

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Marcham CE Primary School
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17th October 2025

"Living and learning with Faith, Community and Hope."

Our value this term is Friendship

"Two people are better than one. They get more done by working together. If one person falls, the other can help him."
Ecclesiastes 4 v 9-10

Dear all,

What a busy half term we are having - lots of learning in classrooms as well as enrichment activities across the school. In the past two weeks alone, we have had House meetings, a Rugby day, Meerkats visiting Chedworth Roman Villa, participation in the Abingdon Partnership Cross Country competition and Y5/6 visiting the church. All of these activities support and enhance the learning of our pupils by offering new and additional experiences.

Our House Captains lead House meetings on Monday 6th October, sharing information about themselves, opportunities in their house groups and our current school value. They all showed our learning behaviours by planning, preparing and delivering presentations to their house groups.

Rugby Day was a huge success with all children participating in activities and games run by Grove Rugby Club. Everyone from Reception to Year 6 got stuck in (sometimes literally!) during the taster day practising passing, dodging and scoring tries with the help of the coaches. It was a busy day and everyone had great fun, learned some new skills as well as the importance of teamwork.

Meerkats have learnt more about the Romans through a visit to Chedworth Roman Villa, finding out about how the Romans lived, bathed and dressed. They even discovered some of their toilet habits! The children demonstrated our learning behaviours (particularly Cory the Curious Crocodile) by showing great interest and asking intriguing questions. We were very grateful to the PTFA who supported this trip by covering the cost of the workshop for these pupils – Thank you.

Wolves and Giraffes spent an afternoon at the church finding out more information about Saints (linked to our RE learning). We looked at some of the artwork on display and found out that All Saints Church was originally called St. Mary's and All Saints Church. Thank you to Nick for sharing his knowledge with us.

15 pupils from Wolves and Giraffes went to the Abingdon Cross Country Competition this week too. They all completed the course which wound around Tilsley Park. Amazing effort and resilience from all our participants. Well done and thanks to Miss Knowles for organising.

What exciting and interesting learning experiences our pupils are having – do keep up to date looking at the website class pages to find out more about learning in your child's class.

Following on from our amazing learning, pupils achieving certificates are:

“Living the Vision” certificates were awarded to:

Friday 10th October: Hugo B, Luisa, Darcie, Ianis, Saral and Poppy

Friday 17th October: James B, Spencer, Sylvia, Efa, Chloe, Ally, Alfie S, Miles

“Reach for Learning” certificates were awarded to:

Friday 10th October: Roman B, Theo, Hadley, Jesse, Huey and Miles

Friday 17th October: Finley L, Toby, Tom, Layla, Wurry, Aleks



As you may be aware this weekend is '*Marcham Uncovered*' - a weekend of activities celebrating 30 years of the Marcham Society discovering the archaeology, geology and history of village life. This will take place in the Marcham Centre and will include the Roman Temple built by last year's Year 6 pupils. There will also be dressing up as a Roman available, as well as colouring and puzzles - activities to engage even the youngest of visitors.

This event takes place **on Saturday (18th): 1.30 - 6pm** and **Sunday (19th): 10am - 5pm**. In addition to the exhibition, there will also be a craft and gift fair on Sunday.

Governor News:

It's time for our annual parent survey. Your feedback helps us understand what's going well and where we can improve—across teaching and learning, communication, wellbeing, culture, wraparound care, and more.

Please [click here to complete the survey](#) by **5pm on Friday 7 November 2025**.

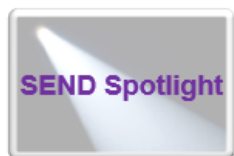
- It only takes about **2-3 minutes**, and you only need to complete it once as a family response.
- Responses are **anonymous** and will be reviewed by the senior leadership team and governors.
- We'll share a **summary of results and actions** with families ahead of the Parents' Evening in March.

Thank you for taking the time to give your feedback.

Finally, next week is our first open morning of the year. We welcome parents to enter the classrooms with their children from 8.35am to see the classroom environment and the learning that has taken place this term. Classes will be open from 8.35 – 9.05am.

With best wishes

L Piddle



Tips for an Autism Friendly Halloween

<https://www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/news/tips-for-an-autism-friendly-halloween>

Learning of the Week

Pandas:

This week, we have been exploring the season of autumn. The children looked carefully at the autumn items they brought in and talked about the different patterns, colours and shapes they could see. We've also been using our autumn items to develop our fine motor skills. The children enjoyed cutting leaves to make leaf confetti, hammering golf tees into pumpkins and painting trees with half-cut cotton buds.

Leopards:

During Maths Leopards have been comparing numbers and learning the language that goes with this when talking about numbers. We have built towers and used counters to help us understand the terms: more than/greater than, less than/fewer than, the same as/equal to. We have also been practising to read numbers as words and match these to the correct digits. Each lesson we warm up our maths brain by counting forwards and backwards and we are getting working hard to count on from any starting point.

Tigers:

This week, Tigers have been learning more about rainforest animals. They learnt about food chains in science and which animals are at the top of the food chain and why. In art, we created a rainforest collage picture inspired by the painting 'tiger in a tropical storm'.

