

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Marcham CE Primary School
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24th April 2026



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

Our value this term is Perseverance

"As for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good." Thessalonians 3 v 13

Dear all,

Welcome back to the Summer Term! The diary is already looking busy with assemblies, trips, SATs and maypole celebrations just this half term. Please do make sure you check the diary at the end of this newsletter to ensure you have all the dates.

We start the new term with new learning topics in all classes. Topics this term are:

Please do look at the class pages on the website for more information about topics and learning across the school.
<https://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages/>

Class	Topic
Pandas (Reception)	Inspiring People
Leopards (Year 1)	Castles
Tigers (Year 2)	Great Fire of London
Kangaroos (Year 3)	Ancient Egypt
Meerkats (Year 4)	Modern Europe
Giraffes and Wolves (Years 5 & 6)	Ancient Greece



As you are aware, we have transitioned to a new Management Information System (MIS) called **Arbor MIS**. We hope you are getting to grips with the new system especially for choosing lunches and receiving communications from school. This is now the only system we will be using the share all communications. Please do let the school office know if you are having any difficulties accessing anything.

Statutory assessments:

During the summer term there will be statutory assessments for children in Years 1, 4, and 6. These are national assessments which require all children in these years to complete. Dates for these assessments are:

Year 6: SATs – 11th – 15th May, **Year 4:** Multiplication Check – 1st – 12th June, **Year 1:** Phonics Screening Check – 8th – 12th June.

More information will be shared about these assessments in due course.

Staffing news:

We will be saying 'goodbye' to Mr Callard at the end of this academic year. He has worked in Year 3 and will be moving on to another post. We are currently recruiting for a new class teacher for September 2026 and will share more information soon.

Welcome board:

In the front entrance to our school is our welcome board, where we aim to celebrate the ethnicity (family roots – social and cultural characteristics, background and experiences) of everyone who is a part of our school community. We want to update it - a task long overdue - and need your assistance.

If you/your child has a heritage that is not English, (English is celebrated too!) do let us know. We would be delighted to have your child's ethnic heritage celebrated. We want everyone to feel as if they belong and matter, and we see the display as an example of our school vision and values. It also exemplifies our school story of Noah's Ark.

When you first arrive at Marcham School, we do ask if there is another language spoken at home, but there is not clarity on the admissions form about ethnic identity. So, please contact the school office with your child's name and their ethnic heritage and then they can be added to our board.



“Living the Vision” certificates were awarded to:

Friday 17th April: Tion, Oscar W, Jayjay, Daisie, Maryam, Julia, and Alfie W.

“Reach for Learning” certificates were awarded to:

Friday 17th April: Jacob G, Nola, Toby B, Nancy, Emily, Emmy and Zara.



Sporting Achievement:

Grayson (Year 4) spent an exciting weekend taking part in a club rugby tournament (Tigers Challenge). He thoroughly enjoyed the experience although in his words “It was good but very tiring!” His team did exceptionally well, winning all their games to get to the final. Well done Grayson.



Visual Timetables

Visual timetables can help children feel calmer and more in control by showing what's coming next. Using simple pictures or symbols for parts of the day (e.g., breakfast → school → homework → bedtime) supports understanding and reduces anxiety around transitions.

Keep it clear and consistent and refer to it regularly - especially before changes. You can use photos, drawings, or apps to create your own.

With best wishes,

Lindsay Priddle

Lindsay Priddle, Headteacher

Learning of the Week

Pandas:

In Pandas this week, we have continued our learning about superheroes, exploring the real “superpowers” we all have, such as kindness and perseverance. We have also explored the concept of real-life superheroes, discussing people who help us in the community, such as doctors, carers and refuse collectors. The children shared their ideas and experiences and then wrote about who they would like to be. In Maths, we have been learning about the numbers 14 to 20, focusing on how to represent and order them. We have been using language such as “10 and 4 more” and “10 and 8 more” to support the children’s understanding of number composition.

