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MARSH HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September 27th 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have had a good week.

Pantomime Visit

Our annual visit to the Sutton Town Hall theatre will be on **Tuesday 10th December** during the normal school day. This year's pantomime is 'Robin Hood' and we cannot wait! The trip is for any children in Year 1 to 6 as Reception will attend their own exciting theatre visit!

A letter will be sent out to provide more details week beginning 7th October. The trip will go live on Teachers2Parents on Thursday 10th October. Places will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis and we have limited places available. Tickets will cost £10 per pupil.

Dinners

I would like to remind parents to book their child's school meals. Bookings can be made on the Teachers2Parents app up to midnight the night before the meal is required. There are always at least two weeks of meal bookings available for parents to pre-book. We ask parents to book their main meal choice so we can give our excellent catering staff accurate numbers. As you can appreciate, if bookings are not made then this has implications on the correct number of meals being cooked. Text message reminders are sent out on a Thursday and Sunday.

Please note that the lunch time menu for any given day may occasionally differ from the lunch menu in the case of special occasions or circumstances outside of our control.

Flu Vaccinations

Vaccinations will take place in school on the 14th November for all children in school. Next week forms will be sent home for parents/carers to complete and return to school.

Free School Meals

If you believe your child is entitled to free school meals and you haven't already put an application in, please complete an application using this link:

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham>

The criteria is listed below:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

For every child who receives free school meals, school will get additional funding, called Pupil Premium.

If you require help, please ask one of the administration team who can complete the application on your behalf.

Individual photographs

The school photographers will be in school on October 14th, please ensure your child comes in correct school uniform on this day. If your child's year group has PE on this day, please wear normal school uniform and send their PE kit in with them to get changed into.

Use of Playground Equipment

Despite repeated requests via the newsletter and through speaking to individuals, there are a few parents and carers who continue to ignore these requests and allow their children to use the play equipment in the Ks2 playground before the beginning and at the end of the school day. We have commissioned the following sign to be installed in the Ks2 playground and this will be happen in the coming weeks.



Fundraising for the MacMillan Cancer Trust

On Thursday, the Student Squad organised a fantastic fundraising event to support the MacMillan Cancer Trust. Thank you to all parents and carers who donated cakes and biscuits - and to the staff who assisted the Student Squad at the sale itself ... it was a real success! One in every two of us will be affected by cancer during our lives and it is a great credit to our pupils that they demonstrate their empathy through fundraising support.

We will announce the total raised in next week's newsletter.

After School Clubs

Thank you for the overwhelming response for after school clubs, however due to limited spaces, there are now waiting lists for the clubs. If your child does not attend club for two weeks, their space will be offered to another child due to the high demand.

We no longer allocate clubs on a first come, first served basis to ensure it is fair for all. Reply slips are sorted into year groups and then put into a box, the slips are picked at random to fill the clubs.

Year 2 Class Assemblies

We would like to invite families of our Year 2 pupils to their class assembly on the date below.

2D - Wednesday 23rd October

2P - Friday 25th October

Year 6 Maths Workshop

Thank you to the parents and carers who turned up to work with their children and teachers at this week's maths workshop. We were overwhelmed by the positive response we received and would like to share just a few examples of the written feedback that we received.

"The maths workshop is a great idea as it affords the parents the opportunity to know and understand their children's maths curriculum and how to support their learning. I enjoyed the exercises at the workshop, it makes me bond with my son. Thank you for the initiative."

"The workshop was very helpful and the teachers guided very nicely. The resource packs given were also very helpful and good for practise. Overall a good experience on how to encourage the child and prepare them for maths."

"So pleased you have these sessions."

"Good moment spent learning new techniques to help my child at home. I learnt new tips on how to support my child not only for this stage in life but for the future as well."

"Very informative workshop. I really appreciate that staff take time out to involve the parents. Also, it helps parents to understand the learning and to take part at home. Thank you so much."

Year 3 Edgmond Hall

This week, Year 3 visited Edgmond Hall. We found out how people in the Stone Age might have built a shelter and enjoyed working in teams to make our own. The children learnt about the 'fire triangle' then used fire steel flint to create a fire. It wasn't as easy as we thought! Our last task of the day was to make Stone Age tools using flint, wood and string. We were amazed to find out that the stems of nettle plants made good string. It is believed that children during the Stone Age would spend

their day weaving the nettle stems to make strong string. We had a go at trying to break the string but we couldn't. It was an action packed day and it brought history to life.



