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MARSH HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

November 8th 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families had a good half term break.



As you will be aware, this year we are taking part in the WOW Walk to School Challenge. We are taking part and encouraging families to walk to school for the following reasons:

- 1 in 4 cars on the road each morning are on the school run. This increases congestion around school which impacts on the safety of our children and can be a source of irritation for local residents.
- WOW instils healthy habits and has a positive impact on mental wellbeing; which in turn improves children's concentration levels.

Pupils log their daily journey to school through the WOW Travel Tracker on the classroom interactive whiteboards.



Thank you to all parents and carers who support their children by encouraging walking to school.

Pantomime

As you may have noticed, tickets for the Pantomime have sold out on the Teachers2Parents app. We have, however, managed to secure more tickets. These tickets will be available to order on the App from this evening (Friday, 8th November). As stated on the newsletter dated 27th September and 4th October, tickets are limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis and cost £10.

Please note that this trip will close at midnight Sunday, 17th November. No further tickets will be sold after this date.

Children In Need

On Friday, 15th November we will be supporting the BBC Children In Need charity by holding our own "Making Life Lighter" event. The Student Squad have arranged for pupils to participate in a Non-School Uniform Day in exchange for a small donation of £1. In addition to this, the Student Squad will be holding a keepie-uppie competition with balloons in school on the day.

Donations can be made using this link:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=16196>

Please do not send any money into school with your child.

The Value of the Month for November is RESPECT

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

- 1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.
- 2 AGREE TO DISAGREE**
Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.
- 3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING**
Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.
- 4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS**
If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.
- 5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER**
When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I
- 6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS**
It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.
- 7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT**
Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.
- 8 SEEK COMMON GROUND**
When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each another.
- 9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL**
It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.
- 10 REFLECT AND LEARN**
After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication

Parent Consultations

Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st November between 3.30pm and 6.00 p.m. for all classes except 1G. 1G's parents evening will be on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st November between 3.30pm and 6pm. On Monday 21st October, your child brought home a

letter with instructions on how to book an appointment with their class teacher. Please note that there will be no after school clubs during the week of parents' evening.

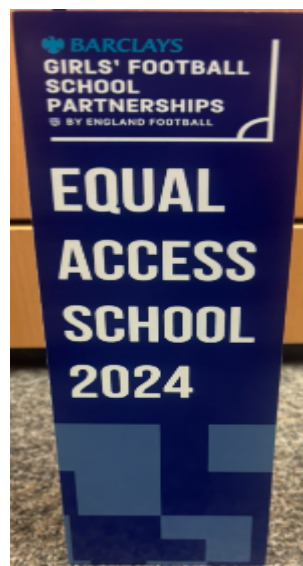
Remembrance Day

On Monday (11th November) we will be holding two minutes silence across school to remember the servicemen and women who died in the two World Wars and other conflicts. Poppies and other memorabilia have been sold in school throughout this week to mark Remembrance Day. We would like to thank all our children and their families who bought a poppy or other memorabilia, as the money raised will help to provide support to the Armed Forces community in six key areas: Financial Support, Advice, Employment, Mobility, Housing and Mental Health.

Girls' Football Award

We are proud to have received the Equal Access award this week for our participation with Girl's Football School Partnership. Thank you to Miss Black who ensures girls at Marsh Hill have the opportunity to play football within the curriculum, at breaktime, lunchtime and as an after-school club. In March 2024, all girls took part in Girls Play Football and had a game of football across the day.

For more information please follow the link: https://girlsfootballinschools.org/equal_access.php



Tomorrow's Child Event at North Birmingham Academy

On Wednesday 20th November, North Birmingham Academy will be holding an evening dedicated to keeping the local community safe and informed. The event begins at 4.30 pm and will feature interactive workshops, informative presentations and engaging activities aimed at enhancing your knowledge and strengthening community safety. For more information and to reserve a ticket, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/105468267729?aff=oddtcreator>

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week was 5C with 98.28%. Congratulations and very well done to 5C.

The whole school attendance figure was 94.22%.

Class	Attendance Percentage
Rainbows	93.67
Sunshines	89.33
1G	88.67
1H	95.0
2D	93.67
2P	93.0
3C	93.67
3D	97.67
4H	97.0
4M	95.17
5C	98.28
5U	93.0
6C	96.32
6M	92.5
6W	98.0
Whole School	94.22

STARS of the Week



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

Reception – Amari, Marcus, Zinnarah, Alijah

Year 1 – Wealth, Daniya, Munize, Furqan

Year 2 – Julia, Edward, Adam, Aminah

Year 3 – Hooria, Evie, Sulaiman, Mikayla

Year 4 – Afizah, Mahima, Imran, Klaudia

Year 5 – Zaima, Shekemi, Carter, Harry

Year 6 – Isabelle, Aminta, Hussan, Saya, Alfie, Yusuf

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.

Diary Dates

NOVEMBER	
Wednesday 13 th	Year 5 Trip: Santorini Greek Restaurant p.m.
Thursday 14 th	Year 3 Maths Workshop: 9.10 – 10.10
Friday 15 th	Children in Need
Monday 18 th	UDB Tea on the Playground (Key stage 2 playground from 3.00 p.m.)
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	Reception Visit to the Theatre to see 'Finding Santa'
	Year 5 & Year 6 Carol Concert: 9.15 and 2.15
Friday 13 th	Christmas Fayre in the school hall (after school)
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

