



## Newsletter – Autumn 1 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to school. Well done to everyone for making it to the end of the first week, I think we will all sleep well this weekend! After so long away it is wonderful to see all the children back to school in their uniforms and looking so happy to be back together. Break and lunchtime are super times as they are all playing happily together.

Due to the current situation this year will undoubtedly be different to what we would normally expect but the staff and I are looking forward to working with you and your children to help them progress over the year so that they achieve the very best they can.

We have planned in the events we would usually hold and later on in the newsletter information is shared on how we will adapt the events arranged for this half term so that we continue to follow the government guidance.

Please remember the measures we are putting in place are available on the school website (<http://www.marstonmontgomery.derbyshire.sch.uk/website/coronavirus/486307>). We need to continue to work together to protect our whole school community, the effectiveness of the measures we have in place are only as effective as how well we all follow government guidelines at home.

### **Congratulations**

Last year two members of staff celebrated 25 years working for Derbyshire County Council! A fantastic achievement and particularly amazing when you think how many children they will have worked with and supported over that time.

Huge congratulation to Mrs Keeling (LLPS) and Mrs Pointon (MMPS) and thank you on behalf of everyone you have worked with for all you do and your contribution to the life of our schools.

### **Office Staff Hours**

Due to the current situation we are not allowing parents on site unless by prior appointment for a meeting with a member of staff. If you have a question for the office please contact them by telephone or email so that they can initially deal with your request in that way.

### **LLPS**

Monday and Tuesday – Mrs Watts from 10am

Thursday and Friday – Mrs Murby between 9am and 3pm

### **MMPS**

Mrs Lovett will be in the school office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9am to 11am. Mrs Lovett will continue to work from home for the rest of her hours.

### **Dates for this academic year**

We have planned our year as if all events can go ahead as normal. Please refer to the online calendars to see the events that are coming up. Each half term the letter will include information on the events and how they will be altered so that we continue to follow government guidelines.

### **Updating Forms**

Over the next few weeks, we will also be sending out an email with a link for parents to ensure we have up-to-date information about your children. Please complete the online form(s) as soon as you can. These will include medical forms, collection forms, permission forms and home-school agreements. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in completing these promptly.

### **School Meals**

The price of school dinners has increased this year. A child's meal is - £2.20, so a week costs £11.00.

The cost of school meals for the first half term is - £74.80.

School meals must be paid for in advance, you may either pay weekly, monthly or for the whole half term. **Due to the current situation we must insist that payment is sent in a clearly labelled envelope, thank you.**

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils continue to receive universal free school meals so there is no need to pay.

### **Free School Meals**

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

### **What does Free School Meals (FSM) mean?**

While you remain entitled to receive FSM your child will receive a school meal for free. The funding also gives the pupils Pupil Premium funding. This is £1300 each year which is used by the school to support your child's learning, this can mean 1-to-1 or small group support for interventions, support to pay for school trips, help funding clubs (e.g. after school club).

### **What do I need to do?**

If you think you may be eligible to receive FSM please let Mrs Lovett, Mrs Murby or Mrs Watts have your full name, date of birth and national insurance number. They can then submit the information to Derbyshire County Council. Any applications will be dealt with in confidence.

## **Attendance**

Attendance continues to be important, particularly following the closure of schools last year. We will be closely monitoring attendance and supporting families where pupils have attendance below 90%.

Attending school regularly is key to your child doing well at school and will set them up with good routines for later life and the working world.

**95% Attendance** – This is the equivalent of having half a day off every other week.

**90% Attendance** – This is the equivalent of having half a day off every week.

**80% Attendance** – This is the equivalent of having a day off every week.

When children are unwell, they should not attend school. However, I would ask you to consider if they are too ill to attend school, or if they will perk up once they see their friends. Please remember and adhere to the 48-hour rule. Children must not be in school for 48 hours after their last incident of sickness or diarrhoea.

Any children displaying symptoms of Coronavirus should not attend school (a high temperature or a continuous cough or a loss of taste / smell).

As part of our policy on attendance, if your child's attendance falls below 90% we will inform you by letter.

## **Arrival at School**

Thank you everyone for understanding as we have adjusted our arrangements for both drop off and collection. Both schools have arrangements that are now working smoothly.

I appreciate that parents all have a time slot now for arrival at school. These slots have been organised so that all children should be in school by **8:55am**. The school day can then start at the normal time. As part of our work on attendance, we will continue to monitor prompt arrival at school. All children arriving by **8:55am** allows us to have a settled start to the day and ensures no learning is missed. Every year it is vital that we make the most of the learning time available to us, if possible it is even more important this year. Thank you in advance for supporting us with this.

## **Absence Procedures**

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please contact school by phone before 9.10am and inform us of the reason for their absence and when you expect them to return to school. Thank you.

## **Holidays**

### **"Family Holidays and Other Absences**

**Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013. State that Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence for holidays during the term time unless there are exceptional circumstances; in these cases it is the Head teacher who determines the number of days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.**

Parents needing leave of absence for **exceptional circumstances** should speak to the headteacher as soon as possible and, when possible, at least two weeks before the anticipated start date.

