

Marsh Hill Newsletter

May 19th 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

Mental Health and Wellbeing



This week is Mental Health Awareness Week. Here at Marsh Hill, supporting mental health in school is everyone's responsibility. We are always available to listen to the children who are having problems and also to listen to those who aren't. Good mental health means that we are here to listen to children when they simply want to talk or share their experiences with us. We take what they say seriously, we encourage their interests and build positive relationships with them; and this begins from the minute they walk into school in the morning.

Children experience difficult situations, tragic circumstances just like adults do and sometimes it is as simple as them not being able to explain why they feel 'off colour' or can't engage in their learning - having a trusted adult to talk to can make all the difference and can help to upskill the children to become more resilient - developing the skills to cope with their own emotions and in doing so prepare them for their futures. So how do we do this at Marsh Hill? In school we provide a Pastoral Team whom offer a variety of interventions including emotion regulation, mentoring, anger management, conflict resolution, and social skills groups, to name just a few. We offer bespoke programs for children with complex needs and can refer children to Forward Thinking Birmingham or to the STICK Team which is an Early Help intervention for mental health issues.

We provide many resources which includes a well-equipped sensory room to help those children who are struggling with sensory overload and emotional regulation. We offer a Pastoral Nurture group at lunchtime for children whom struggle during independent play. Forest Schools is an exciting additional initiative for us and we use this to promote self-esteem and self-confidence. We have also invested in procuring Counselling and Play Therapy from Urban Devotion Birmingham and an Art Therapist.

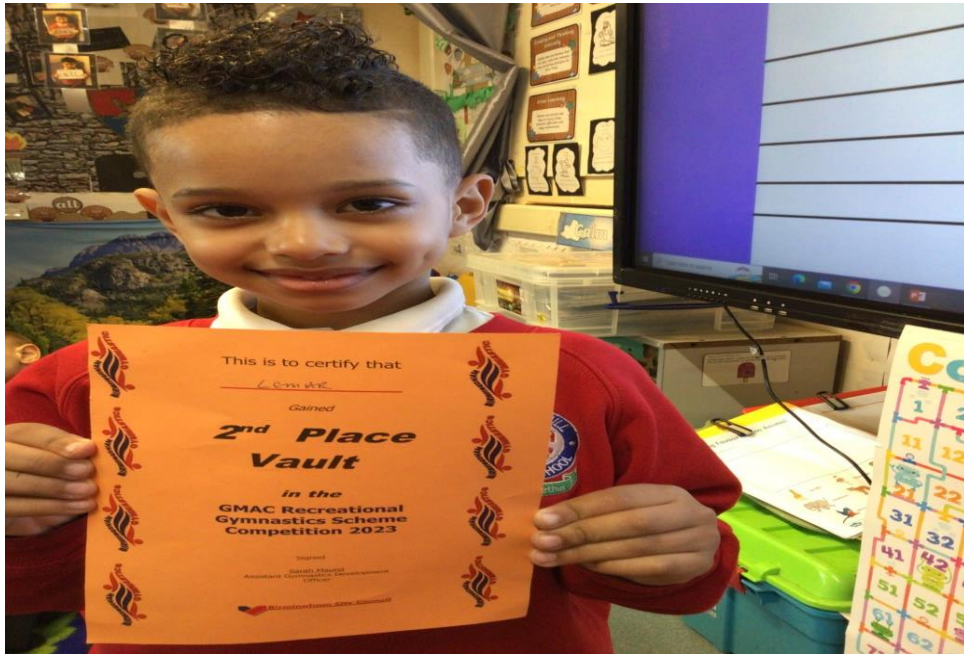
Your child is an individual and their mental health needs are as unique as they are - we aim to offer the most appropriate support to ensure that they thrive.

Safeguarding

I have been delighted to see that 52 parents and carers have so far returned slips to say that they will be attending the Internet Safety Workshop that we will be running in school on Thursday 25th May. If you have not yet replied to say that you will be attending one of the sessions at either 9.00 a.m. or 2.30 p.m. in the school hall, then there is still time to do so.

Congratulations

We are all very proud of Lamar who has competed in a Gymnastics competition and has done very well in the Vault. If your child has taken part in an activity outside of school and you would like their achievements recognised in the school newsletter, then please let your child's class teacher know.



British Values

Fundamental British Values underpin what it is to be a citizen in a modern and diverse Great Britain valuing our community and celebrating diversity of the UK. These values are Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance, Individual Liberty.

