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# Marsh Hill Primary School Newsletter

## October 6<sup>th</sup> 2023

### Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well,

It has been a busy and productive week at Marsh Hill and we have had a lot going on. As well as our usual subjects and lessons being taught, we have also held a Phonics workshop for parents and carers of children in Reception and had an interactive workshop delivered to our Year 6 children on the Ancient Mayans (this involved the use of Virtual Reality equipment). Virtual Reality technology really helps bring topics alive for children and inspires their imaginative thinking.

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We are very grateful to the very large and overwhelming majority of parents and carers who ensure that their children are bright and ready for school each day; and who have taught them to be courteous, well-behaved and respectful members of our school community. There are, however, a very small minority who we would like to be more supportive of our expectations. It is important that simple steps are followed to enable school to run smoothly and to allow your children to thrive; so please ensure you:

- Encourage your child to try their best so they can reach their full potential
- Support the school to make sure your child maintains a consistently high standard of behaviour
- Communicate to the school any concerns that you have about your child that may affect their behaviour in school or ability to learn
- Engage in parent meetings and work together with the school in order to achieve the best outcomes for my child
- Read all communications sent home by the school and respond where necessary

Again, thank you all for your support.

## PE Kits

Earlier this week, Ms. Coppock – who is the Subject Area Leader for PE in school, alerted me to the most recent research around the issue of pupils getting changed for PE versus them coming into school on PE day in their kits.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, many schools, including Marsh Hill, permitted pupils to come to school in PE kit on the days that they had timetabled lessons, in order to avoid cramped changing spaces and adhere to social distancing requirements. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us that allowing students to wear their PE kit to school can have positive effects, such as increased physical activity and reducing anxiety for those pupils who may be uncomfortable changing in front of their peers.

Additionally, researchers have found that less than half (47%) of children and young people (aged 5-16 years) in England are meeting the UK Chief Medical Officers' guidelines of taking part in an average of 60 minutes or more of daily physical activity. For some young people, curriculum PE represents the only opportunity each week to engage in a structured physical activity context.

A recent research review of PE provision has identified changing time as a key barrier in terms of students being sufficiently active during PE.

Taking on board these findings, this week I have asked staff to canvas the views of the children in their class. I followed this up with asking the teaching staff their views and, finally conducted a survey to discover parent and carer views on this issue. The findings were as follows:

The children were asked: Would you rather wear your PE kit to school on PE days or would you rather come to school dressed in your PE kit?

Vote YES if you would prefer to wear your PE kit to school on PE day. Vote No if you would not like to do this.

Of the 339 children from Year 1 to Year 6 who voted, 303 wanted to wear their PE kit to school on PE day and 36 did not.

Following the pupil vote, teachers were asked to give their own views on whether children should come to school in their PE kits? They were asked to vote either:

**YES** they should wear their PE kits to school

or

**NO** they should change into their PE kits in school

Of the 11 teachers in school who chose to vote, all 11 voted **YES**.

I was delighted to see so many parents and carers engaging with our online survey. 218 parents/carers responded and 91% of you voted that children should wear their PE kits to school, with 9% voting that children should get changed into their PE kits at school. 109 parents/carers also took the opportunity to give their reasons for why they voted, and I include just a small sample of those responses below which encapsulate the feelings of the majority:

*“Less time changing and more time learning.”*

*“I think it’s easier for parents and staff and saves time in lessons and has less chance of losing clothing and shoes.”*

*“It’s easier for the child, less bags to carry to school.”*

*“It’s more convenient for children and also for teachers because they can start their lessons without any delay.”*

As a result of the following surveys, from the week commencing Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October, all children should come to school on PE days wearing their Marsh Hill PE kits.

All children are required to take part in P.E. unless they provide a note from a parent excusing them from that session due to a medical condition. We do not allow the children to wear jewellery including stud earrings during P.E. for safety reasons. Children are required to wear the following PE and/or Games kit:

**Indoor (winter or summer)**

black or red shorts

a white t-shirt (optional: with the school logo)

black pumps

black leggings, at parents'/carers' request

**Outdoor (winter or summer)**

black or red shorts

a white t-shirt (optional: with the school logo)

