



Marston Montgomery Primary School



October 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

The term is starting to fly by and we are already in October. We have had a busy start to the year; all the children have taken part in their first Forest School lesson. The children have adjusted to their new class groups for the morning sessions and we have held our first charity fundraising event of the year!

Welcome

This week we have welcomed Bryony and Fleur to our school family. We are looking forward to getting to know them and their family over the coming months.

Cross Country at QEGS

Congratulations to all the children who took part in this event. You ran well and represented the school brilliantly, well done!

Celebration Assembly

We have had two Celebration Assemblies so far. Thank you to the parents who have joined us to celebrate the hard work of the children.

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Many thanks to all those who supported our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon. We raised £200.05 for this worthy cause. The children worked hard to organise the event. Thanks also to Mrs Beloe for supporting them with this.

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.

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

Open Day

We have enclosed a flyer for our Open Day on Thursday 12th October (9am until 12am). Please pass it on to friends and family who might be interested. If you need more, please ask us.

Safeguarding Advice

Every month we will share useful information with you to help you keep your children safe at home. The information below has been taken from the NSPCC site and links are included should you need more information.

Leaving children at home alone

Deciding if your child is ready to be left home alone can be a tricky decision. There are lots of things to think about. Plus, there are no hard and fast ‘home alone’ rules or laws because every child is different. Whether you or your child are comfortable with the idea will often depend on how mature and adaptable your child is – and we all know how much this can vary from child to child.

Strange as it may seem, there’s no set age for leaving children home alone. The law simply says that you shouldn’t leave a child alone if they’ll be at risk. There’s such a wide variation in the rate that children mature that it would be almost impossible to come up with a “one size fits all” law. Instead, the choice is left to parents.

*There might not be a specific legal age to leave children alone but it's safe to say babies, toddlers and young children should **never** be left alone, even if it's just while you pop down the road. Even if they're sleeping peacefully when you leave they could well wake up and get very upset when you're not there to look after them. They would not be able to protect themselves in an emergency and may even try to leave the property to find you.*

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/leaving-child-home-alone>

Being aware of the risks outside the home

It's something every parent experiences. The day that their child starts asking if they can go out on their own or with friends. It's just a natural part of their growing independence and, like every part of growing up, it can be a challenging hurdle for a parent to overcome.

Just like deciding when a child's old enough to be [left at home on their own](#), there's no set age when you know it will be safe for them to go out without you. Obviously, toddlers and young children won't be able to stay safe without you watching over them, and even older children have different levels of maturity. So some 11 year olds will be quite capable of going to the park or the shops on their own but others might not be ready to do this safely.

As well as thinking about how mature your child is for their age, the decision about whether you're happy for them to go out alone will depend on where they're planning to go. For example, going to the playground round the corner is very different to catching a bus to the local shops.

It's a good idea to be aware of the risks that children out alone might face – just to check that you've considered ways to minimise them. Risks could include:

- *getting lost*
- *danger from traffic*
- *bullying from other children*
- *stranger danger*
- *grooming*
- *running into gangs*
- *exposure to alcohol or drugs*

It might seem like a scary list, but your guidance can help your child keep themselves safe

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/staying-safe-away-from-home/>

School Improvement

Growth Mindset

Over the next few weeks we will be introducing key words we will be using in school to support Growth Mindset. These words are – *challenge, good mistakes, yet, trial and improvement and persistence*. We will use these words to help the children understand what growth mindset is and to help them develop a growth mindset.

Fundraising – non uniform 20.10.17

Our first fundraising event for school 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.

Policy Documents

Policy Documents are available on the school website. Currently we are reviewing the 'Sex and Relationship Policy,' this is available on the website under 'Key Documents' please read this and share any comments with us by 20th October. If you would like a paper copy, please ask at the office. Thank you.

Governor's Corner

It is hard to believe its October already and we are thinking about the half term holiday. This term is quite different as Mrs Bosley has made some significant and very positive changes to how the school runs and the additional facilities provided.

The new class structure expands on the Precision Teaching used over the last school year. This tailors learning for those that need additional support and those that are above their expected progress for their age. This is a great and bold step as it changes lesson structure and intensity for teachers and pupils alike. We have great expectations for this change and its positive outcomes.

You will also hear about Mindset probably for the first time at the school. I am a business and people leader in a successful healthcare company and I spend a great deal of time developing adults to be the best they can be, by developing their skills and talents. It is transformational to introduce this at the school, as having a positive, confident mindset is a life skill that will give children the self-belief to achieve their aims. This starts with all of us, looking at how we behave and treat others. How we encourage children and support them in their learning has a big impact on the adult they will become and what they will achieve. I look forward to hearing and seeing how this develops throughout the year.

'Wrap Around Care' is something I hadn't heard used in education but we now have it in Marston Montgomery Primary School. It means we have breakfast and after school clubs either side of the traditional school day fully supported by the team. At some point in time, I am sure this will be needed by every family, some routinely due to work commitments and others due to occasional circumstance.

There are lots of great things going on in our village primary school and we are lucky to have such a proactive team creating the best possible outcomes for the children who go there.

Sheldon Davies

Supporting Learning

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.

Kind regards

Teresa Bosley
Head Teacher