

# Welcome to our December 2017 Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

The tree lights are sparkling, the tinsel is twinkling and I think I just heard Santa's sleigh bells in the distance... It must be December and Christmas must be on its way! This is always a busy time, both at home and at school, so please read the newsletter carefully and note down any important dates.

## THANK YOU



The children, staff and governors at MMPS would like to say a massive thank you to those who either organised or attended the 'End of Summer Ball'. We are delighted with our cheque and have already purchased this equipment to use when we are involved in Forest Schools. We are currently busy planning how to spend the rest of the money so watch this space!

## Information

### **Arrival at school**

Due to our new way of working it is vital that our children arrive at school promptly, by 8.55am, at the latest. Children who are later than this miss important learning in either phonic or grammar lessons. Children who arrive after 9.10am will be marked as 'late before register closes'. Children who arrive after 9.10am will be marked as 'late after register closes'. Please support your child(ren)'s learning by ensuring they are at school in time for the start of our school day. Thank you.

### **Morning Supervision**

The school gates open at 8.45am every day for the children to arrive in the playground and have some social time with each other before the start of the day. This is also a time for parents / carers to ask staff questions or have a chat. During this time, staff are supervising the children and are watching the gates. If you do stay in the playground please also watch your child(ren) to ensure they behave appropriately, if you see children who are not your own not following our expectations please tell a member of staff. Due to the increased number of adults in the playground, it is difficult for staff to supervise the children as they would do at break / lunchtimes. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Our Neighbours**

When you are collecting or dropping off your children, please be considerate to our neighbours and think about the safety of our children. If you need to turn around the Village Hall car park the safest place to do this. Thank you.

### **Forest Schools**

If you have, any large logs or sticks that you no longer need please can you donate them for Mr Moon to use during Forest School. If you have a real Christmas Tree please can you also donate this to school for Mr Moon to use. Thank you

## Events During November

**Parents' Evening (02.11.17)**

We have shared the progress and achievements of all our children with their parents / carers, either at parents' evening or on a different, more suitable, day. Please remember that if you have any questions or concerns we are all available to talk to you and answer your questions.

#### **Hand-washing (14.11.17)**

This year we are taking part in a Healthy School Communities Project. As part of this, Fiona, part of the School Health Team, joined the Garden Class for the afternoon with her infrared light to show us how well we need to wash our hands to do it properly! Then we used glitter to show how easily germs spread when we shake hands!

#### **School Council (15.11.17)**

This term members of the school community prepared speeches to show others why they were suitable candidates to become school council members. We then voted and elected our new school council. We have already held our first meeting and the children came with some good suggestions for improving our school community. In the future, the school council will contribute to the newsletter to share their work with you.

#### **Children in Need (16.11.17)**

The children wore their own clothes, donated toys and books for our stall and then bought toys or books to take home, (some of us even bought things we had donated!) We raised a phenomenal £72 for Children in Need, in addition to this the penny trail raised another £18.70! Well done to everyone.



#### **Miss Harris' Graduation (24.11.17)**

Congratulations to Miss Harris who attended her Graduation Ceremony this month. You must have worked very hard to achieve a First Class Honours Degree. Well done!

#### **Community Lunch (29.11.17)**

Record numbers of the community joined us for our Christmas Community Lunch. They enjoyed a traditional Christmas Dinner with all the usual trimmings, including crackers!!

#### **Phonics Meeting (30.11.17)**

Thank you to those parents who joined us for this informative evening led by Miss Harris. If you have any questions about how to support your child's learning in phonics, or other areas across the curriculum, please come and ask us. We are happy to help!

### **Events to look forward to this month**

**Village Christmas Fair (02.12.17)** – Please refer to the letter sent out during November. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

**Baking (04.12.17)** – On this day, all the children will be making biscuits. Please send in an apron if you have one for your child to wear and a container for them to bring their biscuits home in. Thank you.

**Tag Rugby at QEGS (04.12.17)** – The children who are attending this event have received letters.

**Infant Nativity (06.12.17 – 2pm & 6 pm)** – Families and friends of the school are welcome to join us at the Church for our Garden Class Nativity. This event definitely marks the arrival of Christmas festivities! Raffle tickets will be on sale, donations of prizes warmly welcomed by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**Homework meeting (07.12.17 – 6pm)** – Please join us however you feel about homework (too much / too little / just right) so that we can try to come to a manageable solution which suits everybody.

**Sports Plus Festival (11.12.17 – 4pm)** - The children who are attending this event have received letters.

**Christmas Bingo (13.12.17 – 3.30pm)** – On this day, the children can wear their own clothes in return for donations of chocolate prizes for Bingo. Please come and join us at this fun, family event. If you are able to help run the event please let a member of staff know.

**Christmas Lunch and Party (18.12.17)** - Another non-uniform day, but this time with no cost. We look forward to a fun day, if we are lucky Father Christmas might pop in too!

**Christingle (19.12.17 – 2pm)** – Join us for our annual Christingle celebration. The children will be able to go home after this event.

## **Safeguarding**

### **Safeguarding Training (21.11.17)**

All staff and most governors attended their annual safeguarding briefing on 21<sup>st</sup> November at Ashbourne Primary. This was an informative two-hour session and refreshed our knowledge and understanding of safeguarding.



### **Using Parental Controls for the Internet**

The information below is an extract from the 'Think You Know' website. If you would like more information, or to read the full article, please follow this link - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Parental-controls/>

#### **“What do parental controls do?”**

These controls are designed to help parents and carers manage their child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so they don't replace the need for adults to support and advise children using the internet.