Rule of Law at Marsh Hill

At Marsh Hill, the importance of rules and law, whether they are by those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often; such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices. The school rules are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every pupil in our school is able to learn in a safe and orderly environment.

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws and that they govern and protect us; the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. These values are reinforced in a variety of ways at Marsh Hill:

- School rules and expectations are clear and fair;
- Class rules and celebration of adhering to these rules;
- We help pupils to distinguish right from wrong;
- We help to respect the law and the basis on which it is made;
- We help to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals;
- Visits from the Police, who carry out workshops in each year group annually
- During PSHE, when we explore laws and what to do if peer pressure is trying to persuade our children to break them
- During other subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules

EYFS Maths Workshop

Thank you to all parents and carers of children in Reception who attended the maths workshop this week. The EYFS Team were very pleased with the large amount of parents who turned up and I know from your feedback that you found the experience a valuable and rewarding one.

'Absolutely great. Very useful new ideas to use at home.'

'Yes, very useful. I learned many new ways to explore counting and addition, which can help my son in his learning.'

'The workshop was useful in understanding how I can help my daughter at home.'

'It was great to see the children in the school environment.'

Spotlight on the Curriculum – History

The History curriculum at Marsh Hill aims to provide children with a coherent understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. Our aims are to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum for history; providing a broad and balanced curriculum; ensuring the progressive development of historical concepts, knowledge and skills; and for the children to develop a love for history. Furthermore, we aim to inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about history that will lead to pupils leaving Marsh Hill wanting to know more. Pupils in EYFS work towards being an "Exceptional Explorer" through planned adult led activities and child initiated activities in the continuous provision.

The aims of teaching history in our school are:

- to inspire pupils' curiosity to discover more about the past and to develop an understanding that enables them to enjoy all that history has to offer;

- to enable children to know about significant events in British history and to appreciate how things have changed over time;
- to develop a good sense of chronology;
- to have some knowledge and understanding of historical development in the wider world;
- to help children understand society and their place within it, so that they develop a sense of their own cultural heritage;
- to develop in children the skills of enquiry, investigation, analysis, evaluation, debate, interpretation, problem solving and presentation.

We aim to provide a curriculum that is meaningful and engages our children. To teach history effectively, we look to teach and implement key skills throughout a broad range of topics. We aim to equip children with skills, vital knowledge and deep understanding that they need as they develop their own historical perceptions.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
EYFS	Ourselves and Others	Past and Present	Transport
Year 1	Homes through history Non-fiction information text – Victorian homes	History heroes Non-Fiction Biography Florence Nightingale	Seaside adventure Recount – A postcard to a family member
Year 2	Transport through time	Magnificent monarchs	The great fire of London
Year 3	Stone age to iron age	The Roman empire	Railway revolution
Year 4	Ancient civilisations	Ancient Egypt	The Tudors and Stuarts
Year 5	Ancient Greece	The Anglo-Saxons and Vikings	Crime and punishment
Year 6	The Ancient Mayans		Industries in Birmingham and the World

Attendance

Whole school attendance for this week is 97%. The class with the highest attendance was 4B with 100%. Very well done 4B.

Teacher Training Day – Friday 26th May

Please be reminded that school is closed to all pupils on Friday 26th May for mandatory staff training. School will re-open after the half term break on Monday 5th June.

Book Review

This week, as I often do, I asked children what they have been reading or what their favourite book is. This week Faith and Sienna from Year 3 wanted to tell me not about a book but about a speech: **Martin Luther King's 'I Have A Dream.'**

“Rosa Parks wouldn’t give up her seat on the bus to a white person and a few years later Martin Luther King wanted to give a speech because he was shocked that white people weren’t being fair to black people in America. Martin Luther King stood up to people who treated him badly and he wanted to make a change in the world, which he did. ‘I Have A Dream’ helps people understand that all people, black and white, should be treated the same.’ (Faith and Sienna).



Dates for your Diary	
Friday 19 th May	Year 2 trip to Blakesley Hall
Wednesday 24 th May	Year 4 trip to Aston Hall
Thursday 25 th May	Online Safety Workshop for Parents AT 9.00 a.m. 2.30 p.m.
Friday 26 th May	Teacher Training Day - School closed to all pupils
Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June	Half Term Holiday
Monday 5 th June	School re-opens for all pupils after the half term break
Friday 30 th June – Saturday 1 st July	Year 2 Sleepover in the woods
Friday 21 st July	Term ends – children return in September

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Cusack". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Mr. J. Cusack
Head Teacher