



## Newsletter – September 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to school. It is wonderful to see the children looking so smart in their school uniforms and ready for the challenges a new school year brings. 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.

### Dates for this academic year

Please look out this week for the new school calendars which will be sent out to all families (either by email or in paper form). This document will be available on both school websites and the information is included on the online calendar on each website. The calendar includes dates for school holidays and INSET days.

### Updating Forms

Over the next few weeks, we will also be sending out forms for parents to ensure we have up-to-date information about your children. Please return these to school 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 remains the same this year. A child's meal is - £2.10, so a week costs £10.50. The price of an adult meal is £2.88.

The cost of school meals for the first half term is - £79.80.

School meals must be paid for in advance, you may either pay weekly, monthly or for the whole half term. **Money must be sent in a clearly labelled envelope, thank you.**

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils are still receiving 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 is on our school improvement plan this 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.

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

### **Arrival at School**

As part of our work on attendance, we will also be monitoring prompt arrival at school. The gates open at 8:45am and the children line up to go into school at 8:55am. All children should be on the playground by 8:55am so that they are able to line up with their peers. This allows us to have a settled start to the day. As soon as the children enter school they start to learn so it is vital that they are there for 8:55am. This year we will have spot days where stickers / Dojos are rewarded to those children who have arrived at school on time.

### **Absence Procedures**

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please contact school by phone by 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 this week.

### **Governors**

The Acorn Federation held their last governors meeting of the academic year on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019. At this meeting, we said goodbye to Mrs Beloe who has been our staff governor and to William Gagie who was a co-opted governor. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their hard work over the years in supporting the schools.

We also welcomed some new governors. Rachel Yemm is our new parent governor for Long Lane and Matt O'Shaughnessy is our new parent governor for Marston Montgomery. Jonathan Calow is a new Foundation governor. The governors and I are looking forward to working with our new governors as we continue to move the federation forwards.

### **Open Mornings**

This year we are introducing 'Open Mornings'. These will provide an opportunity for parents to come into school and observe / take part in different lessons so that you can experience the format of these. Each term these will have a different focus.

Term	Focus	Dates	Time
Autumn 1	Phonics / Grammar	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	9:10am to 9:40am
Autumn 2	English	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	9:10am to 10am
Spring 4	Maths	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	9:10am to 10am
Summer 6	Phonics / Grammar	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	9:10am to 9:40am

### **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.

### **Joint Event**

Our first joint event of the year will be on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Please look out for more information in the next week or two.

### **Secondary School Open Evenings**

The dates for Year 5 and Year 6 parents and children to visit local secondary schools as they make their choice for moving on are below, -

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Ashbourne – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 5pm to 7pm

John Port Spencer Academy, Etwall – 18<sup>th</sup> September, 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Ecclesbourne, Duffield – Please look at the school website for more information

### **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.

<b>w/b</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>02/09/19</b>	INSET	am – MMPS pm – LLPS	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS
<b>09/09/19</b>	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	MMPS	LLPS
<b>16/09/19</b>	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS
<b>23/09/19</b>	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS
<b>30/09/19</b>	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS
<b>07/10/19</b>	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS
<b>14/10/19</b>	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS
<b>21/10/19</b>	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	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.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Sharron Alexandra who will be teaching the Meadow Class and Mrs Jo Coppen who is joining us as a teaching assistant. We are looking forward to working with them as they join our team.

## **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.

## **Early Closure**

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October ASC will close at 4:30pm promptly to allow staff to attend safeguarding training at Ashbourne Primary. We apologise any inconvenience this may cause but are sure you will understand that this is vital training for staff.

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

### **Swimming**

The Meadow Class will swim on a Monday afternoon this term. The children will need to bring a swimming costume / trunks and towel. They may bring goggles if they wish.

The dates for swimming are –

**September** – 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>

**October** – 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

**November** – 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

**December** – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

We need volunteers to go with us, if you are able to help please speak to Mrs Alexandra or Mrs Lovett.

### **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** – 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

**October** – 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

### **Celebration Assembly**

All parents and carers are warmly invited to join us on a Friday morning (9:00am to 9:15am) for our celebration assembly where we will celebrate the children's work from the week.

Dates – 06/09/19, 13/09/19, 20/09/19, 04/10/19, and 11/10/19.

**Marston Tots**

Parents, carers, grandparents with pre-school children are welcome to join us for our Tots session on a Friday morning (9:15am – 11:15am).

Dates – 06/09/19, 13/09/19, 20/09/19, 04/10/19, and 11/10/19.

**Harvest Festival (27/09/19):** Please join us at 9:10am in church as we celebrate harvest. Donations of non-perishable food items will be warmly welcomed.

**Macmillan Coffee (27/09/19):** Following our harvest celebration we will return to school for our Macmillan Coffee event. Further details to follow.

**Village Events**

**Chinese Auction (19/10/19)** – Look out for more information in the village newsletter. The hall be open on the Friday so that you can drop off any donations.

**Quiz (15/11/19)** – More information will be available in the village newsletter nearer the time.

**Christmas Fair (07/12/19)** – We have once again been asked to open this event by singing carols.