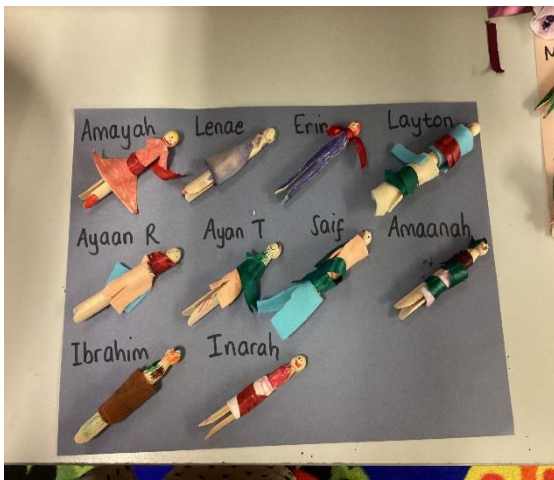
a plain track suit (preferably black)

trainers

I thank Ms. Coppock for bringing my attention to the latest research findings in this area and all children, staff and, especially, parents and carers who responded to the online questionnaire. This really has been an example of **Democracy (one of the key British Values )** at work in Marsh Hill.

## Year 1

This half-term in History, Year 1 are learning about the Victorians, and how their lives differed from ours. This week, we have been exploring Victorian children! We have learnt that Victorian children could not afford to go to school and would work for long hours in dirty and dangerous mines. Victorian children, who were poor, had limited toys and often had to make their own. One of these would be a peg doll, where children would use anything that they could find around the house to invent their toy. Year 1 have loved making their own peg dolls this week, and are looking forward to using them in our future History lessons! – Miss Wright.



## **Parent Governor Vacancy**

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor. If you are interested in applying for the role, please contact the school office for a candidate form and return to the school office for the attention of Michelle Dunkley (School Business Manager) by midday on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October. If we receive more applications than there are vacancies, a secret ballot will be carried out. We will inform you closer to the time if we have to do this. The four year term of office for this role will commence on Wednesday

### **The role of the governing board**

The school's governing board is responsible for providing confident and strategic leadership, and creating robust accountability, oversight and assurance for the school's educational and financial performance.

The board is passionate about education and committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

### **The role of a parent governor**

As a parent governor, you'll work with the board to make sure it effectively carries out the duties referred to above. You'll also play a vital role in bringing a parental perspective to the governing board, but you are not there to speak 'on behalf' of the parent body.

To be a parent governor you should have:

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children
- Good inter-personal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills

In addition, the governing board is keen for the successful candidate to have skills in the area of finance

### **The expectation of governors include:**

Make sure that candidates fully understand what is expected of them in their role by outlining your expectations, including:

- Attendance at meetings
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Committing to training
- Visiting the school

## The Value of the Month for September is **FREEDOM**

Mrs. Clover, introduced this month's value during assembly on Monday. She also shared this acrostic poem with us.

**F**ree to make our own choices

**R**ights and responsibilities

**E**veryone has freedom

**E**veryone has freedom

**D**emocracy brings us all together

**O**ur duty to celebrate and be thankful

**M**emories, parades and street parties

The children will be thinking about the value of freedom regularly in school during the month of October, and we encourage parents and carers to discuss what freedom means with your children at home, too.

## Economics Week

As the name suggests, personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education includes economic wellbeing. At Marsh Hill we believe it is vital that we promote this 'E' for economic. Helping young people to understand their feelings about money, financial decisions, careers and the economy is a vital part of preparing them for adult life, with clear links to health outcomes and relationships. As such, the week beginning October 16th marks the beginning of Enterprise week at Marsh Hill School.

What is Enterprise week? Your children have spent the last week discussing business ideas; researching the possibilities; created advertising and completed business plans. The children of Marsh Hill School will now present their ideas to 'The Enterprise Executives' who will approve their business ideas and give them a 'start-up budget' to launch their very own business.

They will then sell their products to the Marsh Hill School Community.

Look out for the adverts so you and your children can take part!

## Focus on the Curriculum – Science

Our pupils have big dreams, ambitious goals, exciting aspirations. They plan their adult life at the age of 5 years old, when they decide they want to be a doctor when they grow up. They may also aspire to be a pharmacist, an astronaut or an archaeologist. In order to facilitate these goals, we treat our pupils as skilled scientists when we immerse them in their Science lessons. We aim to instil confidence and inspire future scientists, and that begins when they start to develop their understanding about the world around them when they are in the Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception). Pupils in EYFS work towards being an "Exceptional Explorer" through planned adult led activities and child initiated activities in the continuous provision.

The teaching and learning of Science puts the learner at the heart of the process. During lessons, pupils will explore and record their initial ideas at the beginning of each unit. They will then participate in rich learning experiences to help them develop their understanding of science ideas and concepts. This includes working scientifically (as scientists), when they are enabled to develop skills such as: predicting, observing, classifying, recording, interpreting and evaluating.

