



Marston Montgomery Primary School

November 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to school, the return after the autumn half term can only mean one thing; Christmas is on its way! This is always a busy, fun half term with lots of different activities.

Farm Visit

The whole school enjoyed a trip to Hollyhurst farm. Garden Class learnt the journey of milk from cow to shop. Meadow Class learnt about farming as a successful business and the many different roles a farmer has. Many thanks to our excellent farm guides, Mr and Mrs Chamberlain.

Harvest at Cubley (13.10.17)

Thank you to our families who came to our Harvest Celebration at Cubley Church. The Garden Class shared with us what they learnt about milk, while Meadow Class told us about the business of farming.

Non uniform 20.10.17

Many thanks to all who donated on 20th October, we raised £18 to add to our Forest School fund.

Grenfell Tower

We have been unable to find anywhere that we feel will provide a secure avenue for the money we raised to get to the people who need it. Therefore, we are planning to add the money raised for Grenfell Tower to the money we raise for Children in Need. If you would like to donate directly to Grenfell Tower yourself, please speak to us.

Information

Phonics Evening

Following requests for more guidance on how to support children at home with phonics Miss Harris will be holding an information evening on Thursday 30th November at 6pm. All parents and carers are welcome to attend, refreshments will be provided.

Money sent to School

For audit purposes, we must insist that any money sent into school is in a clearly named and labelled envelope so that it is easier for staff to process. We cannot accept money unless it is in an envelope.

Dinner Money

Please ensure dinner money is paid in advance, **in a named envelope**. Dinner money is £10 per week or £72 for this half term. Thank you in advance for your prompt payment.

Future Fundraising Events: Chocolate Bingo

Our next fundraising event is Chocolate Bingo on Wednesday 13th December. On this day, the children will be able to wear their own clothes in return for donating chocolate prizes for the bingo.

We need help with the event, please let us know if you are able to do any of the following tasks. We need – people to set up and clear away; money to be counted; a Bingo caller; bingo ticket sellers; someone to organise the raffle and sell raffle tickets.

Future Fundraising Events: Village Christmas

The village will be holding their annual Christmas event on Saturday 2nd December from 10am until 12pm. We have been asked to open the fair by singing on the Village Hall steps. Look out for the letter next week to let us know whether or not you will be joining us.

ASC – Early Closure Reminder

Due to whole staff and governor safeguarding training in Ashbourne, ASC will close promptly at 4.30pm on Tuesday 21st November. All staff will be leaving Marston at 4.30pm. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you but have given as much warning as we can. Thank you

School Improvement

Writing

One of the areas we are developing this year is writing. We have introduced the 'Big Writing' approach to do this and as part of this, the children have already taken part in three 'Big Writing' sessions where they write independently in a quiet, calm atmosphere. We will be using our INSET day on Friday 17th November to develop this further and introduce other aspects of the 'Big writing' approach. Watch this space for further developments.

Supporting Learning

Swimming and the Gym

Thank you to Mrs Pilkington who continues to support our children by voluntarily going swimming every week. We have now entered the time of year where we are also going to the gym on a weekly basis. I understand that people work and have other commitments but if you are able to help us by going for just one week that would be brilliant and would give Mrs Pilkington a well-earned break. We would not be able to do these activities without a volunteer.

Parent Help

Or Grandparent, Auntie, Uncle...

If you, or someone in your family, would like to volunteer in school to support the children's learning please let us know. Support in the classroom would also be welcomed, e.g. listening to children read, cooking, working in the classroom, gardening.

Safeguarding

Recently the law changed regarding car seats for children. The information below has been taken from the following website - <https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules>

"Children must [normally use a child car seat](#) until they're 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first. Children over 12 or more than 135cm tall [must wear a seat belt](#).

You can choose a child car seat based on your child's height or weight.

Height-based seats

Height-based seats are known as 'i-Size' seats. They must be rear-facing until your child is over 15 months old. Your child can use a forward-facing child car seat when they're over 15 months old.

You must check the seat to make sure it's suitable for the height of your child.

Only EU-approved height-based child car seats can be used in the UK. These have a label showing a capital 'E' in a circle and 'R129'.

Weight-based seats

The seat your child can use (and the way they must be restrained in it) depends on their weight.

Only EU-approved weight-based child car seats can be used in the UK. These have a label showing a capital 'E' in a circle and 'ECE R44'.

You may be able to choose from more than one type of seat in the group for your child's weight.

Child's weight	Group	Seats
0kg to 10kg	0	Lie-flat or 'lateral' baby carrier, rear-facing baby carrier, or rear-facing baby seat using a harness
0kg to 13kg	0+	Rear-facing baby carrier or rear-facing baby seat using a harness
9kg to 18kg	1	Rear- or forward-facing baby seat using a harness or safety shield

15kg to 25kg	2	Rear- or forward-facing child car seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion) using a seat belt, harness or safety shield
22kg to 36kg	3	Rear- or forward-facing child car seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion) using a seat belt, harness or safety shield

Manufacturers can now only make booster cushions approved as group 3. This won't affect any existing booster cushions in group 2 and you'll still be able to use them."

Kind regards
Teresa Bosley
Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary

<u>November</u>	
10.11.17	Celebration Assembly with parents (9am) Marston Tots (9:15am to 12:15am)
13.11.17	Anti-Bullying Week
15.11.17	Forest Schools (YR/1/2)
16.11.17	Children in Need – wear your own clothes for a donation
17.11.17	INSET – School closed to children
22.11.17	Forest Schools (Y5/6)
24.11.17	Celebrate our work with parents (9am) Marston Tots (9:15am to 12:15am)
29.11.17	Community Lunch (12pm) Forest Schools (Y3/4)
30.11.17	Phonics Meeting for Parents (6pm)
<u>December</u>	
01.12.17	Celebration Assembly with parents (9am) Marston Tots (9:15am to 12:15am)
06.12.17	Garden Class Nativity (2pm and 6pm)
08.12.17	Celebration Assembly with parents (9am) Marston Tots (9:15am to 12:15am)
13.12.17	Forest Schools (YR/1/2) Christmas Bingo (3:30pm)
15.12.17	Celebration Assembly with parents (9am) Marston Tots (9:15am to 12:15am)
18.12.17	Christmas Lunch and Party
19.12.17	Christingle (2pm) School closes for Christmas Holiday

Spring Term 2018

<u>January</u>	
02.01.18	INSET Day – School Closed to children
03.01.18	School reopens for children at 8:55am