



Marsh Hill Newsletter

October 1st 2021

Reading Workshops

Reading workshops continued this week for parents and carers of pupils in Years 1, 2 and 4. I would like to thank all of those parents and carers who attended for the continued support shown in working with school to improve the outcomes for children. The feedback was again very positive and Ms. Deans was herself inspired by all those who took part and contributed to the workshops.

In response to a number of parents who have said that they would like to see 'Close Reading' in action in class with their children, Ms. Deans will be organising for this to happen during the spring term.

Water Bottles

The water bottles have arrived in school and will be distributed to the children on Monday. As I explained in the newsletter of September 10th. There had been a hold up at the distribution end which resulted in a delay in getting them into school. The water bottles will be stored in a water bottle carrier in each classroom and be washed and sterilised at the end of each day by a member of staff.

Congratulations

Huge congratulations to two of our wonderful pupils this week.

Henli represented his swimming club in a competition at the weekend and was successful in winning a medal for his achievements in the 100 metres backstroke. Meanwhile, Jessica has been selected to represent Birmingham Schools in a game that is to be played at the England training ground at St. George's Park. Very well done to both of them.

We also congratulate two long and loyal serving members of staff. Both Ms. Marshall and Donna Davis celebrated twenty-five years of service at Marsh Hill this week. In her role as Teaching Assistant Ms. Marshall has played a significant part in the educational progress of generations of our community's children, while Donna has been responsible for ensuring that they have been well fed over the same period of time. I am sure that you will join me in thanking them so very much for all that they have done for the children of Marsh Hill both past and present (and indeed, future).

Social Media

The vast and overwhelming number of parents are very supportive of all that we strive to do at school, however we realise that some parents may not always agree with some of the decisions taken as was the case this week when a small group of parents took to facebook regarding the amount of homework that had been set. If you have a concern or complaint regarding what you might consider an excessive amount of homework, or indeed any other aspect of school life, you should raise it directly with the school. Comments, concerns or complaints posted on social media cannot be addressed by the school in a constructive manner.

A copy of our complaints procedure is available on our website, or you can request one from the school office.

While on the subject of **Homework**: Marsh Hill is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice. We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However, if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this will be discussed with the child and their parents.

Halloween Disco and Cinderella

This week your child will have brought home a letter about a trip to Sutton Town Hall for a performance of Cinderella. This trip is open to all pupils from Year 1 to Year 5. I would like to thank Ms. Deans for arranging this. You will also have received a letter about the Halloween Disco that our PTA – The Marsh Hill Heroes – have organised for Thursday 14th October from 5.50 p.m. – 7.30 p.m. We hope that you will be able to join us and I would like to thank The Marsh Hill Heroes for their hard work and tremendous support for our school community.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Thursday 21st October we invite Parents, Carers, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles to join us for coffee, cake and a good old catch up and let's raise some money for people who are affected by Cancer.

Any shop brought donations (no nuts) will be greatly received to go towards a great cause.

I would like to thank Mrs. Carless for organising this very worthwhile event.

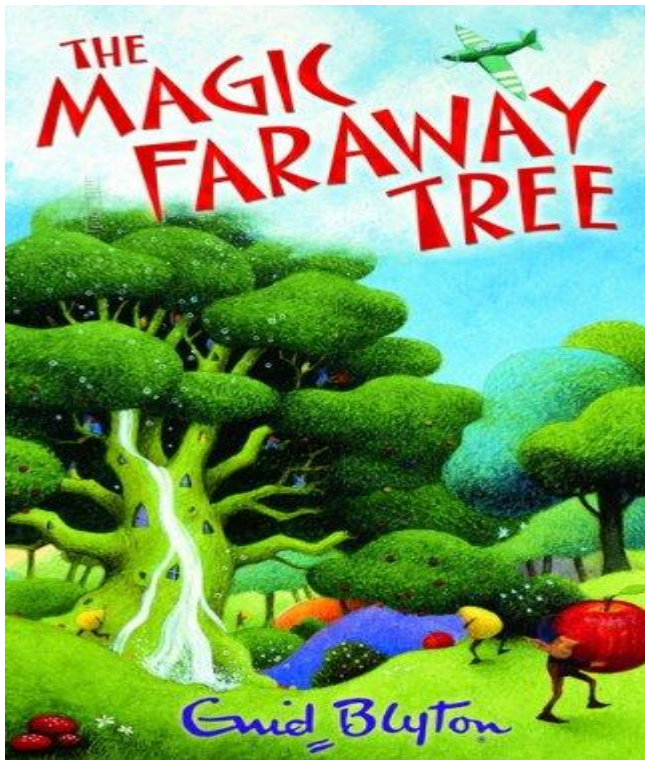
Reading Inspirations

It is only fitting that, to mark her 25th anniversary at Marsh Hill that this week's recommendation comes from Ms. Marshall who is a Teaching Assistant in Key Stage 2.

My favourite book when I was little was The Magic Faraway Tree, by Enid Blyton. I enjoyed reading the adventures the children had with Moon-Face, Saucepan Man and Silky the fairy up The Magic Faraway Tree.

The message this book gave me was - Even when things don't go the way you'd hoped, don't take your frustration out on others, just look for a new way to do things.

I loved the book so much that I bought a copy to share with my son when he was growing up, I still have that copy now.



I wish you a happy, safe and peaceful weekend,

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J Cusack

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Cusack'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'J'.

Head Teacher

