact.

Do I have to isolate if I am a contact of someone who has tested positive?

Identified contacts no longer have to isolate provided they: - Are fully vaccinated - Are below 18 years and 6 months of age - Have taken part in or are taking part in an approved vaccine trial - Are unable to be vaccinated due to approved medical conditions

Does school identify contacts?

Schools are no longer required to carry out contact tracing. We will support these services if required. Please note the above is subject to change in the event of government guidance changing. We will update you with information you need to know as soon as possible.

This month's value is:

RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility is **something all children need to learn**. Responsibility involves making decisions, being trusted, and learning to take credit for one's actions—whether good or bad. Taking responsibility is not just about how the choices a person makes affect them, but also how our choices and actions affect others.

Open Evening for parents and carers of pupils in Year 6

I have had notification from local secondary schools regarding Open Evenings for prospective pupils and their parents and carers. At St. Edmund Campion this will take place on Tuesday 21st September. You are invited to visit to tour the school and meet the staff between 6.30 pm and 8.15 pm. Mr Grant, Headteacher, will give talks at 6.30pm and 7.30 pm. Parents are also invited to see the school in operation on Thursday 23rd September between 9.45 am and 11.15 am. Please note that Year 6 pupils should not attend Open Morning as they will need to be in their Year 6 lessons.

North Birmingham Academy (NBA) will be holding an Open Evening on October 5th, between 5.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.

I would also encourage you to look on the website of secondary school's that you are interested in your child attending.

Holidays in Term Time

Term time holidays continue to cause significant concern and debate. While there are many different views, the direct correlation between attendance and attainment is undeniable. Absence from school interrupts teaching and learning and compromises progress. Birmingham City Council therefore seeks to support schools in reducing the amount of education lost to pupils leave of absence in term time and strongly discourages pupils leave of absence during term time. The expectation is that such leave would only be authorised in the most exceptional circumstances.

In line with the above guidance from Birmingham City Council, Marsh Hill will only grant leave of absence to pupils in exceptional circumstances.

Cleaning vacancy:

Ridgecrest have a cleaning vacancy available at Marsh Hill Primary School, this is for one hour per day, 5 days per week, term time only. If you are interested in the vacancy, please call Josie on 07974 398533.

Parent's Evening Correction

In last week's newsletter I stated that the Parent's Evening on Thursday 21st October was between 3.45 and 6.00. It is, in fact, from 3.45 – 4.30. I apologise for any confusion.

Parents Evening will run as follows

19/10/21 - Parent's Evening 3.45 – 4.30

20/10/21 - Parent's Evening 3.45 – 6.00

21/10/21- Parent's Evening 3.45 – 4.30

I wish you a happy, safe and peaceful weekend,

Yours sincerely,



Mr. J Cusack

Head Teacher