



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

Newsletter 6 – Monday 6th December 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 17th April 2023, King's Coronation extra **Bank Holiday Monday 8th May** 2023, Monday 5th June 2023

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors

Welcome to our latest newsletter, potentially the last of this Autumn term and for 2022!

The final part of any term is always action-packed and subsequently the children (and staff...) become more tired and emotional, no doubt amplified by England's progress through the World Cup and some later than usual bedtimes.

It is times like this when a little more patience, kindness and understanding go a long way when navigating the final few weeks of term, especially where the Christmas season is involved.

Immune systems are of course also lower than usual so we thank you for your ongoing support around illness and when children could 'brave it' in school or really should be at home resting.

PTA Christmas Fayre 2022

What an amazing evening we all had last Friday night. We are extremely grateful to the PTA team of volunteers who worked tirelessly to put on a great fundraising event both on the evening and also the many weeks running up to the event. The evening was enjoyed by everyone!

Thank you to all of our families for sending in the items for the tombola, the plates of cake donations and also the lucky dip cups. It really was a fantastic and successful event and I know that a large amount was raised. The PTA will let us know how much was raised in due course.

Plans are already being made for further fundraising events for 2023.

New Bursar Introduction

I would like to officially welcome our new school bursar, Mrs Layla Jury, to our team here at Marsh Gibbon. Mrs Jury's working hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. 8:45am – 3:15pm. Mrs Harri Martin has moved on to a full time bursar position for a large School Academy in Oxford.

'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper Day

A reminder that Christmas Jumper Day in aid of 'Save the Children' is this Friday 9th December. Children are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper in place of their school jumper in return for a £1 charity donation. Please note that all other uniform remains unchanged on this day. Please make your contribution online. A link will be sent to you before Friday. **Please do not send money in to school.**

Parent Governor Vacancy

We presently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our Governing Body.

This is an exciting opportunity to really help shape the direction of the school. If you are a professional, with a passion for education, we invite you to consider joining our Governing body.

The school has a proven track record as a “Good” school. We are on a continuous journey to provide the best possible provision for our pupils and staff. Therefore, we are looking for experienced individuals to join our Governing Body.

If you are a driven professional with expertise in one of the following fields, we would love to hear from you:

- Finance & Accounting
- Business & Marketing
- Leading in the Education sector
- Safeguarding & Child Protection
- HR or Health & Safety

If you would like more information about this advert, please contact the school office on 01869 277 268 or email office@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk. Please note that all prospective governors will be required to complete an application form including supplying references. All governors also undergo DBS and other safeguarding vetting prior to being appointed.

Year 3 & Year 4 Greek Assembly

What a joy it was to welcome parents to our school this morning to watch the Year 3 & Year 4 Greek assembly. This term both classes have been learning all about the Ancient Greeks and it was wonderful for the children to share their learning with their parents today and with the rest of the school yesterday. Huge thanks to the Year 3 & Year 4 team for putting this together during such a busy time of year.

Starting school in September 2023

If you have a child, or know a family with a child needing reception class place for September 2023, do please let them know about our wonderful school. Applications for School places must be made to the Local Authority no later than 15th January 2023 for places in school. [Applications for school places can be made here.](#)

Disabled Parking spaces outside the village shop

We ask that you respect the disabled parking spaces outside the village shop and only use these spaces if you are displaying a blue badge. Please apply on the [government website](#) should you wish to apply for or renew a blue badge.

Absence from School

Please remember that it is school policy for parents to report your child’s absence from school. If a reason for absence is not provided, an unauthorised absence will be recorded. If your child is ill, please inform us by calling the absence line (01869 277268 option 1), emailing absence@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk (not the office email) or via Parentmail. This must be done before 9:30am.

Online Safety

We have attached some information on online safety - ‘What Parents Need to Know about social Media & Mental Health’. You’ll find tips such as how to hide content, setting daily limits and discussing what children have seen online.

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it’s important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they’re posting and the interactions they’re having. On social media, it can be easy to go down a rabbit hole that isn’t beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing ‘legal but harmful’ content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which enthralls

young people, but we can still help children to be mindful of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK ... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

Extreme Weather & School Closures

The Met Office has issued a number of warnings for the coming weeks which stand to affect us as a school community.

Firstly, can we please remind parents to ensure their children have a warm coat, and gloves/hats as appropriate, so that we can still get out for some fresh air at break and lunch times. We are aware that some children continue to wear shorts to school, however this is less of an issue when they are wrapped up and, most often, running around.

Please note that while we continue to ventilate the classrooms as much as possible, the heating system is in use throughout the day, and doors and windows are generally only left open for short periods when the children are out of class.

In extreme cases, following snowfall for example, it may be necessary to limit the use of the outdoor space or close the school. A school closure would only take place as a last resort if the safety of pupils or staff was at risk. This informed decision would be made as soon as possible and listed on the Buckinghamshire Council website (<https://closures.buckscc.gov.uk/>), followed by an email to parents using ParentMail. On what was historically called a 'Snow Day', it is Buckinghamshire Council's policy to now refer to these as 'Remote Learning' days - we would therefore provide work for our pupils via Tapestry (EYFS) or Class Dojo (Years 1 to 6). Activities set would be appropriate and subject to the circumstances of our school families and our staff and therefore more information would be provided as necessary at the time.

School Sporting Achievements

Huge congratulations to our Year 6 footballers who competed at the Sports 4 All Festival at the Royal Latin School last Thursday. The team played amazingly well; they didn't lose a single match and came in 2nd place, only 1 point behind the winners!

Well done to everyone for excellent teamwork and fair play on a cold and foggy evening.

Thank you to the parents for cheering the team on too!

Congratulations

Well done to our latest Celebration Certificate recipients:

EYFS - Butterflies	Ivy-Rose, Rowan, Theo, Daniel	Year 3 - Rabbits	Noah, Bella-Rose, Mabel, Lucy
Year 1 - Owls	Christopher, Zach, Bodhan, Max	Year 4 - Hedgehog	Lucy, Rose, Oscar, Joseph
Year 2 - Dragons	Leo, Mason, Molly, Ted	Year 5 - Foxes	Jemima, Verity, Lucas
		Year 6 - Eagles	Alex, Bertie, Mia, Sam

Autumn Term End and Spring Term Start

Please note that the children's last day of school before Christmas is Tuesday 20th December. In the New Year, we will all return to school on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

Mrs B Brown

Headteacher

office@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk

DATES FOR THE DIARY (Bold are new additions)

22 nd November	PTA Christmas Mufti Day
22 nd & 24 th November	Parent / Child Learning Discussions
23 rd November	Y1 & Y2 Gaydon Motor Museum
2 nd December	PTA Christmas Fayre
6 th December	Y3 & Y4 Groovy Greeks Assembly to parents 9am – 10am
8 th December	EYFS, Y1 and Y2 Nativity to parents (2 pm & 6pm)
8th December	MGS School Choir to sing at the URC 1.30pm
9 th December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
15 th December	Fresh Start Christmas Lunch
20 th December	Church Christmas Carol Service 9.30am at St Mary's Church
17 th January 2023	Maths at Marsh Gibbon parent workshop 6pm – 7pm
25 th January 2023	School choir Young Voices
8 th May 2023	Year 6 SATs (Changes due, awaiting DFE confirmation)
15 th May 2023	Year 2 SATs
15 th – 17 th May 2023	Year 6 Residential Culmington Manor
12 th June 2023	Whole School Sports Afternoon
19 th June 2023	Reserved Whole School Sports Afternoon
4 th July 2023	Transition Afternoon