Marvellous Me

Just a reminder to sign up to Marvellous Me, please ask your child's class teacher if you need your login details again. Staff use Marvellous Me to share news, important information and celebrate your child's successes.



Free 11+ preparation and KS2 learning support

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We're pleased to let you know that Bishop Vesey's Grammar School has partnered with [Atom Learning](#), the leading 11+ preparation and Key Stage 2 learning website, to provide free KS2 learning and 11+ support to primary school children who are eligible for Pupil Premium.

BVGS is proud to be open to students from all backgrounds and the goal of this partnership is to encourage even greater representation at our school and support all under-resourced families in the community. **Eligible students will receive access to Atom Home for free (normally £575.90 a year).**

What is Atom Home?

Atom Home is an online learning and exam preparation platform for ages 7-11, designed to build children's confidence with Key Stage 2 learning objectives and familiarise them with the style of questions they may see in the 11+.

Covering English, maths, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning, children can practise 11+ questions and explore learning resources, mock tests, video tutorials, and exam preparation materials.

Do you know someone who is eligible?

If you know someone whose child is preparing for the 11+, or is in need of extra Key Stage 2 learning support, please share this link with them:

<https://bvgs.co.uk/admissions/year-7-admissions/>

After completing the form on this page (under 'Support for Pupil Premium'), their primary school will receive a notification to verify their pupil premium eligibility. Once confirmed by their school, their Atom Home account will be created.

If you would like to find out more, please email pupilpremium@atomlearning.com.

Yours sincerely,

Naomi Stackhouse

STARS of the Week



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

Year 1 – Albert, Maisie, Kaya, Reeyah

Year 2 – Catalya, Shivan, Imran, Amayah

Year 3 – Jessica, Callum,

Year 4 – Gurman, Veronika, Aaliyah, Adam

Year 5 – Tilayah, Mohammad, Harry, Maryam

Year 6 – Anne-Marie, Safah, Ryan, Zara

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Year 6 Secondary School Information

If you have a child in the current Year 6, applications for Secondary School Preference opened on 1st September and close on 31st October, 2024. Find out more information about the application process on the council's website at 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.

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

Attendance

The classes with the best attendance this week were 3D and 6W. Congratulations and very well done to both classes.

The whole school attendance figure was 95.57%.

Class	Attendance Percentage
Rainbows	89.33
Sunshines	93.0
1G	96.67
1H	97.67
2D	96.62
2P	93.67
3C	98.33
3D	100.0
4H	98.0
4M	98.33
5C	99.29
5U	96.9
6C	95.92
6M	97.0
6W	100.0
Whole School	96.64

Diary Dates

OCTOBER	
Tuesday 1 st	EYFS Phonics Workshop: 9.00 – 10.00 Class 1G Trip: Back-to-Back Houses
Wednesday 2 nd	Class 1H Trip: Back-to-Back Houses
Wednesday 9 th	Y2 Trip: Black Country Living Museum
Thursday 10 th	Year 5 Maths Workshop: 9.10 – 10.10
Thursday 24 th	Year 4 Maths Workshop: 9.10 – 10.10
NOVEMBER	
13 th	Year 5 Trip: Santorini Greek Restaurant p.m.
Thursday 14 th	Year 4 Maths Workshop: 9.10 – 10.10
Tuesday 19 th	Parents' Evening: 3.30 – 6.00
Thursday 21 st	Parents' Evening: 3.30 – 6.00
Friday 22 nd	Conservatoire Music Performance in the school hall for Years 1 – 6: 1.45 – 2.45
DECEMBER	
Monday 9 th	Year 1 & Year 2 Carol Concert: 9.15 and 2.15
Tuesday 10 th	Pantomime Trip for Years 1 – 6: a.m.
Wednesday 11 th	Year 3 & Year 4 Carol Concert: 9.15 and 2.15
Thursday 12 th	Year 5 & Year 6 Carol Concert: 9.15 and 2.15
Tuesday 17 th	Reception Nativity: 9.15 and 2.00
Wednesday 18 th	Children's Christmas Lunch
Thursday 19 th	Christmas Parties p.m.
Friday 20 th	School Closes at 1.00 for the Christmas Holidays

This section will be updated once new dates are known and confirmed.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr. J. Cusack
Head Teacher