

Marlborough St Mary's

News 2 - October 2017



After what has felt like a whirlwind start at Marlborough St Mary's we have come to the end of the first term in our new school building. We love our new school but, as with any new project, there has been a lot to do. I would personally like to thank all the staff, parents and governors who have worked tirelessly to make the move to the new building so successful. With our dedicated, talented staff and wonderful children, Marlborough St Mary's has the potential to be a real centre of educational excellence. Hopefully, with your help, we can realise the dream!



HOUSE NEWS

Congratulations to Dragon House, who are the winners of the house competition this term. As a reward Wednesday 18th October is a non-school uniform day for all children from Dragon house.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Parents are welcome to join us for this year's Harvest Festival, which will be held at St Mary's Church at 9.30 on Tuesday 17th October. All the children will be at the celebration and be part of the singing but years one, three and six will lead the service.

Donations of food for the Devizes Foodbank can be brought into school on Tuesday.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

At the end of September we celebrated the beginning of the Marlborough Literature Festival with a Wild Things Day. The day started off with a parade. All 370 children in the school, dressed as wild things, prowled around the playground and joining in with an impromptu dance, led by Mrs Gisbourne and Miss Knowles.

Year 4, led by Mrs Haines, welcomed children from local schools and just before 11 O'clock they left for the town centre to perform a flash mob on the High Street.

In the afternoon the older children paired up with the younger classes to work together and share their learning.



END OF TERM

A reminder that the last day of term is Wednesday 18th October and children are back to school on Tuesday 31st October.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

Thank you to all our teachers and teaching assistants who have given up their time to volunteer to run after school clubs this term. We know how much parents and children value our extra curricular clubs and are very grateful.

In order to keep the school site secure, the gate at the Van Diemens end of the school will be closed at 3.30pm

Please come to the main school entrance to collect your children after extra curricular activities.

NEOLITHIC ARROWHEAD

Click the link below to read a Marlborough Newsonline article about an arrowhead which was found on the site of the old playing fields at the school.



<http://www.marlboroughnewsonline.co.uk/schools/6899-prehistoric-marlborough-primary-school-pupils-will-be-playing-where-once-neolithic-men-and-women-lived>

JASON BERESFORD

Children from years 4, 5 and 6 went to the Town Hall in September to listen to the author Jason Beresford talking about reading, writing, and being an author. The children were engrossed and hopefully inspired to become even better reader and writers than they already are!

DIARY DATES

- Tuesday 17th October - Harvest Festival 9.30am at St Mary's Church
- 18th October - Term 1 Ends
- 30th October - TD Day - school closed to pupils
- 3rd October - Start of Term 2
- 24th November - Flu Immunisation for Years Reception, 1, 2, 3 & 4
- 7th - 10th November - Book Fair
- 17th November - Children In Need
- 8th December - Christmas Fayre 4-7pm
- Friday 15th December - Carol Service 9.30am at St Mary's Church
- Monday 18th December - KS1 Nativity Play 2pm in the School Hall
- 20th December - Term 2 Ends (1.15pm)
- 4th January - Start of Term 3

FRIENDS OF MARLBOROUGH ST MARY'S

After many years of supporting the school, Catriona Taylor stood down from her post at the AGM. Catriona has been chair of the Friends of St Mary's, St Peter's and joint chair of Marlborough St Mary's. A huge thank you from us all for the support she has given to the school.

Alice Macdonald will chair the new Committee, with Jennifer Horton as Vice Chair, Saffron Gannon as Treasurer and Gemma Blundy as Secretary.

Christmas Fayre - Friday 8th December 4pm-7pm

Book Fair

We will be holding a Book Fair after half term. Books will be on sale from 3.15pm-4pm on Tuesday 7th November - Friday 10th November and on Monday 14th November

SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council elections were held earlier in the term. Interested parties from each class in KS1 and KS2 prepared a presentation to persuade their peers that they would make a good class representative on the School Council. Votes were counted and the following children were elected:

Year 6 Kingfisher - Neri Nahmias, Heron - Oscar Hiscock

Year 5 Water Vole - Will Mundy, Otter - Humza Gul

Year 4 Teal - Will Palmer, Mallard - Freddie Wyatt

Year 3 Swallowtail - Naomi Holford-Wright, Dragonfly - Eden Sanders

Year 2 Badger - Genevieve Hall, Fox - Phoebe Gannon

Year 1 Squirrel - Poppy Deane, Hedgehog - Georgia Riches

Oak Alfie Stacey

FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all our friends and supporters who have donated money to help to make the new school such a fantastic place to learn. We are still fundraising for various projects e.g. large play equipment, developing the garden and furniture for some classes. The Just Giving page on the school website has been re-opened if anyone would still like to donate.

