



MARSH GIBBON
— CE SCHOOL —

Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is the final week of this half term and many of us are limping to the finish line. We have had lots of illness this term and we hope that the half term break will give everyone a chance to rest and recuperate.

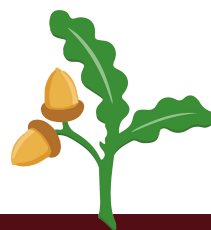
Once again we are humbled by the generosity of our parents. This half term we have volunteers helping whip the school into shape and we cannot express our gratitude enough.

As a school we foster a growth mindset in the children and staff alike. This term our staff have been focusing on safeguarding and have all been engaged with courses and training to make sure we as a school are providing the safest environment for the children. As we strive for continuous improvement we are constantly training and developing with lots of work going on behind the scenes. This model of hardwork is one of the best lessons we can give the children and we hope that the school culture reflects our vision of succeeding together. .

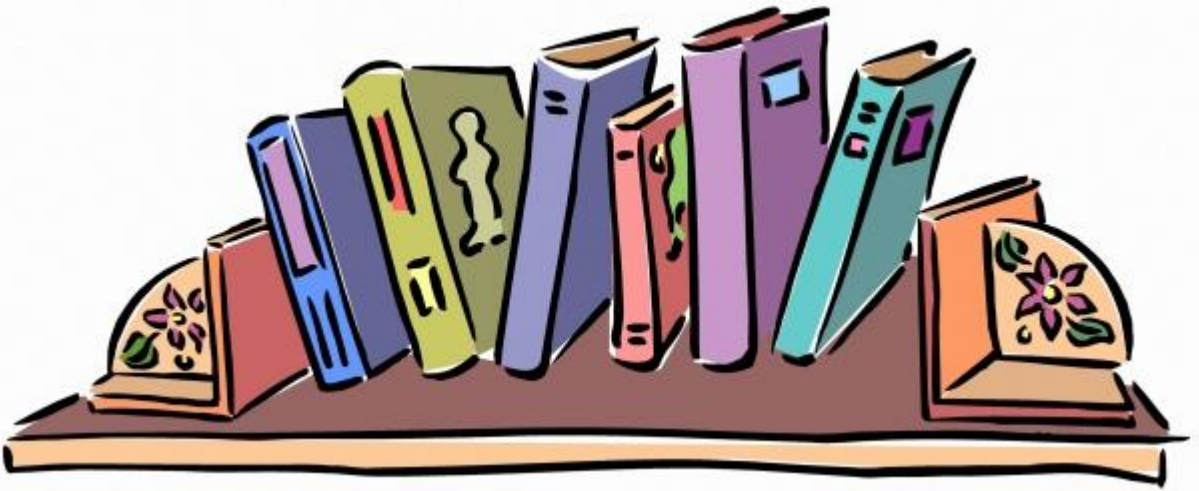
Beth

Mrs B Brown
Headteacher

office@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk



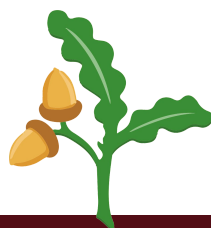
READING



This half term, we have been promoting a love of reading across the school. Each classroom has a welcoming, cosy reading corner with books that have been carefully selected by each teacher. Our library can be used by the children to choose books and we are working on a special reading area for the children to enjoy....watch this space!

When your child has finished a book and asks to read something similar, it can be difficult to find another story that they will enjoy just as much. The BookTrust website has a great tool called 'What to read after', which will help you and your child choose their next favourite book:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/what-to-read-after/#!?q=&sortOption=MostRecent&pageNo=1>



MENTAL HEALTH

Last week we highlighted World Mental Health Day 10th October

'Because sharing worries can help ease stress and reduce anxiety'.

