

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



27th March 2026

Marcham CE Primary School
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"Living and learning with Faith, Community and Hope."

Our value this term is Responsibility

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might." Ecclesiastes 9 v 10

Dear all,

I write this week with an emphasis on health and safety. Recently, we have had a couple of reports of incidents after school where pupils were at risk of harm. There have been a number of occasions where pupils have been seen cycling in the car park after school. Although there is a barrier to stop cars from entering the car park, there is still a risk that cars may be moving. Please ensure that all pupils are made aware of the risks of cycling in the car park and to ensure that this does not happen in the future.

In addition, there have been two recent incidents of children running out into the road (Orchard Way and Howard Cornish Road). This is clearly a risk and has the potential for serious injury. Please ensure that younger pupils and their siblings are safely crossing the roads accompanied by an adult. More guidance and information about teaching road safety can be found at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/fire-and-community-safety/community-safety/safety-and-accident-resources/footsteps>



Important information:

Next week, we will transition to a new Management Information System (MIS) called **Arbor MIS**. This system will help us improve communication, streamline administration, and give you easier access to important information about your child. It also means that information such as attendance, consents, and contact details will now be managed through this new platform.

Arbor offers a simple and secure way for parents to view your child's attendance and key information, update contact details, receive messages and school updates, choose lunches and make payments.

Next week:

- You will receive an email with more information and an invitation to set up your Arbor account
- Instructions will guide you through creating a password and logging in
- You can then download the Arbor app (available on iOS and Android)

Thank you in anticipation for your support as we make this improvement to our systems.



Big Sing! – Y4 & Y5:

Year 4 and 5 are going to the Silk Hall at Radley College on Monday to take part in the Big Sing! They will take part in a singing workshop with Pete Churchill, a renowned professional music educator, composer and performer. We look forward to learning new songs and being able to share these at school.

End of Term Easter Assembly:

A reminder that our **Easter Service** will take place on **Friday 27th March** at **9.30am in All Saints' Church, Marcham**. Each class will take part in our collective worship sharing songs, poems, readings and artwork. Parents are welcome to attend, and we look forward to seeing you there.



Year 5 trip – 10th March:

The year 5s were invited to Abingdon School for a communication morning on Tuesday 10th March. Many schools from the Abingdon partnership were there learning a variety of languages during the morning. Marcham learnt a little bit of Spanish and about the countries where they speak Spanish, we learnt how to count in Mandarin and to say hello and introduce ourselves in German. It was a great introduction to three of the most spoken languages in the world.



Micro:bit club:

A large number of enthusiastic pupils signed up for Micro:bit club. They have programmed the hardware each week in a different way. There are some photo's uploaded to the website

(<https://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/giraffes/>) of the children listening to their repeating tune.

Thank you to **Mr Clayton** for running the club, ensuring all the resources were available and knowing how to write the code!

Zoolab – Reception & Y1:

Pandas and Leopards are excited for a visit from Zoolab on Wednesday 25th March (next week). The workshop will bring science, geography, and the wider curriculum to life through real-world animal encounters that captivate, inspire, and engage to enrich the curriculum.

<https://www.zoolabuk.com/primaryworkshops>

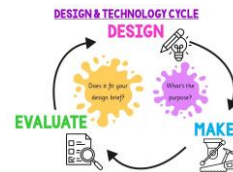


Sport continues to be a high priority with Key Stage 2 pupils having Cricket coaching with Zoe Barnes every Thursday. Our inflatable football day was enjoyed by all and a leaflet about an afterschool club was sent out last week. Unfortunately, the recent netball competition was postponed due to the weather, but we are looking forward to taking part after the Easter holidays.

DT Week:

Next week is DT week. Each class will be working hard to research, design, make and evaluate an item. The children will work hard to create an effective and well thought out item. This will culminate in an assembly on Thursday afternoon where all classes will share their work – look out for your new item which will be brought home on Thursday!

You will have been informed if your child needs to bring in any items, if you are unsure, please do speak to your child's class teacher.



“Living the Vision” certificates were awarded to:

Friday 13th March: Astrid, Toby L, Sophia P, Hugo, Megan F and Chloe.

Friday 20th March: Lily W, Joanna, Dawson, Hadley, Casey, Rowan, Miles and Poppy.

“Reach for Learning” certificates were awarded to:

Friday 13th March: Joseph R, Roman, Ezra, Amadou, Florence, Wurry, Aleks and Jamie.

Friday 20th March: Lottie D, Leopards Class, Jayjay, Milana, Bethany, Oliver and Michaela.



Out of school achievements:

Ella (Year 4) went off to a Dance competition and had great success coming 7th in the slow dance and then 2nd in the grand final. She was awarded an enormous trophy (nearly as tall as she is) which she proudly showed to members of our school community. Well done, Ella!