For detailed guidance on all the different types of control, you can use this [online tool from Internet Matters](#). This gives you the chance to set up a personalised list of the controls used in your home on all your different devices. There is also advice on how to use all the various controls, with videos and step-by-step instructions.

#### **What can controls be used for?**

Controls can either be for a device like a games console, or for a network such as your home broadband. The way to access device controls can vary according to the manufacturer. They can offer varying types of protection, from filtering out adult content from search results to preventing your child from buying things when playing games. You can generally find instructions on how to set these controls up on the manufacturer's website or use the Internet Matters app for help. These settings will apply whether the device is being used in your home or outside – but it's easy for them to be switched off, so talk to your child about trust and responsibility, making sure they understand the importance of why you have put the settings in place.

Most games consoles come with settings, which can be put in place for either the device itself or the games platform. It's easy to forget that games consoles allow players to connect to the internet and talk to people all over the world so setting controls on devices and the platform itself (such as X Box) is important.

Broadband and network filters generally come free with your service. These can be used to prevent material coming into your home. For example, you could restrict anything with a horror or sexual content being accessible via your home broadband. Instructions for accessing these filters can be found on the service providers' websites – look at the bottom of the page to find the “help” or “security” page.

#### **What next?**

Controls are not a single solution to staying safe online; talking to your children and encouraging responsible behaviour is critical. However, controls are a vital first step to helping to protect your child online, and here seven simple things you can do to use them effectively:

1. Set up home broadband parental controls and make use of controls on your home broadband.
2. Set controls on your search engine; encourage your child to always use child-friendly search engines, and activate and lock the safe search settings on the browsers and platforms they use.
3. Make sure every device is protected. Controls should be installed on every device your child uses, such as their mobile phone, tablet and games consoles (both home and handheld).
4. Use privacy settings. Activate the safety measures offered by different sites; social networking sites like Facebook have privacy settings that will help prevent your child seeing unsuitable advertising or sharing too much with other people.
5. Block pop-ups. If you're worried about your children accessing inappropriate content through accidentally clicking on adverts in pop-ups, follow the advice from BBC Webwise on how to stop these.
6. Find good sites and agree on them as a family. By talking to your child about their interests you can help them find suitable sites to visit and apps to use. Review these sites as they get older.
7. Manage their use and access. Children may be very worried that your response to a problem will be to take away their internet access. Whilst this may be an appropriate response in some cases, the threat

may be a barrier for a child who needs help. Be aware of this when talking to them about their internet use, and reassure them that they can talk to you or a trusted adult whenever they need to.

### **School Improvement**

#### **Writing**

Our INSET day on 17<sup>th</sup> November was about 'Big Write'. This is a strategy that we are introducing this year to help us improve writing across the school. 'Big Write' uses VCOP to give the children the tools they need to improve their writing.

Vocabulary – this encourages the children to use 'WOW' words in their writing.

Conjunctions – this encourages the children to use conjunctions to write complex sentences.

Openers – this encourages the children to use a variety of openers in their writing.

Punctuation – this encourages the children to use increasingly difficult punctuation in their writing.

We will have a 'Big Write' session every two weeks. The first part of this will be a fast-paced VCOP session to remind the children of those elements. They will then have a period of time in which they will be able to write an extended piece. After break, the children will have the opportunity to edit their writing. When staff mark a 'Big Writing' piece they pick out strengths in the piece and then give the children a target to work on for next time.

#### **Growth Mindset**

We are continuing to use the growth mindset vocabulary in school with the children (yet, persistence, trial & improvement, challenge, good mistakes). Recently they have thought about the vocabulary that we have chosen to use in school and put them in order of importance for themselves.

#### **Spelling**

We are continuing to reinforce the importance of taking care when spelling words. The children are encouraged to use dictionaries and words mats to support them when they are working. The Meadow Class regularly take part in 'Spelling Bee' to improve their spellings – you could ask them how this works.

#### **January Arrangements**

We are currently confirming arrangements for January and will let you know as soon as we have finalised them. Please do not hesitate to come and talk to us if you have any questions about our new venture. The children are very enthusiastic about it and cannot wait to meet our new extended family.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a successful New Year

Teresa Bosley  
Head Teacher

## Dates for your Diary

<b><u>December</u></b>	
01.12.17	Celebration Assembly with parents (9am)
	Marston Tots (9:15am to 12:15am)
06.12.17	Garden Class Nativity (2pm and 6pm)
07.12.17	Homework Discussion with parents (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**

<b><u>January</u></b>	
02.01.18	INSET Day – School Closed to children
03.01.18	School reopens for children at 8:55am
05.01.18	Celebration Assembly with parents (9am)
	Marston Tots (9:15am to 12:15am)
12.01.18	Celebration Assembly with parents (9am)
	Marston Tots (9:15am to 12:15am)
15.01.18	Basketball at QEGS (Y5/6, 12:30pm – 3:30pm)
19.01.18	Celebration Assembly with parents (9am)
	Marston Tots (9:15am to 12:15am)
26.01.18	Celebrate our work with parents (9am)
	Marston Tots (9:15am to 12:15am)
31.01.18	Community Lunch (12pm)
<b><u>February</u></b>	
02.02.18	Celebration Assembly with parents (9am)
	Marston Tots (9:15am to 12:15am)
06.02.18	Safer Internet Day
09.02.18	Non-Uniform Day – please send a donation
	Celebration Assembly with parents (9am)
	Marston Tots (9:15am to 12:15am)
	School closes at 3:30pm for half term
<b>12 - 16.02.18</b>	<b>Half Term</b>