A big thank you to Carrie Watson who has been painting our beautiful donor tree in the entrance hall. We are buying metallic leaves to go on the tree, which will be engraved with the names of sponsors who have donated £100 or more and people who have supported the school with their time in more practical ways. If you have donated over £100 anonymously on the Just Giving website but would like a leaf on the tree please let us know.

PARKING AT THE NEW SCHOOL

As I am sure you are all aware issues around car parking at the school have been causing serious concern for the safety of the children.

I am delighted to say that since the problems were realised many more parents have started using the parking permits to park in the car park opposite the crossing on George Lane. However we still have a problem with some parents parking illegally on the double yellow lines, double parking and blocking the driveways of local residents.

We have decided that in order to monitor the situation, after half term volunteers will take down the registration numbers of cars illegally parked to see if this is a widespread problem or is restricted to a few individuals.

We do hope you will support this initiative which is designed to keep all your children safe.

SPORTS

Sports Clubs are well established this term and we are planning to enter teams in the:

- Mixed Football tournament - Monday 6th November, Avon Valley College
- Girls Football tournament - Thursday 9th November, Avon Valley College
- Netball tournament - Friday 23rd November, Marlborough College

We would also like to thank Marlborough Rugby Club for the Tag Rugby coaching that has taken place this term. The children have absolutely loved it!

PENCELLI

This year's residential trip to Pencelli for Year 6



pupils was a great success and the children were a credit to Marlborough St Mary's.

All the children had a wonderful, if challenging, time. Whether climbing, canoeing, caving or walking through a pitch black tunnel, all the children showed resilience, perseverance and courage.

Well done to all and thank you to Mr Ferris, who organised the trip and all the staff who supported.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Kristian Smith has tendered his resignation as Parent Governor due to moving away from Marlborough. A letter will be sent to all parents in early November.

There are no specific requirements for being a parent governor however to complement the existing skill set the Governing Body is looking for additional support with

- budgets
- communication plans
- putting together funding requests

Training and support would be available.

New Governors are supported by the Chair and Head as well as a professional Clerk. Governors can also attend various courses run by Wiltshire Council Governor Services. This enables new Governors to understand their role and responsibilities and become an effective governor.

CONTACT DETAILS/FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES

Please remember to inform the school of any change in family circumstances.

It is also very important to let the office know if you change your address, telephone number or email address. Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY

We already have numerous items of lost property. To make it easier for items to be returned to their owners, please make sure that all of your child's school uniform is named.

JEANS FOR GENES

Thank you to everyone for supporting Jeans for Genes Day.



We raised the amazing sum of £480.

HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

This term Headteacher's Awards have been awarded to :

KS1

Josh Fern, Morgan Haines, Hamish Campbell , Bradley Holloway and Alexander Kornak

KS2

Meenashi Thethron Seenaj, Ava Waters, Christina Vunipola, Bertie Bate and Damian Cleverley

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

Each week an award is given by

Mrs Holford-Wright for excellent work. This term's winners are:

Oscar Manning, Cecilia Flach, Jack Baker and Rachel Darby

Congratulations — we are very proud of you all.

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN

Please can you make sure that children are supervised when waiting at drop off and collection times.

Children should not be playing with the entry doors or with the equipment outside YR and Y1 classrooms.

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones are not permitted in school. If your child brings a phone to school it must be handed in to the school office and collected at the end of the day.

MUSIC

Music lessons are available in school for guitar, drums, piano, woodwind, ukulele, accordion and brass instruments.

Please talk to the office if you are interested in registering your child for lessons.