Leopards:

Leopards have made a fantastic start to the new term and are very much enjoying our new topic 'Castles'. In Maths we have been learning how to skip count in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have also been recognising and making equal groups. During English we have been using the story We're going on a Dragon Hunt - the children have been working on changing two of the settings for the boy to search.

Tigers:

This week, Tigers have been learning about diary entries and how to write in the past tense. They also found features in a diary entry and talked about why diaries can help us learn about Historic events. In Maths, they have been learning about fractions and dividing by 2, 3, and 4. In PE, they have been practicing the maypole dancing.

Kangaroos:

In Year 3 we have been immersing ourselves in the power of the reading *Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx*. We're gripped! In amongst that we have been using speech marks, adverbs and show-not-tell language. In Maths we are revisiting fractions, adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominators. We're exploring the Geography of Ancient Egypt, specifically the importance of the Nile.

Meerkats:

In Year 4 art, we have been exploring modern European artists. Our first focus has been Piet Mondrian. We studied the colours he used in his artwork *Composition with Red, Blue and Yellow* 1930 and then created our own paintings inspired by this style.



Wolves: This week in Wolves, we have been Writing our suspense pieces about a spooky setting. In reading, we have been reading our new book 'The unforgettable coat' which we read some reviews on it to try and infer what the book may be about. In Maths, we started looking at coordinates and how sometimes we can work out coordinates by measuring a shape. In Science, we have been looking at the life cycle and physical features of animals. In our new topic, we have been looking at Ancient Greece, finding it on a map and exploring the history.

Giraffes:

In Giraffes this week we have read *Journey* by Aaron Becker. This is a wordless picture book and the class had the opportunity to discuss what they think the character is doing and thinking. We discussed how the Author has used colour to change the atmosphere in the text and we have used this to inspire our own writing. In Maths, we have been looking at shape. We have learnt how to work out the sum of the internal angles in a variety of polygons. In History we have been learning about the similarities between the different states in Ancient Greece. Finally, we have also spent time rehearsing for our class assembly which is on Friday.

Diary Dates

Day	Date	Event	Timing
Friday	24 th April	Giraffes Sharing Assembly – Parents welcome	2.30pm
Friday	1 st May	PTFA School Disco	KS1 – 6 – 7pm KS2 – 7.15 – 8.15pm
Monday	4 th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed	
Wednesday	6 th May	Author Visit to school – KS2	afternoon
Friday	8 th May	Kangaroos Sharing Assembly – parents welcome	2.30pm
Mon –Thurs	11 th – 14 th May	Year 6 SATS week	
Tuesday	19 th May	Years 5 & 6 – British Museum Trip	All day
Wednesday	20 th May	Y5/6 Tennis Competition – more details to follow	12.30 – 3pm
Friday	22 nd May	Maypole Celebrations – parents welcome	9.15am
Mon – Fri	25 th – 29 th May	Half Term	
Friday	12 th June	Leopards Sharing Assembly	2.30pm
Friday	26 th June	Sports Day – parents welcome	9.15am

Website: Take a look at your child's class page on our school website, it has been updated with a new letter and curriculum web from their Teacher. Here you will find out all what your child will be learning this term.

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

There is also lots to see from our [DT Week](#), [School Sporting Events](#) and creative [Anderson Shelters](#) from Wolves class.

Attendance

Well done to Morland house for 96.5% attendance between 20th March - 23rd April 2026

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

Anson 96.10%	Denman 94.8%
Duffield 94.4%	Morland 96.5%

Nearly new uniform

Don't forget to take a look in the lobby for nearly new uniform before you buy summer dresses and shorts for the summer term.

Class photographs:

Due to very low take up last year we have decided to change the format of the class photographs. A survey by Starlight Photography from some schools has shown that parents think the vista photographs are quite expensive and due to the length of the photograph, quite difficult to frame and/or store. This year we are going to trial a more traditional size of photo but still with a relaxed style pose. These means they should be easier to frame/store/stick in an album and a little cheaper to buy. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Lights, music, action! 🎵 ✨

Our PTFA Disco Night is nearly here – come along for dancing, snacks and lots of fun!

