



Succeeding together - 'fostering a love of learning, within a nurturing Christian community, to bring out 'the best in everyone'

Newsletter 1 – Tuesday 20th September 2022

	Term Begins	Term Ends	Half Term	Term Begins	Term Ends
Autumn 2022	Tuesday 6 th September	Friday 21 st October		Tuesday 1 st November	Tuesday 20 th December
Spring 2023	Wednesday 4 th January	Friday 10 th February		Monday 20 th February	Friday 31 st March
Summer 2023	Tuesday 18 th April	Friday 26 th May		Tuesday 6 th June	Friday 21 st July

Inset Days: Monday 5th September 2022, **Extra Bank Holiday Monday 19th September 2022**,
Monday 31st October 2022, Monday 17th April 2023, Monday 5th June 2023

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors

Welcome back – it has been a fantastic start to the new term. The summer break seems like a distant memory now. The children have settled back into their routines and it's been wonderful to see the learning happening across the school. The Year 5 & 6 classes have had a WW2 workshop and the Year 3 & 4 classes enjoyed a Groovy Greeks day last Monday. Many thanks to our wonderful staff for making the learning so much fun and enjoyable for the children.

Existing parents will know we pride ourselves in communication and always aim to strike a balance between information overload and drought. This newsletter does however have quite a lot of information to digest. As much as possible we send year-group specific emails to minimise the impact on your inbox.

This is the first of our fortnightly newsletters, with updates but as always please do not hesitate to contact the school office with any queries, especially if you have joined our school community for the first time. With that in mind, a very warm welcome to those new families and staff who have joined us this school year. We have several families who have joined us in different years through the school and we are very grateful for the welcome and support you have already provided.

Meet the Teacher

The Bank Holiday set our plans back slightly for our Meet the Teacher sessions (Years 1 to 6). Our teachers are looking forward to having an informal chat with you and your child during these sessions. Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st and Monday 26th September. This is a chance for you to come and cha/meet the class teacher and for you to share information too.

Living our Vision - Succeeding together - fostering a love of learning, within a nurturing Christian community, to bring out the best in everyone.

The school is alive with the sound of music. No doubt the children will have shared their music sessions with you. Two music specialists have joined us from the Bucks Music Trust and they have been made possible by the kind donation of the Ewelme Trust.

Mrs Jo Harris is providing weekly whole class instrument lessons for our Year 3,4 & 5 classes and Mr Nigel Gibbon is providing whole class instrument lessons for our Year 6 class.

Our younger children are not missing out either as Mrs Sarah Freeman has joined us on a Friday morning to provide whole class music lessons for our EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 classes.

Forest School

Today our Year 5 children headed down to the Marsh Gibbon Jubilee Plantation site to have their first off site Forest School session. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Marsh Gibbon Parish Council for making this possible for our children. Mr Alex Rogers has joined us from Sports 4 All (S4A), to lead the Forest School sessions supported by Miss Exley, our Outdoor Lead and also Mrs Thompson.

Last week the Year 5 children, had their introductory session to Forest School on our school site. They whittled wood, made wands, tied knots, used a drill to make holes in conkers...and yes...they even played a game of conkers.

Covid

The guidance has now changed regarding testing for Covid and most people can no longer access free testing nor are advised to do so, because the risk of becoming seriously unwell from COVID 19 and other respiratory infections is very low for most children and young people.

Guidance now states, "If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities, try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until you no longer have a high temperature (if you had one) or until you no longer feel unwell.

Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or a slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting".

Please do continue to inform us if your child is unwell via email absence@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk or leave a telephone message. Children can return to school as soon as they are feeling better. Remote learning will no longer be offered if children are not well enough to come into school, they should be resting and return to school as soon as they are well enough.

Financial Support

We are very aware that in the current financial climate, many families experience changes in their circumstances. Whilst we provide all new families with information about how the school can claim funding to support them, this check can also be made for existing families. The attached information explains in more detail however if we as a school can support in any way, please do come and speak to us. We understand this is a sensitive issue and any conversations held are completely confidential.

Communication

With our new EYFS class joining us on Tapestry and Year 1 stepping up to Class Dojo, please can we remind parents not to use these platforms to send messages or communicate with school or staff - all communication should be via the school office or in person please. Tapestry and Class Dojo are for learning only and therefore the messenger function is not in use. Equally staff do not engage with social media in a professional capacity and so although we may be made aware of the occasional buzz online, we will only address matters which are brought to our attention formally. If you are unable to speak to a member of staff in person or are unsure who to direct your enquiry to, please use our official channels:

office@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk

Resources Request

This is a plea for items to help resource our Forest School area. Any old pots, pans, wooden spoons and wooden bowls. Thank you.

Absences/Change of Pick Up

Please only use the absence email address – absence@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk and not the office email for change of pick up or absences. You can also use ParentMail or leave a message on our dedicated phone line.

Late Arrivals

The school gate closes and lesson begin promptly at 8.55. If a child arrives after this time, an adult will need to sign the child in at reception.

Dogs at School

A reminder that dogs are not allowed into the school grounds at any time. We also politely request that you do not leave dogs unattended outside the gates at drop off and pick up times.

Water Bottles and Sweets

Every child must have a named water bottle in school every day. We do ask that this is water only and not juice. All children can refill their bottles throughout the day. We are a 'Healthy School', so please do not send your child in with sweets or chocolate bars. We are also a nut-free school.

Congratulations

Well done to our latest Celebration Certificate recipients:

EYFS - Butterflies	Jack, Amias	Year 3 - Rabbits	Jack, Tom, Romeo, Neave
Year 1 - Owls	Noah, Dylan, George, Lily	Year 4 - Hedgehogs	Raya, Henry, Marisa, Jacob
Year 2 - Dragons	Senan, Xenia, Clara, Brodie	Year 5 - Foxes	Isla B, All the class, Connor, Shyla
		Year 6 - Eagles	Laurel, Keir, Brooke, Ethan

Mrs B Brown
Headteacher

DATES FOR THE DIARY (Bold are new additions)

20 th September	Meet the teacher appointments
21 st September	Meet the teacher appointments
26 th September	Meet the teacher appointments (change of date from the 19 th September)
30 th September	Tapestry Meeting for EYFS Parents
6 th October	Individual School Photographs / School Census Day / Fresh Start Theme Day
21 st October	Phonics Workshop for EY/Y1/Y2 Parents
8 th & 9 th November	Parent Child Learning Discussions
8 th November	Roving Book Shop visit
18 th November	Children In Need Charity Dress Up Day
8 th May 2023	Year 6 SATs
15 th May 2023	Year 2 SATs
12 th June 2023	Whole School Sports Afternoon
19 th June 2023	Reserved Whole School Sports Afternoon
4 th July 2023	Transition Afternoon