



*Opportunities for all; Foundations for life*

## Marsh Gibbon Church of England School

Headteacher: Mrs Julie Hickey



3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014

Dear Parents

In the interests of keeping you all updated, we wish to share some of our current plans for September 2014. Please note that these are subject to change over the course of time and we will keep you updated as and when changes occur.

### **Staff for Key Stage 2**

It is our priority to provide all our children with the very best teachers as they continue their educational journey through years 5 and 6 at our school. With this in mind, we have recruited an excellent teacher to further enhance our teaching staff. We are pleased to advise you that Mr Charles Showan, who was one of our student teachers, will be joining our team from September 2014. Mr Showan comes with excellent references and has had two very successful placements at Marsh Gibbon. Previous to embarking on his career change to a teacher, he achieved a degree in Accounting Studies. He has also travelled the world and volunteered in orphanages in countries such as Vietnam and Costa Rica. He was then employed at Oakley School as a Teaching Assistant, where he worked with Key Stage 2 children organising intervention programmes in literacy and mathematics. He also ran the after-school Athletics clubs. Mr Showan brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm and I am sure he will be an asset to Marsh Gibbon School. The staffing for Key Stage 2 will be as follows:

Yr3 – Rabbits – Miss Davison

Yr4 – Hedgehogs – Mr Showan

Yr5 - ? (suggestions on a postcard, please!) – Mrs Logan

This takes into account parental requests to keep Mrs Logan with our present year 4 class for the sake of continuity during a time of great change.

### **Will my child have the same opportunities that they would have in a school with an established Years 5 and 6?**

We are fully aware that Years 5 and 6 are essential years in a child's education to prepare them for both secondary school and the 11+ examination. It is recognised by both the Local Authority and the Diocese that changing schools halfway through a key stage is detrimental to a child's education.

September 2014 sees the start of a new National Curriculum, which we see as the perfect spring board for Marsh Gibbon School to begin new and exciting initiatives for your child's education. We cannot and will not allow our standards to slip and will continue to work at full capacity to provide every child with the very best educational experience. In addition to our very high standards in the core subjects we will want to offer our children in Years 5/6 as many sport, music and creative opportunities as is possible during their time with us, including a residential trip. We are very aware that schools are competitive today, so we must strive to offer all our children the same, if not more opportunities that they would be offered in another school.

We are looking into a residential trip for Year 5 which we hope to run in their Summer Term. As part of the Bucks School Partnership and through the excellent links that Miss Davison has made, we will continue to expand our PE opportunities with other local schools. Many of the matches and tournaments which primary schools hold are only open to Years 5 and 6 – so watch out for 'Team MG'.

### **Is the existing playground really big enough to cater for more and bigger children?**

In an ideal world we would wish for a bigger playground, but how big is big enough? Yes our playground is smaller than some primary schools around, however it is also bigger than others locally! One idea we are considering is to

*Castle Street Marsh Gibbon, OX27 0HJ Tel. 01869 277268*

Email: [office@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk) Website: <http://www.marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk>

stagger lunchtimes and playtimes, so that the younger children are not running around at the same time as the older children.

**Will hot lunches be available to our children?**

Like all the other schools in Bucks, we are still waiting further details from the County Council on how the new Central Government initiative of free school meals to all Key Stage 1 children will work for us at Marsh Gibbon School. We hope that the provider for the free KS1 meals will be able to offer an option for KS2 to purchase meals. As we do not know who we will be working with, at the moment we cannot give clarity on this. However, in the long term, we would hope to have better kitchen facilities on site so we can have our own in-house kitchen. Sadly, this is unlikely to happen for 2014/15.

**What if we don't get planning permission through in time for September?**

As we have indicated before, we are working closely with our architect to submit the planning application this month and it is expected that this process will be completed by mid June, which will give us ample time to source and install the learning pod by early September. In the unlikely event that we fall behind schedule then we do have a "Plan B" which is to use the current resource room/staff room. As you can imagine, for many reasons, this is not our preferred option, however it is reassuring to know that we do have that to fall back on if we have to, even if just for the interim.

**When can I see the plans?**

As soon as the architect has provided us with the final plans which he is preparing as part of the planning application then we will be happy to share them with you. Our intention is to place the learning pod near to the existing resource/staff room (logical for ground facilities), which will keep the front of the school clear for the building of the classrooms once we get the go-ahead.

**What can I do to help?**

The governors are working very closely with the Diocese to provide the funding towards the expansion. To furnish a whole new classroom (interactive whiteboard, books, tables, chairs, stationery etc) will be expensive and we want to make this a very special experience for our Year 5 children and our school. Last week, we met with the PTA class representatives and we asked if, together, we can raise £10,000 to provide the resources and equipment that we need for September. This is no small request and I have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and of so many of you. Thank you for all the wonderful and resourceful ideas to raise this money for our children. Please do help in whatever way you can, we want to make our new classrooms the ideal environment for the children to learn, develop and enjoy their extended time at Marsh Gibbon School. Can I reassure you that the expansion will go ahead no matter how much money is raised, however the more money we raise the greater the facilities and resources we can offer our children.

You might have further questions which we have not answered here, in which case please do contact Clare in the school office and make an appointment to pop into school to have a chat.

We very much look forward to welcoming your child/ren into Year 5 and then Year 6 at Marsh Gibbon School, this really is an exciting and rewarding time for us all.

Best wishes



Julie Hickey  
Headteacher



Matt Smith  
Chair of Governors