Comments from the children-

"If you keep a worry inside, you might feel all mixed up" Theo Y1

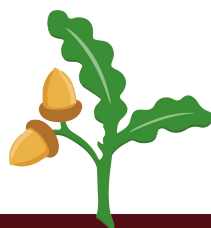
"If you don't tell someone your worry you might worry about it all day" Clara EYFS

"Talking to your friends makes you feel pink (warm, love)" Martha EYFS

The children understand the importance of talking, know who they can talk to both at school and at home if they have a worry, and could name lots of trusted adults, as well as our staff safeguarding team.

For more information on Mental Health and Wellbeing please see our school website page

<http://www.marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing.html>



ATTENDANCE



Mins per Day	Impact
5 minutes per day	3.4 days missed 98.4% attendance
10 minutes per day	6.9 days missed 97.6% attendance
15 minutes per day	10.3 days missed 94.6% attendance
20 minutes per day	13.8 days missed 92% attendance
30 minutes per day	20.7 days missed 89.2% attendance

Persistent lateness or early collections add up to a detrimental effect on your child's education.

Attendance matters, your child deserves the best possible chance to achieve excellence.

There is a proven link between poor result and attendance.

Chronically absent children, (below 90%) have an 81% chance of missing their reading age target by the time they are in year 3.

By year 5 those with poor attendance are amongst the lowest performers in Maths and English

Patterns formed at primary persist into secondary.

Every 17 days missed of education results in achieving a whole grade lower in GCSE's.

STAY AND PLAY



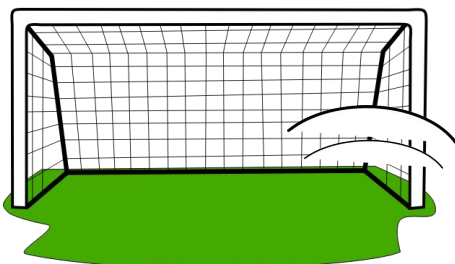
Last week we welcomed some of our prospective children for the September 2024 intake. It was wonderful to meet them all. They had the opportunity to get to know Mrs Blane, test out all the toys and sample some lovely treats from Linda and Sam in the kitchen. We hope to run the stay and play sessions termly to help our new starters feel really school ready and happy with the environment come next year's Autumn term.

Parents said....

"A great, stay and play session, it gave the children and parents the opportunity to meet, chat and see the children have lots of fun exploring time together. There were so many fun activities on offer in the lovely calm classroom setting. Isabella said her favourite activity was the Autumn tree painting and outside waterplay."

PTA

We would like to say a massive thank you to our fantastic PTA for our new football goal. This week our brand new goal has been delivered and put together. The children were very excited and can't wait to start playing! We can now start our Year 5/6 league training and the KS1 and KS2 football clubs can play on the field.



MATHS



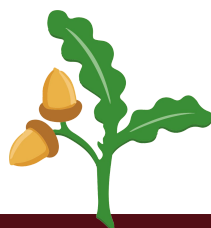
At Marsh Gibbon we follow the Mastery approach to our Maths teaching. For those of you who have joined us for our Maths information meetings you may know that this revolves around the concept that all children are capable of achieving in Maths and that through small steps and well planned questioning and activities all children will make progress. This begins with our youngest children and those in the Early Years follow a programme called 'Mastering Number'. Mastering Number aims to secure firm foundations in the development of good number sense - the ability to be flexible in talking and thinking around numbers initially just to 5, before moving on to larger numbers and then making links between them through comparing and calculating.

This programme forms a large part of our teaching in the Early Years but continues throughout all of Key Stage 1 building up the children's fluency skills.

During a recent pupil voice the children spoke of their enjoyment at playing games and securing these skills right across the school and securing these key concepts at a young age is key in this. They also spoke about how they liked the opportunity to talk to their partner about their answers before sharing them with the class - another key aspect of our Mastery curriculum.

Of course the children also spoke lots about their Times Tables and how much they enjoy completing their sessions on TT Rockstars too. Keep up the hard work Marsh Gibbon!

