

Marsworth CE Infant School



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Headteacher: Mrs A Polatci

School Christian Values: RESPECT, COURAGE, COMPASSION, CURIOSITY

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the October half term. We hope you all had an enjoyable and restful break. The value for this half term is compassion and this will form the basis of our collective worship.

MEDICAL INFORMATION



Please could we have any updated Medical information on your children for our records. As a precaution, our school community have agreed that we do not have Peanut butter sandwiches or any **nuts** in Break/packed lunches. Please do not provide your child with yogurt tubes as they can be easily squashed or even burst.

FLU VACCINE

This year the flu Vaccine will take place on Wednesday 25th November. Letters went home before half term with further information please check your child's book bag.

WET WEATHER

It is that time of year that the weather is rather wet and cold. However, the curriculum still includes learning to take place outside so the children will be required to go out in the rain or in damp wet weather. It is important that they are dressed appropriately. Could **ALL** children ensure they have a coat (preferably with a hood) and suitable foot wear such as wellington boots. These can be left in a carrier bag on your child's peg in the cloakroom.

The children need to be wearing layers as government guidance is to keep rooms ventilated. (We will be having heating on but not all the time) We suggest an under garment such as extra white / plain t- shirt or vests be worn. It is advised that coats have hoods if possible and that ALL children are able to do their coats up independently

A plea from Mrs Stevens and Mrs Williams, please could you practise helping your child in EYFS change themselves independently especially when it comes to tights, cardigans and putting shoes on the correct feet, especially when changing into/from wellies and plimsolls.

SNACKS

Now that school is open full time our daily fruit and vegetable scheme is up and running. The children no longer need to bring in a snack from home. The school is provided with fresh fruit and vegetables for the children to eat at playtimes. Should your child want their own snack please provide them **only with fruit and vegetables. No biscuits, mini cheddars, crisps or fruit winders are permitted.**

Please could all children ensure they have a water bottle every day.

SWIMMING

After the Prime minister announced that the country is to go in to a second lockdown we are unable to continue with our weekly swimming. We are hope this will resume in January. We will endeavour to keep you updated as soon as we have more information.

EVENTS

Our Autumn term this year has been lacking in visits and visitors!!!

This term the children have been learning about Harvest. The children took part in a Harvest day and we collected food donations for the local food bank. We are continuing to collect donations up until Christmas. Thank you to all who have donated especially in these troubling times.

The children have been learning some songs and have written some Harvest poems. Baking some apple cupcakes proved to be very popular too. Many thanks to Mrs Pankiw who kindly donated some cooking apples from the tree in her garden! They learnt about the meaning of Harvest and how it is celebrated around the world and in different faiths. We have been reflecting on what we are thankful for and how we can show our generosity.



READING, LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND BASIC SKILLS

This year we are focusing on reading and early language development skills. Below are some facts about Speech, Language Communication Needs. (SLCN)

'Just 26% of young children with SLCN made expected academic progress in the Early Years Foundation stage compared with 69% of all children.' DfE, 2017

'Children with language difficulties at the age of 5 were 4 times more likely to have reading difficulties in adulthood, 3 times as likely to have mental health problems and twice as likely to be unemployed when they reach adulthood.' Law, Charlton and Asmussen, 2017

'47% of employers in England reported difficulty finding staff with an appropriate level of oral communication skills.' UK Commission for Employment and skills, 2010

'3/4 of young people in the UK youth offending system have below average communication skills, and just under 1/3 have diagnosed speech, language and communication needs.' Early Intervention Foundation, 2017

As a school we believe that language is one of the most important skills we will ever learn. Everything we do at home or work requires us to communicate with our families, friends and colleagues. Without language it is incredibly difficult to share our thoughts and feelings with others, to make lasting friendships, to give and receive information and to learn about the world in which we live.

The ability to use and understand language is essential for all children too. Children learn language in such a short space of time and this is why the pre-school years are so crucial - with parents, early years workers and teachers playing a vital role in encouraging children's communication development. Singing and learning Nursery rhymes encourage listening skills. Using rhythm and rhyme from birth helps kick start the auditory processing centres. It is

well documented that children who can learn words of songs easily have strong pre-literacy skills and take to reading more easily.

