

New Marston Primary School Newsletter

Friday 8th September 2017

Attendance:

Please ensure your children attend school every day, unless they have a temperature or are otherwise very unwell. Children do start falling behind when they miss lessons. We will be publishing our attendance figures in each newsletter.



Newsletter from Ms Smith:

Dear Parents/Carers,

A big welcome back to all of you and a big welcome to all of our new families! Children have already settled in well and there is a very happy atmosphere around school and a “buzz” about new learning.

Uniform

Almost without exception, pupils are wearing full uniform with black footwear and they are looking fantastic and ready to learn. Thank you to all of our parents/carers for helping us with this.

Welcome to our new staff

We would like to welcome our new teachers: Mr Field, Mrs Procter, Mrs Minion and Amy (Nursery); our Sports and Well-Being Leader Mr Godwin and our new Teaching Assistants; Ms Bi, Mr James, Ms Gras and Mrs Perino.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is now running from 7.30; and places are available. Please ask at the office if you need some sessions for your child/ren.

After School Club

We have had a great start to our new After-School Club, with Mrs Beddoe, Mr Godwin and Mr Ehi providing a range of activities each day and a light sandwich and fruit tea at around 4pm. Please let us know if you require places. In 2 weeks, we will publish a menu of activities, so that children can opt to come to a club, even if childcare isn't needed. These will include: Gardening, Multi-sports, Craft and other activities.



New Class names

Just a reminder of all the new class names, so that you can be sure which class your child is in:

| Name | Teacher | Short Name |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| Cherries | Amy and Jane | N |
| Chestnuts | Lucy | R |
| Lime | Mrs Chrystal | 1L |
| Beech | Mrs Minion | 1B |
| Oak | Mrs El-Aghoury | 2O |
| Yew | Mr Johnson | 2Y |
| Poplar | Ms Sahonta | 3P |
| Rowan | Mr Wolstenholme | 3R |
| Aspen | Ms Greenaway | 4A |
| Hazel | Mrs Harris | 4H |
| Silver Birch | Mr Jee | 5S |
| Hawthorn | Ms Shapland | 5H |
| Elm | Mrs Procter | 6E |
| Willow | Mr Field | 6W |

Team/Class Newsletters

Newsletters for each phase (KS1—year 1 and 2), LKS2 (year 3 and 4) and UKS2 (year 5 and 6) and class will be sent home soon and will be available on our school website shortly. Parents will be able to find out about class learning, home learning, planned trips and experiences and dates. Class blogs on our website will be updated over the next few days.



Dates for the term (so far) Meet the teacher (see overleaf)

Parent Consultation Meetings: Tuesday 17th October—3.30-6pm

Wednesday 18th Oct—5.30-8pm

Harvest : Monday 25th September, 9am

School photos: Monday 16th October (individual)

Meet the Teacher

So that parents have an early opportunity to meet new class teachers, we are holding “Meet the Teacher” events next week, in classrooms. The dates and times are:

Year 2: Tuesday 3.15—3.45 informal meetings

Thursday 3.15-3.45 Meeting about SATs

Year 4: Monday 5.00-5.30 meeting to discuss residential

Year 6 Mrs Procter: Wednesday 3.15-3.45

EYFS (Reception) Tuesday 19th September 3.15

All other classes will be open 3.15-3.45 both Tuesday and Thursday next week.

Please speak to your class teacher at other times if you are unable to attend these sessions and wish to. We have planned early parent/teacher consultation meetings for the week before half term.

Parent Pay

Thank you for your patience whilst we set up the new parent pay system. We are airing out a couple of last-minute teething issues so please bear with us. We are almost there! We are hoping that all bug bears will be ironed out over the next week, but if you are experiencing any problems, please call and speak to Zoe in the office, or email her on zgarrett@new-marston.oxon.sch

Book Amnesty—Please return any class or library books that you find at home. Also if you have any books that your children have grown out of, we would be very happy to receive them as long as they are in excellent condition.



Guitar Lessons

Mark Cope, our guitar teacher, is able to take on new pupils. Lessons cost £6 for a half-hour lesson in a group of 4. Please contact him on mark-cope9@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested. Lessons resume next week.

Other Music Lessons

Both Year 3 classes will be having 6 months of free violin lessons with the Oxfordshire County Music Service. Mrs Lloyd will come into school to deliver these. These lessons are free to parents and paid for by school, because we believe it to be a very important aspect of a child’s education. Children will learn to read music and the rudiments of playing an instrument. After Year 3, children have the option for children to continue lessons, on a paid basis.

Year 6 will have the opportunity to learn Music composition/music tech, using “Garageband”, also through the Oxfordshire Music Service and to no cost to parents, starting w/b 18th September.

Applications for Secondary School Places

All YEAR 6 parents will need to apply for secondary school places for their child.

Over the next few weeks, the secondary schools will be holding open evenings for the transitioning year 6's, and we recommend you go along to at least 1 or 2 of these (even if you know the secondary school you want for your child) as it will give you and your child an insight into what the different schools can offer.

When it comes to applying for the place in school, it is very important that you follow the County Council's procedures properly to give your child the best chance of going to your first choice of school. We can offer help and support with this. Kate Stratford, our home/school link worker will be available on 17th and 18th October to support parents and carers with the application process .

News about The Swan School

In the last few days the ESFA have announced the contractor selected to take the building of The Swan School forward on the proposed site at the Harlow Centre in Old Marston. This is a very significant step to providing a new secondary school for children like yours in Oxford. A statement released by the chosen contractor, Galliford Try, can be found in the latest news section of our website theswanschool.org.uk

Over the coming weeks we will be putting in place a series of consultations with the community both about the building and the nature of the school and its policies. You will play an important part in those consultations, ensuring that we have the very best things in place to provide excellent education for your children and generations to come.

Please take some time to stay in touch and be part of the process. You can add yourself to our email list on the website theswanschool.org.uk

We aim to provide further details about the consultation in the next 2 weeks and if you have any specific questions, please do get in touch with the River Learning Trust at office@riverlearningtrust.org

Thank you, Paul James, CEO River Learning Trust