We would love to show you maths in action at MGS. Please do come along and hear how we teach Maths at MGS and you will also have the opportunity to visit the classes to see maths in action. We have scheduled this for 9am on Tuesday 14th November.



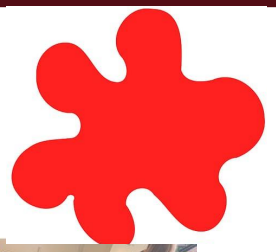
TT ROCKSTARS



Last week saw the final few days of our most recent Battle of the Bands on TT Rockstars - an inter-house competition which was eventually won by Beech house - rocking up with a final total of 1,769 points. Their reward this half term is a Mufti day for the whole of Beech house on Tuesday. Well done to everybody who took part in the competition - not just those in Beech but in every house.

Practising and rehearsing times tables is just a small part of the fluency skills that we work on developing at Marsh Gibbon but is one of the most key concepts. It may just seem like 'another list of facts to learn by rote' but the impact that being secure with these can have on the other areas of our Maths teaching is huge. If a child is secure with their times tables it can make it far quicker and easier for children to work out maths problems in their heads. Moving beyond using their fingers to work out answers, they'll be able to use their knowledge to quickly solve any multiplication or division question. Not just this though, learning and understanding how times tables work can do wonders for building children's knowledge of important mathematical concepts. These include moving on to solving long multiplications, long divisions, working with fractions - calculating and converting, working with percentages and even shape work. Perhaps most importantly, memorising their tables will give your child confidence in their own skills. There's nothing more grown-up than not having to use your fingers to work out an answer!

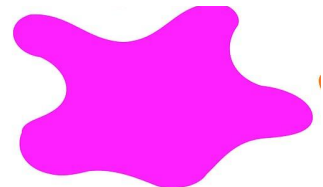
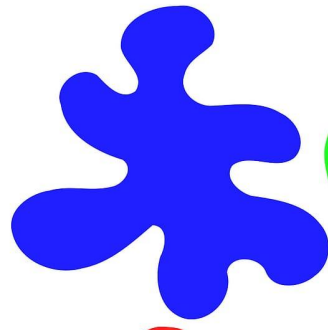
The use of TT Rockstars to support our times table teaching is key and we really can spot a difference in confidence with those children who are regularly spending time rehearsing these facts at home as well as at school. Throughout the year there will be more Battles of the Bands to get involved with so please get practising and earning those coins - get those guitars ready to rock!



ART CLUB



Some of our Year 6 pupils run an Art Club on Friday lunchtimes. The children who enjoy Art Club have been chosen from Reception, Year One and Year Two. The girls have linked the activities to the text the children are reading in English. Each session, they start off with their rules and support the younger children with their art activities. It really is lovely to observe the older children working so well with our younger ones; particularly when they plan and resource the activities themselves.

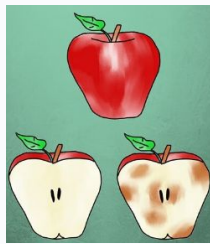


COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

During our Collective Worship last week we had a focus on the values of Friendship and Love.

The children learnt that when we say hurtful things to other people, we often can't see the damage that we're doing on the inside. Our classmates may appear fine, but they're really hurting. On the other hand, our kind words can be used to build someone else up, and make them feel beautiful on the inside.

Please do ask your child about the two apples and about the crumpled piece of paper. These visuals were used to show the damage that can be done with harsh, unkind words



At Marsh Gibbon School, our collective worship is a valued part of our school culture, breathing life into every aspect of the school day'. invitational, inspiring and inclusive.

Invitational - offering everyone the opportunity to engage in the act of worship, whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.

Inspiring and creative, impacting the whole community and motivating them into action.

Inclusive - where all are included, have a voice and are listened to. 'Collective Worship is a valued part of our school culture, breathing life into every aspect of the school day'.



Dear God
Come and be with us today.
Fill our hearts with joy.
Fill our minds with learning.
Fill our classrooms with peace.
Fill our lessons with fun.
Fill our friendships with kindness.
Fill our school with love.
Amen.