CHILDREN IN NEED

This year we are asking children to come to school in Non-uniform.

We are asking for donations of £2 for Children in Need. As part of this donation, the children will take part in various activities that will be carried out throughout the day including making/ decoration biscuits. We will also be taking part in the Feel Good Friday with Joe Wicks.

We are also holding a fundraising event for both Staff and Parents. The competition this year is to choose a duck for a duck race! You can tune in to the race on the Children in Need Facebook page to see if you win!! To enter with your answer please see Mrs Pankiw in the office with your £2 donation! The winner gets a bottle of prosecco and get to keep half of the money raised with the other half going to Children in Need.

Additional wrist bands will be for sale for £1 in the school office.

REMINDERS

In light of the current situation with lockdowns and closures all schools are required to have an online learning platform. As a school we have made the decision that online lessons aren't appropriate for the age of our children.

We have decided to use Tapestry for EYFS and Seesaw for KS1. Before half term we sent out information of how to use and login to them. It has been lovely to see several children already using them.

It is expected that all children in KS1 use Seesaw to complete weekly homework tasks. Should your child/ children be off school for isolation reasons then work (which would be carried out in school lessons) will be assigned specifically to the child.

If you haven't already, please could you download the seesaw app to familiarise yourselves with it.

For a child in EYFS who is off for isolation reasons the work that is missed will be set via Tapestry. We encourage that all children continue with their daily reading and individual targets set at parents evening.

A home learning policy will be sent out to all parents shortly.

Please do come and speak to your child's class teacher if you are having any problems with Tapestry or Seesaw.

For the last few years we have purchased RM Easi maths. The children have been using this in school and will also include home access in which the teacher can set online homework tasks. Usernames and passwords have been issued. Should you require your child's logon details please contact either Mrs Polatci or Mrs Stevens.

We have also purchased a spelling and reading subscription to Nessy. Letters with details and login usernames were sent out last half term. If you are finding yourself at a loose end or if the weather isn't great, then please do login in with your child to complete the 10-20 min activity.

PARENT GOVERNOR

Before half term we sent out letters regarding a position for a parent to join our governing body. If you are interesting in becoming a governor and you require further information, please contact myself or Mrs Pankiw in the office.

STAFFING

As of 18th December I will be going on maternity leave and Mrs Karen Scott will be Acting Head. Mrs Scott will be teaching three days a week Wednesday – Friday and will be working in the office on a Monday and Tuesday. We have appointed a KS1 teacher called Mrs Bloxham. She has taught at the school on many occasions and will be teaching Monday and Tuesdays. Mrs Bloxham will be start in January.

SAFETY OUTSIDE SCHOOL

Could we remind all parents that parking outside school on the yellow zig-zag lines is forbidden by law for safety reasons. The parking ban extends from the start of the school car park to the end of the school premises next to the school house. Also, we would request that parents do **not** park on school grounds when dropping your child off.

Please **do not allow your children to climb** on the low walls and railings at the front of the school.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

From the 1st December the Christmas card post box will be placed in the corridor by the school office. The last day for card to be brought into school will be Tuesday 15th December. The children will be able to send cards to each other and post them in the box at the start of each day. These will be left a couple of days before distributing to the children.

We will also be having a tree decorating assembly in school where the children decorate the school tree with a decoration. Further information will follow.

Unfortunately, due to the current COVID 19 pandemic we have been limited to what we can do in terms of services, events and trips. We are unable to offer the pantomime trip this year and the visit from Zoo Lab.

However, we have decided to continue with Christmas celebrations by still holding a Christmas party day, a Christingle day and an alternative for our annual Christmas performance. More information will follow shortly.

The term comes to an end on Friday 18th December. School will reopen on Tuesday 5th January.

DATES FOR DIARIES

Friday 13 th November	Children in Need –non-uniform day - £2 donation
Wednesday 25 th November	Flu Vaccine
Tuesday 15 th December	Christmas Party day, details to follow
Friday 4 th December	Christingle day
Tuesday 15 th December	Bags for school's collection
Friday 18 th December	Break up for Christmas

May we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Marsworth School.

School re-opens for the Spring Term 2020 on Tuesday 5th January 2020