

Attendance:

Please ensure you contact the school office as early as possible on the first morning if your child is ill. Please see our [attendance policy](#) on our website:

<http://www.new-marston.oxon.sch.uk/information/policies>



Newsletter from Ms Smith:

Parent Questionnaire

Many thanks to those of you who responded to our online questionnaire.

The main points raised were:

- Staff are well-thought of; kind, responsive and helpful
- Children feel happy and safe
- Able children should be challenged more in lessons
- Parents want us to “get the basics right”

Please see full results here: <http://www.new-marston.oxon.sch.uk/information/latest-news>

School Response:

- In January, we are finalising our vision and values, reviewing our Homework Policy, and implementing a More Able Policy
- We are introducing more music, including recorder classes for all Year 2s, at the end of January
- We are already working on improving the basics—we have higher expectations, are working on improving handwriting, spelling and writing earlier in the school with Read, Write, Inc and a full phonics programme

Dropping off times and picking up

This is improving: please ensure children are dropped off by 8.45 in the mornings and collected at 3.15.

Children in need

Thank you to all of you for your kind donations—the school raised almost £400!

News from our Home-School Link Worker, Kate Stratford:

Volunteer to support a refugee family

Asylum Welcome is looking for friendly and supportive volunteers to help provide a warm welcome to newly arriving refugee families whose children are at New Marston Primary School. The idea would be to be a friendly face at the school gate, and to introduce the family to facilities and clubs in the local area. If you would like to know more please get in touch with John on syrianresettlement@asylum-welcome.org or speak to Kate, the home/school link worker.

COFFEE MORNING

All nursery stage parents are warmly invited to come and join us for a coffee morning on Friday, 8th December



From drop off – 10:15

Drop off your child(ren) and then please

Come and chat to other parents and enjoy a relaxed start to your Friday. There will be cake!

We will be offering support for anyone who needs any help to complete their child's school application form.

Staffing Update:

Congratulations to Adam Godwin, our PE Leader, who has had a baby girl—and to Rohan Murray, our Site manager, who has also had a little girl.

New House Names

We asked the School Council to think of new names of our houses, rather than colours—we wanted people the pupils could learn about. They have chosen 4 scientists—

Albert Einstein, Marie Curie, Thomas Edison, Stephen Hawking

Feedback from trips

Recently our pupils have attended:

Year 5 Science trip

Year 2,3,4—Story Museum

Year 3: Stonehenge (next week)

KS1: Film Trip

We have had some lovely feedback on the behaviour and engagement of our pupils outside of school, for example:

Dear Ms Smith

Last week your Year 5 children visited us at the Museum of History of Science for a day of discovery about Space. I just wanted to say that I was really impressed with their engagement and focus. The children asked lots of interesting questions about the objects in the museum, and were able to talk with confidence at the end about what they had learnt. Their behaviour was excellent throughout.

I hope to welcome New Marston children again here in the future for our workshops!

Best Wishes

Helen Pooley

[Primary Education Officer Museum of the History of Science | University of Oxford](#)

Lockdown:

Our second lockdown practice went really well yesterday. We are sorry if this caused distress to any of our pupils, but sadly, it is something schools have to do regularly, along with regular fire alarm practices. Apologies for lack of warning to our new families.

Dates for the term

Year 5/6 Trip to Creation Theatre (Christmas Carol) - Thursday 7th Dec

Friday, 8th December Coffee Morning for Nursery Parents 9 – 10:15

Morning Christmas Production—Nursery and Reception—9.45 Tuesday 12th Dec

Afternoon Performance (Nursery and Reception) - 2pm Wednesday 13th Dec

KS1 Christmas Performances—1.30 and 6.00 on Tuesday 12th December

Parent Forum-14th December, 8.45am

Term Ends—Tuesday 19th December at 1.30pm **NO ASC that day**

Spring Term begins—Monday 8th January

Maths Workshops for Nursery Parents: Wed 17th January (times tbc)

Uniform

After a great start in September, we are seeing some lapses in our expectations. Please can we remind parents of these things:

No hoodies, unless it is a Year 6 school hoody (coming soon)

Black shoes inside school (trainers can be changed into for PE or break)

No jo-jo bows

Sensible hair-cuts for boys (no shaved patterns)

Family Photos

Mrs V and the inclusion team would **still** like your family photos! We will be putting them on display to celebrate the families in our school. If you can, please pop them into the office marked 'Mrs V'. Please note that we **won't** be able to return them.

Parking outside school

Some parents are parking on double yellow lines, blocking house driveways and making crossing dangerous for our families. Please can everyone find parking spaces further away from the school gates. It is also dangerous parking too close to the zebra crossing. Mr Lewis and myself will be at the gates most days now, at start and end of day and will be asking parents to move cars if they are parked dangerously.

Have a lovely weekend!