SAFEGUARDING



Talking **'PANTS'** helps children understand that their bodies belong to them, and they should tell someone they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried.

You can find out more on the NSPCC's main PANTS information page:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

To buy the Pantosaurus picture book or download the Pantosaurus song click here:
[Pantosaurus and the Power of PANTS! | NSPCC Shop](#)



HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Thursday 19th October, we will be celebrating Harvest with a Collective Worship service at Church. We would like the children to bring donations of tins or baby items (nappies, wipes, anything new that is suitable for a baby) to school on the morning of the 19th October, then we will take them to the Church with us. The collected items will then be sent to the Bicester Baby Bank and Bicester Food Bank. Many thanks in advance for your generous donations.

SCHOOL VALUES

Love



We are kind in words
and actions

Friendship



We try to be a
good friend

Compassion



We think about others

Honesty



We always tell the truth

Forgiveness



We forgive others

Respect

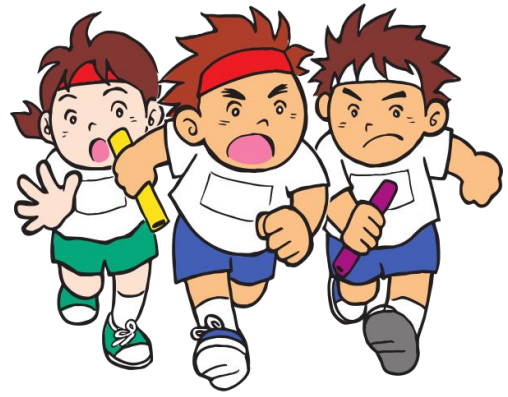


We look after everyone
and everything at school

We have been working on identifying what makes our school special and what characteristics reflect who we are within our school community. This framework has been designed to help our children in navigating positive behaviour choices reflecting the teachings of Jesus.

Please do ask your child how they are showing the school values each day.

SPORTS FESTIVAL



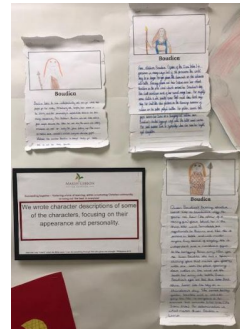
Last week we had our first S4A Fundamentals festival at Buckingham Primary School. It was a Fundamentals festival. The children absolutely loved the experience and did a fantastic job demonstrating the different skills they have been learning in their PE lessons.

Lots of different children will have the opportunity to attend different sports festivals throughout the year. The festivals link to the lessons that the children are currently learning in their PE lessons. We are looking forward to the Year 3 and Year 4 Netball festival this week!



HISTORY

Year 5 and 6 are currently enjoying their 'Super Settlers' topic and finding out all about the Romans and how the empire spread! Year 5 couldn't believe how successful they were when using a map to identify the countries they invaded. They have also been busy learning about Boudica and have written some wonderful descriptions of her, as well as the Roman army. Take a look at their fantastic work currently on display in school!



In a recent pupil voice opportunity, it was wonderful to hear so many of the children talking so positively about their history learning at Marsh Gibbon CE School! It was amazing to hear the children reminisce about the history topics they'd covered in previous years, with many of the children telling me how much they enjoyed learning about how Marsh Gibbon had changed during our Local History Week in the summer term of 2023.

Here are some quotes from the children about history:

Connor - I just love learning about the past and how it was different from our lives today.

Aubrey - I loved our Groovy Greeks day when we were able to try different foods and do fun activities.

Ben - I loved being a detective to find out what Stone Age people used to eat by dissecting a coprolite in Year 4!

Isaac - I remember making our own houses when we were learning about The Great Fire of London.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION
7
PEGI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord, a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATting

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including iD and TechRadar.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

MENTAL HEALTH

Carol Dweck, a psychologist best known for her research on mindsets introduced us all to the terms 'growth mindset' and 'fixed mindset'. In her book, "Mindset," she says that it's not intelligence, talent or education that sets successful people apart. It's their mindset, or the way that they approach life's challenges.