Parents Evening: Parents evenings were held this week where parents were able to view learning within books as well as speak with the class teacher. You would also have been informed about assessment tasks and progress of your child. If you were unable to attend an appointment, please make contact with your child's class teacher.



Find activities and clubs suitable for children with a range of needs that are local for you. Visit [Things to do](#) to find out more.

With best wishes,

Lindsay Priddle, Headteacher

Learning of the Week

Pandas: This week, the children have been very busy making their own chips! They explored potatoes, learning about where they come from and how they grow. The children then carefully practised their chopping skills, using knives to cut the potatoes into chip shapes. After soaking them in water, we cooked them in the oven. Everyone had the chance to taste their homemade chips and we're happy to say they were a big hit- every child said they loved them! They even took responsibility for washing up their own plates afterwards, showing great independence.

Leopards: Leopards have been enjoying lots of measuring during Maths. We have been comparing objects and using language such as small, smaller, smallest and big, bigger, biggest. We then moved onto measuring with our footprint and cubes. We also practised estimating - this was tricky as we had to make a realistic guess. We finished the week with using a ruler to measure in centimetres.

Tigers:
This week, Tigers have been learning about bar models in Maths and writing fact families. They have been writing factual sentences about sea creatures and in RE, we learnt about Shabbat. We tried challah bread and we drank grape juice. We also lit candles and talked about the traditions of Shabbat.

Kangaroos:
This week we are finishing off a diary entry from the perspective of a piece of playground equipment, inspired by pebbles that have disintegrated over time. We have also started our new unit on measurement, checked how our seeds are growing, and found out the links between Passover and Easter, among other things!

Meerkats:
For our Design & Make lesson, we designed, costed, made, and tested our boats. We used our findings to produce a final design. The final boats were tested for buoyancy and speed. The overall scores included the quality of the designs, creative thinking, and how well we managed our resources and costs.



Wolves:
Wolves class have been working very hard recently. We have finished our book 'Mohinders War', which was a fantastic piece about WW2, please ask your child about it. In Writing, we finished our adventure narratives based on the trailer for Elio and have started our new writing piece. Our new unit is writing newspapers based on one of the Blitz nights. In Maths, our class is looking at statistics and different bar models, line graphs and tables. We have also had our final lesson on Childhood through time. In Science, we are coming to the end of our Living things topic and have looked closely at adaptations and survival of the fittest!

Giraffes:
This week in Giraffes we have been learning all about algebra in Maths. We have been writing form expressions and solving one and two step equations. In Reading we have been reading Kensuke's Kingdom. We have been using it to inspire our writing and write a dialogue between the two characters with Michael wanting to leave the Island. In Science we have been learning about Darwin's theory of natural selection. We went into the school garden area and looked for "caterpillars" (different coloured lengths of thread.) Caterpillars that weren't caught by the class in 30 seconds had a chance to reproduce and so on for four generations. This helped the children to understand Darwin's theory. In Cricket we have continued to enjoy the cricket sessions practicing our fielding and batting.

Diary Dates

Day	Date	Event	Time
Monday	23 rd March	Years 4 & 5 – Big Sing at Radley College – more details to follow	9.30 – 11.30am
Monday	23 rd March	Triathlon Bake sale	3:13pm KS2 playground
Wednesday	25 th March	Zoolab visit – Yr R and Yr 1	9.30 -11.30am
Friday	27 th March	Easter Assembly in Church – all welcome	9.30am
Friday	27 th March	Term Ends -	1.30pm
Monday	13 th April	Pupils return to school for Summer Term	8.35am
Tuesday	14 th April	Netball Competition – details to follow	3.30 -5.30pm
Thursday	23 rd April	Starlight Photography – all classes and leavers photos	8:30am
Friday	24 th April	Giraffes Sharing Assembly – parents welcome	2.30pm

Website

There is lots to see on our [School Sporting Events](#) page, from Inflatable Football > Chance to Shine > Netball Festival. Do take a look.

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.

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

Attendance

Well done to Morland house for 96.6 % attendance between 5th to 19th March 2026

Anson 96.3%	Denman 94.5%
Duffield 95%	Morland 96.6%

Nearly new uniform

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

Easter Activities

There are many leaflets in the school lobby with information about Easter holiday clubs and activities. Drop in and take a photo of any that may interest you and your family.

Isla, Florence, Scarlett,
Laurie and Annabelle,
from Meerkats class, are
having a

BAKE SALE

fundraiser!



On Monday 23rd March

after school

Marcham Primary School
playground

We are taking part in the Knight Frank Schools
Triathlon. We will be swimming, cycling and
running, as a team, to raise funds for the charity

Restless Development

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Monday 30th March - Thursday 2nd

April

Tuesday 7th - Friday 10th April

8:30am - 5:00pm

Location: Aston & Cote Primary
School

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