Kangaroos

In Year 3, we have been focusing on column addition with exchanges in Maths, writing for persuasion and advice in English, learning how to play Around the World in PE, violins, and how to use graded pencils in Art.

Marvellous Meerkat Mosaics!

In Meerkats, we have created wonderful mosaics . After researching mosaic art and practising different techniques, we planned out our own unique designs. Using ceramic tiles, wooden coasters, and our very own "*Meerkat mortar*" (a mix of PVA glue and grout) we made some beautiful art. The results are wonderful and we're so proud of our hard work and creativity.

Wolves:

In Writing, we have been writing about the rainforest. We have written stories which have a danger in them, either a fire, person or animal. In Maths, we have been looking at division and how to use long division! In Reading, we are looking at the book 'The Windrush Child' and we have looked at how characters have been treated in the past. In Geography, we have been looking at different rainforests in the World and climates. - Jenson

Giraffes:

In English, we have been writing a narrative and looking at different punctuation. In Reading we have been learning about a book called Windrush Child and it is about a boy who lives in Jamaica but moved because his dad lives in England. - Harriett

In reading we have been learning about this book called The Windrush Child. In English we have been writing about the rainforest and have recently written 7 paragraphs. In Maths we have been practicing our mental maths strategies. - Lewy.

Starlight Photography

The last day for free delivery on school photo orders is 19th October 2025. You can still place orders after that date but you will have to pay additional delivery costs.

Octopus Energy offer to schools

Last week we told you that Octopus Energy are running a scheme whereby schools can earn up to £50 per person signing up to Octopus through their link.



Our organisation's unique link: <https://marchamprimaryschool.octopus.energy>

Octopus say - Welcome to People Power – our new programme that rewards your organization £50 every time someone new signs up to Octopus.
(And to sweeten the deal, we'll give the customer £50 energy credit when their first Direct Debit comes out!)

If you are thinking of changing your supplier to Octopus please think of us. We already know one parent who has taken up this deal. Thank you.

Diary Dates

Day	Date	Event	Time
Monday	20 th October	Drama4all workshop – Years R/1/2	9am – 10.30am
Thursday	23 rd October	Open Morning – all classes	8.35am – 9.05am
Friday	24 th October	INSET day – school closed to pupils	
Mon – Fri	27 th – 31 st October	Half Term	
Mon – Fri	3 rd – 7 th November	Residential – Year 6 – Kilvrough Manor	
Tuesday	4 th November	Lego Robotics – Years 3, 4 & 5	All day
Wednesday	12 th November	Reception Intake 2026 Open Morning	9.30 - 11.00am
Thursday	13 th November	Tennis Workshop – whole school	All day

Term 1 Sept 25 Wed 3 rd Sept to Thu 23 rd Oct INSET days 1 st & 2 nd Sept, 24 th Oct	Term 2 Mon 3 rd Nov to Fri 19 th Dec
Term 3 Tues 6 th Jan to Fri 13 th Feb 2026 INSET Day 5 th Jan	Term 4 Mon 23 rd Feb to Fri 27 th Mar 26
Term 5 Mon 13 th Apr to Fri 22 nd May INSET Days 4 th May	Term 6 Mon 1 st Jun to Fri 17 th Jul INSET Day 20 th July

Well done to Duffield house with the best attendance for the 2nd to 15th October 2025.

Anson 95.23%	Denman 94.34%
Duffield 96.90%	Morland 94.59%

Website - Keep updated with:

Leopards - Share their 'First Forest School'

Meerkats - Recent visit to the 'Chedworth Roman Villa' and the 'Marvellous Mosaics' they have been making in class.

Wolves and Giraffes - Lego Workshop visit their class, Introduction to Rugby Day.

School Sporting Events - Some children from year 5 and 6 recently represented the school in a cross country event.

Did you know you can [subscribe to the calendar](#) on our school website ? Subscribing will automatically pull through all school events to your personal calendar. You can choose to subscribe to all events or choose a specific category to subscribe to (e.g. Kangaroos Class). If you would like to subscribe to multiple categories, but not all events, you can do this by selecting the category and the calendar you use and pressing the 'Subscribe' button or copying the provided URL for each one.

Please note: although the calendar updates instantly, it may take up to 24 hours for new events to show in your personal calendar depending on which type of calendar you are using.

EXHIBITION



Saturday 18th October 1330-1800
Sunday 19th October 1000-1700

The Marcham Society celebrating 30 years

Come along to Marcham Centre and learn about...

where Marcham came from
archaeology, geology and rivers

local history
from the Domesday Book to present day

people, places, events
where you live, village life and more

natural history
wildlife, nature reserves and our own Astronomy group

the future
planned growth and the proposed reservoir

Take part in...

guided walks around the village*

astronomy viewing through telescopes*

worksheets/quizzes for all the family

*weather permitting

...with refreshments



Marcham Centre

EXHIBITION



Saturday 18th October 1330-1800
Sunday 19th October 1000-1700

The Marcham Society celebrating 30 years

 **On Sunday ONLY 1000-1700** 

Craft and Gift Fair In the Small Hall at Marcham Centre

Come and browse for unique gifts at the
same time as visiting [Marcham Uncovered](#).



Marcham Centre