Parents who take their children on holiday without permission will incur an unauthorised absence for their child. These remain on the child's record and will be monitored for further action by the Education Welfare Service."

Derbyshire County Council may issue a fine to parents who take their children out of school for an unauthorised holiday; this can be one day or two weeks.

### **Medical Conditions**

Please inform school if your child has a medical condition and ensure the appropriate medication is in school (e.g. inhalers for asthma). If your child already has medication in school, please ensure it is in date. This information will also need recording on the medical form, which will be sent out over the coming weeks.

### **School Policy Documents**

Both school websites contain many of our policy documents for you to access. If you require a paper copy or cannot find the policy you are looking for please contact the school office.

### **Secondary School Open Evenings**

As we receive information from Secondary schools on how they plan to do this we will share it with our Year 6 parents. The current advice is not to hold Open Days in the normal way but to find alternative ways, e.g. video tours.

### **Term Dates – 2021 to 2022**

Please find attached to the email our term dates for the academic year 2021 to 2022. Please note that our dates for February half term are different to the Derbyshire dates, this is due to Shrovetide in Ashbourne.

Please note we have one remaining INSET day to confirm for this academic year.

### **Homework**

You will have received information about homework from your class teachers. We have adjusted our expectations for homework at Marston and in the Garden Class at Long Lane. This year class teachers will provide more formal homework to help the children catch-up on their learning. Please make sure you have the homework book at home so that it can be completed and handed in on time. **Any children not completing their homework on time will need to do this during break or lunch time.**

**Garden Class homework** – will be collected on a Friday and new homework sent home on a Monday.

**Meadow Class homework** – will be collected on a Friday and looked at together in the classroom. New homework will be sent home the same day.

### **Events in autumn 1 2020 (September and October)**

#### **Phonics Open Afternoon**

We had planned to invite parents into school to look at a phonics session and to hear how we teach phonics in our schools. As we are unable to do this Miss Harris and Mrs Sharpe are in the process of organising a Phonics Information session via Microsoft Teams. Please look out for more information in a couple of weeks.

#### **MacMillan Coffee Morning (25/09/20)**

As we are unable to invite families and members of our community into school for this we have decided to change how we raise money for this. **On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September children will be able to wear their own clothes to school in return for a donation to MacMillan.** Mrs Rhodes-Thomas and Mrs Charlesworth are making a cake for our pudding that day.

#### **Harvest (02/10/20)**

As we are unable to go to Church and invite our families to join us for this celebration we are altering our arrangements for this. **On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October the children will be able to wear their own clothes to school in return for donations for the Food Bank.** The assembly in school on this day will have a Harvest theme.

**Joint day**

Our first joint day is planned for Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Staff will still work together to plan the learning that will take place but the children will do this in their own schools. The theme for this day is Black History.

**Parents' Evening**

This year parents' evening will happen during the week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> October. This year, staff will contact parents by telephone instead of having a face to face meeting. Closer to the time you will receive a letter with further information about this asking which time slots you are available in. Please see below which days each class will be having parents' evening that week,-

**MMPS**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Meadow Class  
 Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Garden Class

**LLPS**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Garden Class  
 Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Meadow Class

**INSET Day (23/10/20)**

School will be closed today for children.

**Half Term Week (26/10/20 to 30/10/20)**

School will be closed this week for half term. Children will return to school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Unfortunately the following events are postponed for the foreseeable future, -

- Little Monkeys at Long Lane
- Celebration Assembly at both schools
- Marston Tots at Marston
- Community Lunch at Marston

**Mrs Bosley's Plan**

This is the plan for this half term. Please remember that if you would like to speak to me when I am at the other school, you can contact a member of staff to see if they are able to help or ask staff to contact me so that I can contact you.

w/b	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
07/09/20	LLPS / MMPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS / MMPS
14/09/20	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	Work at home
21/09/20	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS
28/09/20	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	Work at home
05/10/20	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	MMPS
12/10/20	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	Work at home
19/10/20	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	INSET

Kind regards

Teresa Bosley  
 Head Teacher



# Marston Montgomery Primary School

## **Welcome**

The staff and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new children and their families to our school. We are all looking forward to getting to know you.

## **Breakfast and After School Clubs (BC & ASC)**

Booking forms for BC and ASC were sent out before the summer holidays, if you require a new one please ask a member of staff. Please remember that places need to be booked a week in advance, so that we can ensure we have staff for each session. Thank you.

## **Marston Montgomery – Events in September and October**

### **Outdoor Learning**

We will be offering a session of outdoor learning each week. The Meadow Class will have their Outdoor learning sessions on a Friday afternoon during the Autumn 1 term. When the children are taking part in outdoor learning sessions they will need to bring suitable clothing, e.g. wellington boots, raincoats, gloves, hats etc. They will take part in outdoor learning whatever the weather so MUST be appropriately dressed! Please take clothing home after each session. After October half term, the Garden Class will have their outdoor learning sessions.

### **Session dates**

**September – 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>**

**October – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>**