

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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3rd 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,

It was great to be able to celebrate Harvest together this week. The children had worked really hard to share their thanksgiving with you and it was a delight to see. Each class produced part of our celebration, sharing artwork, songs and poetry. It was lovely also to have Pre-school join us and share their ideas about harvest. Thank you to Rev. Nick Weldon for his talk including our learning behaviour animals.



May I say an enormous thank you for the Harvest gifts you gave. At this time of economic uncertainty, when things are tighter for everyone, your generosity is appreciated, and I know that the Abingdon Foodbank and many families are grateful for our gifts.

Last week the school was fully involved in Music Flood, a joint venture with some Abingdon Schools and Radley College. From singing to musical instruments, artwork inspired by music and a rap written by Meerkats, it was a week to celebrate music. The children took part in workshops and saw a selection of musical instruments being played by pupils of Radley College. Reception and Key Stage 1 all participated in a singing workshop, learning new songs and developing their musical knowledge (pitch and dynamics). Key Stage 2 took part in a workshop from the ensemble group Doikayt, playing the accordion, clarinet and violin with Yiddish inspired songs.

Some quotes from the best bit of Music Flood:

Making musical instruments in Leopards. James (Y1)

Seeing all the instruments – especially the clarinet. Romy (Y6)

The singing workshop was the best bit – we learnt new songs. Fern (Y2)

The accordion – it played really loud. Michaela (Y5)



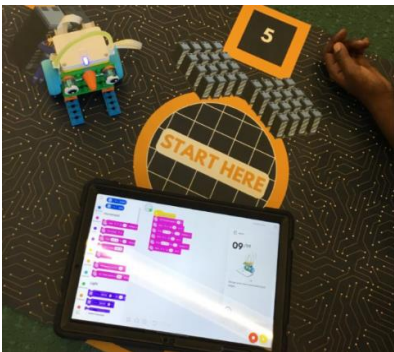
A big *thank you* to Vicky Hart and Emily Fullerton from **Oxford Pharmagenesis** who organised a donation of 5 refurbished laptops to be delivered to school for pupil use. We are hugely grateful to this addition to our resources meaning more children can have access to digital technology when required. In this time of budget restraints all donations are very welcome.

If you know of, or work for a company that change their laptops every 3 years and may refurbish and donate laptops please let us know.



“Living the Vision” certificates were awarded to:
Friday 26th September: Ally, Joe, Aurora, Annabelle, Daisie and Lucas M
Friday 3rd October: Nushka, Harriet F, Leonor, Bethany, Sam, Jenson, Sienna

“Reach for Learning” certificates were awarded to:
Friday 26th September: Heidi, Rowan, Thomas, Nancy, Arthur and Isla N
Friday 3rd October: Penelope, Ollie P, Alex R, Amelie, Mamadou, Harriet H



This week Meerkats, Wolves and Giraffes have all been involved in workshops involving computer coding. Wolves started by taking part in a world-wide competition for coding. Following this Giraffes used Lego to create a creature which they programmed from an iPad to visit several specific areas on a map. It was quite challenging to ensure the code directed the creature correctly. Meerkats also spent time coding a 'Happy Helper' robot which they had to build first.

Pupil voice groups:

Congratulations to our newly elected pupils for School Council, Eco Council and Worship Council. These groups will work to make our school even better – they will update you throughout the year with the work they are doing.

- **School Council** is Maddalena, Maisy G, Sienna, Maisie W, Annabelle, Florence, Poppy F, Ivo, Rosie, Arthur, Finn W and Milly.
- **Eco Council** is Chloe, Romy, Scarlett, Ollie, Fern and Harriet F.
- **Worship Council** is Ada, Willow, Sam, Leira, Sylvia C and Isla N.

School Website

If you were unable to attend your child's class meetings on 16th, 18th or 29th September (R) a PowerPoint from the meetings has been added to your child's class page.

[Pandas](#) [Leopards](#) [Tigers](#) [Kangaroos](#) [Meerkats](#) [Wolves](#) [Giraffes](#)

You will also see that [Meerkats](#) have shared some photographs from the Lego Robotics workshop they took part in this week.

Best Wishes, *Liddle*

Learning of the Week

Pandas:

The children have been amazing in their first full week of phonics! We have been recapping our new sounds: 's' as in sun and 'a' as in apple.

With our Harvest Festival this week, we thought about where bread comes from. The children enjoyed watching videos of combine harvesters cutting the wheat and collecting the grains and they were very excited to make their own bread!

Leopards:

This week Leopards have been learning a poem to share with our family and friends at Harvest Festival on Thursday. To accompany our poem, we have collaged and painted images as well as made bread rolls on Wednesday.

Tigers:

In Tigers, we have been learning about rainforests. We have been reading The Great Kapok Tree, and we have learnt about different animals that live in rainforests. In Science, we looked at different habitats and why animals live in different places. We learnt about how animals adapt to their environments.

Kangaroos:

Year 3 have started work on adding and subtracting numbers up to 1000, creating non-chronological reports on Marie Curie, learning about nutrition, and preparing our song for the Harvest Festival.

Meerkats:

This week, our class enjoyed a special Lego Robotics workshop. The children worked collaboratively to design, build, and program their very own 'Happy Helper' robot, developing problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork along the way.

We have also produced some high-quality pieces of writing work. We have explored the key features of a newspaper report.

Wolves:

This week we have been practicing for the Harvest festival. In Reading, we have almost finished the book "My Name is River". In Writing, we wrote to Greenpeace focusing on future generations and how we can protect our Rainforests. In Geography, we are learning about climates. - Emmy

Giraffes

In Giraffes this week we have been learning about harvest and where the food that we collect for the foodbank goes. We have also learnt about electricity and when you have two lightbulbs in the same circuit the brightness will be the same. We have also been learning how to do long multiplication. - Poppy

This week in Giraffes we have been learning about different circuits in science and adding more buzzers, lightbulbs and motors in a series circuit. We learnt that some items didn't work because the voltage in the circuits was too low. In our experiment we also noticed that the motors used a lot more power than the lightbulbs. - Mila

Octopus Energy offer to schools

An ex Governor has spotted that Octopus Energy are running a scheme whereby schools can earn up to £50 per person signing up to Octopus through their link. If you are thinking of changing your supplier to Octopus please think of us. Thank you.



You can find out more here https://octopus.energy/people-power/?utm_medium=app_home_default&utm_source=octoverse&utm_campaign=people_power_Awareness&utm_placement=Home_carousel_2

Diary Dates

Day	Date	Event	Time
Thursday	9 th October	Year 4 Trip – Chedworth Roman Villa	Leaving school:
Tuesday	14 th October	Year 5 & 6 Cross Country Event – information sent to those involved.	1.30 - 3.45pm
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 18th September to 1st October 2025.

Anson 95.07%	Denman 94.43%
Duffield 97.26%	Morland 94.53%