



Marston Montgomery Primary School



September 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

The staff and I would like to welcome you all back to school. I hope you and your children all enjoyed a restful, fun packed holiday. In this newsletter we are looking forward to the year ahead and the exciting new things we will be doing, for example – the new class arrangements in the mornings and Forest Schools.

Over this week, we will be sending out the list of dates (which is also available on the school website) and permission forms for you to complete. Please return any forms as quickly as you can. Thank you.

Welcome

A huge welcome to James, Leland and Miss Harris who have now joined our school family. We look forward to getting to know you all.

Information

Dinner Money

Please ensure dinner money is paid in advance, **in a named envelope**. Dinner money is £10 per week or £68 for this half term. Thank you in advance for your prompt payment.

Attendance

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. As part of our policy on attendance, if your child's attendance falls below 95% we will inform you by letter.

Absence Procedures

If your child is too unwell to attend school please leave a message on the school phone (01889 590373) by 9.10am, giving the reason for their absence and when you expect them to return to school. Thank you.

Medical Conditions

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

E-mailing letters

This year we are going to e-mail letters instead of sending home paper copies. A letter will be sent home this week asking for the e-mail address you would prefer letters to be sent to. If you do not wish to receive letters via e-mail the slip still needs returning with the 'opt out' box selected. We are choosing to do this in order to save administration time and the cost of photocopying. A text will be sent whenever we e-mail a letter.

School Policy Documents

The school website contains 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.

Wrap Around Care

After School Club – Please return your completed forms for ASC as soon as possible, along with payment.

Breakfast Club – Remember to book into breakfast club the week before you need to use it.

If you need new forms please ask at the school office. Thank you.

ASC – Early Closure

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 are giving as much warning as we can. Thank you

School Improvement

Areas of the Improvement Plan

Every year we plan areas that as a school we want to develop further. This year we are focussing on

- Spelling and phonics to ensure more accurate spellings.
- Writing so that more pupils achieve the expected standard.
- Growth Mindset.
- The use of the four classes to further personalise learning for our children.

In each newsletter we will update you on the work we are doing to develop these four areas in school.

Growth Mindset

What is Growth Mindset I hear you cry!! Growth Mindset is the belief that you have the ability to learn more. If I try hard I will get smarter and achieve more. We have decided to work on this because for some children, work that they feel is too challenging often means they then give up. We want our children to push themselves and always try their best.

Fundraising – non uniform 20.10.17

Our first fundraising event will be a non-uniform day on Friday 20th October.

We will soon be sending a letter out with all the fundraising events we have planned for this year. If you are able to help with any of the events please complete the form and return it to school. Thank you for your support, fundraising would not be possible without it. We are still fundraising to develop our Forest School.

Supporting Learning

Classes

The staff are excited to be working with new, smaller groups during the mornings. The morning sessions will consist of a grammar / phonics lesson; English; CLIC (Big Maths); maths and guided reading. For each of these lessons the children will move to the class where their individual needs can be best met. The children will quickly learn which class they are in for each lesson and will be able to tell you at home.

Learning Leaflets

The information leaflets containing information on the children's learning this term (September to December) will be sent home next week. They will also be available on the school website.

Spellings

To ensure children are able to learn their spellings at home, even if they leave the list at school, the lists will be available on the school website. Select – 'Our Learning' and then 'Supporting Learning at Home'.

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. As always we will need help with swimming and the gym. Support in the classroom would also be welcomed, e.g. listening to children read, cooking, working in the classroom, gardening or maybe you have a talent you would like to share!

Our Reward System

We have introduced a new reward system this year. Now all the children have a 'Reward Chart' and they are rewarded with a score out of 10 at the end of every part of the day. Anyone who has scored 10s all day then receives a House Point for their House. The House with the most points at half term will receive a reward for an afternoon.

Celebrating Learning

As part of our new reward system we are going to have a celebration assembly on Friday mornings. During these assemblies we will celebrate the children's hard work and their behaviour. The last Friday of every month will be an opportunity for parents to look in their children's books and talk to them individually about the work they have been doing.

Forest Schools

You all received a letter last week introducing Forest Schools and giving you a list of equipment the children will need each week. If you have any branches that would be suitable for den making please speak to a member of staff.

Village Events

End of Summer Ball

Please visit the village website for more information. One third of the proceeds will be kindly donated to the school.

Congratulations and Good Luck!

We would like to congratulate our former pupils on their excellent GCSE and A Level results. Particular congratulations to Georgina Chamberlain who achieved 10 A/A* or 7/8/9 (new equivalent to A/A*) grades and Toby Hall who achieved 9 A/A*. Good Luck to our former pupils who are off to study at universities, including Newcastle and Sheffield. It's lovely to hear how well you are all doing. If you have anything you want to discuss or ask please approach a member of staff, we are all keen to support you.

Kind regards

Teresa Bosley
Head Teacher