By teaching children to have a growth mindset we are empowering them to keep trying, to believe in their abilities and to develop confidence in themselves in order to make excellent progress and overcome low expectations and stereotypes.



It's important that, as adults around them, we all talk honestly about our own experiences of overcoming barriers and challenging expectations as the children are able to relate to this. And of course, they love it when we make mistakes! For further information on how to encourage confident and resilient learners at home, have a look at some of the links below.

<https://www.mindsetworks.com/parents/growth-mindset-parenting>

<https://www.oxfordlearning.com/growth-mindset-tips-for-parents/>

Each class offers a Zones of Regulation area for the children to access. We like to see all children in the green area as this means they are ready for learning. However, we recognise that some children may not be in the right Zone. They might be feeling a little upset or tired (Blue Zone) or they might be feeling worried or excited (Yellow Zone). They might be feeling angry or a bit cross (Red Zone). Recognising what colour zone they are in means they can self regulate themselves by accessing some of the ideas shown by the colour or ask for help to regulate. The Zones of Regulation are discussed regularly through the year to remind the children to use the area to help themselves.

<https://zonesofregulation.com/how-it-works/>

SEND

Here at Marsh Gibbon School we pride ourselves on ensuring that we plan and deliver fun and exciting lessons, which are well matched to the curriculum objectives and are suitable for all our children. Marsh Gibbon CE Primary School has a SEND policy, in which its definition of SEND is taken from the 2014 Code of Practice (Department for Education: 2014). This is available to view on the [Policies](#) page on our school website. At Marsh Gibbon children are identified as having SEND in a variety of ways including the following;

- Concerns raised by teacher or teaching assistant (i.e. social and nurture needs preventing progress)
- Concerns raised by parents
- Child performing below age related academic expectations as noted by class teachers ongoing assessments and by reviews of data by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCO) and headteacher
- Liaison with outside agencies (i.e. speech and language therapists)
- Liaison with a paediatrician or other professional who has made a health diagnosis

If it has been agreed, in partnership with yourselves, to place your child on the SEND register, then they will either be assessed as needing a 'SEND Support Plan' or an 'Education Health Care Plan' (EHCP) depending on their level of need? If we feel it necessary we can apply for short term funding called 'Higher Needs Block Funding'. We will be sending out a SEND update this week to help you understand all the ways we are able to help with SEND at Marsh.



DIARY DATES



OCT

- 17/10 Mufti for Beech house
- 19/10 Harvest collective worship - 2pm
Church - staff and children only
- 20/10 Home learning gallery 2:45 - 3:15
- 23-27/10 Half term
- 30/10 INSET



NOV

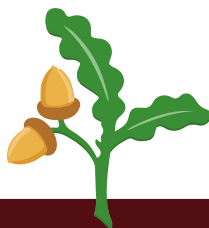
- 3/11 Open Day
- 7/11 & 9/11 Parent and child discussions
- W/C 13/11 Anti Bullying week
- 16/11 Odd sock day
- 17/11 Children in Need
- 15/11 Home learning Gallery 2:45 - 3:15



DEC

- 08/12 PTA Christmas Fayre
- 13/12 EYFS & KS1 nativity performance 2pm
5:30 pm
- 19/12 Christmas service at the Church 9:30 all
parents welcome
- 20/12 Finish for Christmas

- 04/01 Start of spring term
- 22/01 Young voices
- 09/02 Home learning gallery 2:45 - 3:15



Celebration Certificate



EYFS

Fraser, Martha, Arthur,
Toby

Y1

Theo, Louis, Daniel,
George

Y2

Holly, Noah, Eric, Phoebe

Y3

Brooke, Dylan, Ted, Flynn

Y4

Ella, Jaethan, Georgia,
Wilfred

Y5

Bobby, Joshua, Vini-Faye,
Mabel

Y6

Albie, Lucy