

New Marston Primary

School Newsletter

Monday 5th March 2018



Newsletter from Ms Smith:

We were featured in the Oxford Mail during half term. Here is the link if you missed it: http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15988951.SCHOOL_FOCUS_Pupils_help_to_rewrite_New_Marston_39_s_values_as_a_fresh_chapter_begins/

Contact Information

Some parents are still telling us that they haven't received information that we have sent out. Please ensure we have your correct email address and mobile phone number as most things are communicated electronically.

SATs dates—(repeat information)

Year 6 SATs take place on Monday 14th May—Thursday 17th May this year. As these are statutory timings, Year 6 pupils will need to be in school during those 4 days, otherwise when they return to school they have to complete the tests in isolation.

Year 2 SATs take place during June—tests may be administered on any day of the teacher's choosing. The assessments are not formal like the Year 6 tests and pupils may be unaware that they are being assessed.

World Book Day

We will be dressing up on Friday (9th March) for World Book Day and having some other book-related activities in class.

Oak and Beech

We will start the day on Friday with Oak's assembly that was postponed from last Friday, followed by Beech Class Assembly. We didn't want to start changing dates of other class assemblies, as some parents will have booked time off work.

Parent Teacher meetings this week

Please make sure that you have appointments for this. It is the best way to find out

about how your child is getting on in school. There will also be some photos to look at, school meals to sample, some questionnaires to fill in and your children's books to look at. Please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment and come to the hall first.

British Science Week

Science week starts this week and we are getting scientific! School science week will be in Term 5/6, but see below some of the ways in which we are taking part at the moment:

Science Morning

Our Year 6 pupils spent the morning being scientists last Tuesday. Mira Kassouf and her team of microbiologists from Oxford University spent the morning with them, learning about adaptation and extracting DNA from strawberries. The pupils are now "thinking like scientists".

Working for the FBI

The following morning, Year 6 were given opportunities to be forensic scientists, working for the FBI in solving some crimes. Other scientific activities include today's year 1 trip is to the Science Museum in London, Year 6 are visiting the Natural History Museum in Oxford tomorrow. Here is a link to British Science week:

https://www.britishtscienceweek.org/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMI9LKWr_rU2QI



Keeping with the Science theme.....

Silver Birch pupils entered a national competition to design a mini-sculpture which will be blasted into space. Catriona's design was one of the winners. Here is the press release....

Oxford Primary School Design to Fly into Space

New Marston Primary School is celebrating after winning a competition to have a special mini-sculpture taken into space. With support from Science Oxford, several schools from across Oxfordshire entered the NASA SuGRE-1 challenge to design a sugar cube sized sculpture that will be blasted into sub-orbital space aboard a rocket this April. The winning sculptures will be involved in a micro-gravity and 3D imaging experiment that makes up part of an X-ray telescope mission that NASA are running in collaboration with Pennsylvania State University.

The winning design was created by Catriona, a year 5 pupil at New Marston. Catriona designed a new astro-plant sculpture. She explained: "My model has a story. An astronaut went in to space and discovered a planet called Sertran. It had no life but did have plants. My design shows one of the plants, which the astronaut called a planettron. The planettron has Earth, moon and Saturn flowers."

Deputy Head Teacher Scott Lewis said: "It's a great honour for Catriona and New Marston. She worked very hard on her design along with the rest of the class and it's great to see her efforts rewarded with this once in a lifetime opportunity. We're all very proud of her!"

Science Oxford helped competitors like Catriona by bringing their designs to life using a high-tech 3D printer and laser cutter. Sophie Batin, the charity's educational outreach manager, said: "This competition inspired so many young people and we really wanted to help local primary schools to create the best sculpture they could. Most do not have the expensive kit needed to build such tiny models but we do and so we were very happy to help out.

She added: " We used our 3D printer to build a 3D version of Catriona's design and are thrilled for her that the design will be going intergalactic."

Catriona's model will join 149 others on the rocket, which will launch from a tiny island in the Pacific Ocean next month. On return to Earth, all the models will be recovered and returned to the schools, along with a 3D recording of their sculpture floating in zero gravity and a certificate authenticating that it has been into space.

Further Science Opportunities

If you are a scientist and would be able to offer some workshops in school, please contact the office and let us know; we would be very grateful. office@new-marston.oxon.sch.uk

Dates for the term

World Book Day dressing up—Friday 9th March

Year 6 trip to the Science Museum—6th March

Year 2 trip to London—27th March

Friday class assemblies: see dates below

English for Mothers—Tuesdays 9-10am

Parents Evenings—Tues 6th March 4.30-7pm and Thursday 8th March 3.30-6pm

Wed 7th March for Year 6 and Silver Birch

Year 4 residential—23-25th April

Year 6 SATs dates—14th-17th May

Year 6 residential—July 16th-20th 2018

Year 6 secondary school applications

Families have received the outcome of applications. Please do consider appealing if you didn't get your first choice of school.

Class Assemblies

These are held on Fridays at 9am and everyone is welcome to come along.

Friday 9th March Oak and Beech, Friday 16th March Poplar, Friday 23rd March Elm, Silver Birch, Willow, after Easter.

And finally.....

We are talking about teamwork this week, what good teamwork and poor teamwork looks like. It is part of our engagement with High Performance Learning, which we have begun. We will offer a workshop for parents when we have had our next two after-school training sessions. We have been talking about the teamwork of geese.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rOg4WfNDfM>