### Science Long Term Plan

Biology   Chemistry   Physics

|               | Autumn 1   | Autumn 2                 | Spring 1  | Spring 2                         | Summer 1   | Summer 2                 |
|---------------|--|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Year 1</b> | Seasonal Changes<br>– walk to Witton lakes (video journal) | Everyday Materials       | Seasonal Changes – walk to Witton lakes (video journal) | Animals Including Humans         | Plants Seasonal Changes – walk to Witton lakes (video journal) | Scientists and Inventors |
| <b>Year 2</b> | Uses of everyday Materials                                 |                          | Living Things and their habitats                        | Animals Including Humans         | Plants   | Scientists and Inventors |
| <b>Year 3</b> | Forces and Magnets   | Rocks                    | Animals including humans                                | Light                            | Plants   | Scientists and Inventors |
| <b>Year 4</b> | Electricity  | Animals Including Humans | States of Matter  | Sound                            | Living things and their habitats                               | Scientists and Inventors |
| <b>Year 5</b> | Earth and Space  | Forces                   | Animals Including Humans                                | Living Things and their habitats | Properties and Changes of Materials                            | Scientists and Inventors |
| <b>Year 6</b> | Light  | Electricity              | Evolution and Inheritance                               | Living Things and their Habitats | Animals Including Humans                                       | Scientists and Inventors |

### **STARS of the Week**



Very well done to all our Merit Award Winners for this week. We are all proud of you:

Year 1 – Faria, Mateusz, Cataleya, Riley

Year 2 – Abu-Kaur, Pawan, Aliza, Lilah

Year 3 – Leila, Yayah, Ehsan, Hussan

Year 4 – Jannat, Mohammed, Rayaana, Harry

Year 5 – Taleah, Viniushri, Azaliya

Year 6 – Amelia, Haleema, Elaina-Mae, Shane, Eva

### **Attendance**

Whole School attendance for this week was 93.43%. The class with the highest attendance was 6C who achieved 94.81% attendance. Very well done and congratulations to 6C.

### **Secondary School Application Information for Pupils Currently in Year 6**

The online application process for entering Year 7 in Secondary School in September 2024, opened on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. The closing date for applications is October 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 at 11.59 p.m. Applications received after the October 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 deadline will be classed as late applications and will not be processed until after the offer of places on 1 March 2024.

Please follow this link to apply:

<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

### **Safeguarding**

If you are concerned for a child's wellbeing, then please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Cathy Lomas through the school office. In the event of Cathy being unavailable – please ask to speak with another DSL in school. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads in school are Mrs. Leavey, Mrs. Clover, Mr. Moheen, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Hunt, Mr. Pritchard and Mr. Cusack.

Alternatively, you may ring The Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) on 0121 303 1888.



| <b>Upcoming Events</b>     |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>             |   |
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>   | World Mental Health Awareness Day   |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> | Year 5 Shakespeare workshop all day – hall out of use   |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>  | Year 6 Virtual Reality Workshop   |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>    | Whole School Photographs  |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> | Year 2 Trip to the Black Country Living Museum  |
| Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>    | Harvest Festival Assembly   |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>   | Year 5 Workshop: Portals to the Past  |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> | Year 2D Whole Class Assembly – Diwali: 9.15 a.m.  |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>  | PTA Halloween Discos (times TBC)  |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>    | Year 2C Whole Class Assembly – Diwali: 9.15 a.m.  |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>            |   |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>    | Year 1G Trip: Back-to-Back Houses   |
| Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Year 1W Trip: Back-to-Back Houses   |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>   | Bonfire Night themed lunch  |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>    | Year 3 Trip to Edgmont Hall   |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>   | Parents' Evening (3.30 – 6.00)  |
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>  | Parents' Evening (3.30 – 6.00)  |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>   | Year 3 Virtually Reality Workshop: The Amazon<br><br>Year 4 Virtual Reality Workshop: Volcanoes |
| <b>DECEMBER</b>            |   |
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>   | PTA Christmas Discos (times TBC)  |
| Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> | Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Carol Concert: 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.                              |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Concert: 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.                              |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>    | Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Carol Concert: 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.                              |
| Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>   | Reception Nativity: 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.<br><br>Year 1 – Year 6 Pantomime Trip               |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> | Children's Christmas Lunch  |
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>  | Christmas Party Afternoon   |
| Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>    | Last Day of Autumn Term – School closes at 1.00 p.m.  |

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr. J. Cusack  
Head Teacher

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