

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Marcham CE Primary School
Morland Road, Marcham
Abingdon, Oxon OX13 6PY
Tel; 01865 391448
or email on; office.3235@marcham.oxon.sch.uk



24th September 2026

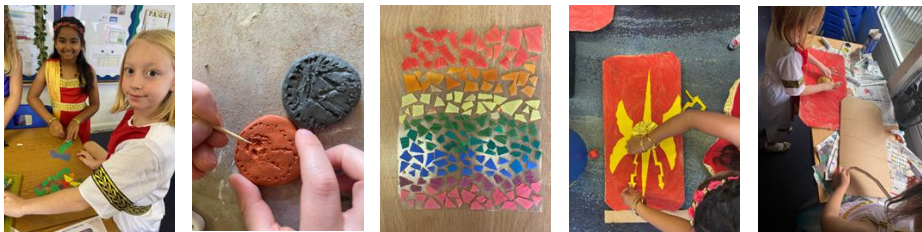
"Living and learning with Faith, Community and Hope."

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 start to the Autumn Term we have had. Last week there was the sound of Roman soldiers permeating from the Year 4 classroom and this week music has filled the air. Meerkats spent an amazing day last Friday immersing themselves in a Roman Day with activities ranging from painted lasagne mosaics to becoming a Roman soldier formation.



This week has been Music Flood week, a joint venture with some Abingdon Schools and Radley College. From singing workshops to musical instruments, 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 Larkmead and Radley College. All children in Key Stage 2 participated in a singing workshop, learning new songs (in Japanese!) and developing their musical knowledge (pitch and dynamics). They also took part in a workshop from the ensemble group Taiko Meantime.



Many children enjoyed listening to the different musical instruments and finding out about them. Oscar B (Y5) said "I really liked learning about the instruments and especially when they played their final song". Many of the children mentioned the Japanese drumming – Ezra (Y3) said "It was great how they played really fast on the big drum." Maisie W (Y6) also mentioned the drumming "We all got to have a go". A fantastic experience for everyone involved.

Busking was another highlight with pupils from Radley College sharing their talents at the end of the day on Monday. One parent commented "we should have this everyday" as it was a joyous way to end the day.

Each class has begun a new topic for this term (class letters are on the website). Class topics are: Pandas: All about me, Leopards: Toys now and then, Tigers: Animal A-Z, Kangaroos: Stone Age to Iron Age, Meerkats: Ancient Roman Empire, Wolves & Giraffes: Local Area study. Look out for exciting learning and more information on the website and Class Dojo.



As a school we use the online platform of ClassDojo to share learning and achievements. Please make sure you have logged into your child's class to be able to see what they have been doing as well as acknowledgements for positive learning behaviours. If you need further information about doing this, please speak to your child's class teacher.

"Living the Vision" certificates were awarded to:

Friday 11th September: Alfie, Ada, Alex, Sophia P, Harriet and Elodie

Friday 18th September: Catalina, Annabelle, Phoebe, Ollie A, Nushka and Oakley

Friday 25th September: Michaela, Florence, Ashleigh, Mia, Oscar and Leo



"Reach for Learning" certificates were awarded to:

Friday 11th September: Dexter, Ella, Bethany, Maisie K, Ava and Julian

Friday 18th September: Aleks, Aurora, Melody, Axie, Erin and Prayushi

Friday 25th September: Laurie, Ianis, Isaac, Kathryn, Mira and Elodie

Pupil voice groups:

Congratulations to our newly elected pupils for House Captains. Elections for School Council, Eco Council and Worship Council are ongoing and we will share the names of our pupils next time.

Our new House Captains are:

Duffield: Amelie & Efa,

Morland: Ada & Aurora,

Anson: Dexter & Mamadou,

Denman: Sienna Y and Megan B

Hadley (Y4) had been growing her hair. Over the summer she decided to have it cut for the Little Princess Trust. This trust uses donations of hair to create wigs for young people (up to 24 years old) who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment or other conditions. A kind and generous act. Well done Hadley.



Starting a new school year can be a big adjustment, particularly for children with SEND. New classrooms, adults, routines and expectations can take time to get used to, and you may notice your child is more tired, emotional or unsettled at home while they adjust. Keeping things calm and predictable at home, allowing time to relax after school and offering plenty of reassurance can really help. If you have any concerns about how your child is settling in, please speak to their class teacher or Mrs. Callahan (SENCo) – we are always happy to help.

We look forward to a being able to share more learning, experiences and positiveness throughout this year.

Best Wishes,

L Priddle

Lindsay Priddle Headteacher

Learning of the Week

Pandas

This week in Pandas, we have been busy completing our Reception Baseline Assessments with Mrs Wagstaff outside the classroom. The children have enjoyed sharing what they know and can do.

We have also been enjoying lots of 'Oi Frog!' stories by Kes Gray and Jim Field, along with related activities. We have been developing our listening skills and learning to hear, recognise and identify rhyming words. The children have had lots of fun joining in with the rhymes and spotting words that sound the same at the end!

Leopards:

Leopards have been recapping their sounds in Phonics and we have been looking at ar as in car, ow as in owl and oi as in coin. We will finish the week with ear as in ear. During Maths we have been sorting items and learning to classify in various ways; colour, shape, size etc. You could try this at home with everyday items by asking you child how you could organise/sort items. We have also been practising number and letter formation and the children are working really hard to make their work even and sitting on the line. Please remember to send your child's reading book and reading record to school every day. We like to listen to as many children read as possible throughout the day.

Tigers:

This week, Tigers have learnt about habitats and why animals live in different habitats. They learnt about African animals and they talked about their appearance, diet, habitat, behaviour and movement. They have also been beginning to make their felt animal puppets.

Kangaroos:

Kangaroos have enjoyed learning to become Botanists in Science. We investigated the purpose of the stem by dissecting celery to see why parts of it had been dyed red. Place Value has been our focus in maths - completing giant dot-to - dots going up to 1000 (to demonstrate our accurate counting) and playing Place Value bingo (helping us to explain hundreds, tens and ones) have been firm favourite learning activities. Hockey is our sport at the moment - controlling the ball and passing has helped us to develop team work and communicating clearly with each other. Next up, violins - prepare for they shall be coming home soon!

Meerkats:

On Friday 18th September, Year 4 dressed up for Roman day. We created clay Roman coins, focusing on including Roman numerals, made mosaics using painted lasagne sheets and crafted our own shields (Scutum). We then marched around the playground as Roman soldiers using our shields, chanting 'sin, dex' and made a 'testudo'.

Wolves:

The start of term has been a really positive one for year 5/6 Wolves. We have written our first unit which was all about 'Rock, Paper and Scissors'. The children created a narrative all about a dramatic battle between Scissors and Rock about Paper. It was a really exciting read! In Reading, we have finished our first book called 'The Wonder' which is all about a little boy with a big imagination. In Maths, we have just finished our place value unit, looking at numbers all the way to millions! We have begun our exciting topic all about Oxford which will continue on to Rivers. In Science, we have planted some Garlic and spider plants! The children have come back into school brilliantly and have settled into their new mixed classes well.

Giraffes:

In Giraffes this week we have been learning to count through zero and to round any integer to the nearest 10,100,1000,10,000 & 100,000 with numbers up to 10,000,000! In English we have been reading Journey to the River Sea and we have been planning and writing a non-chronological report on the Amazon Rainforest. In Science we have been learning about pollination and asexual reproduction for plants and have planted some garlic and spider plants to see if they can grow into new plants. Finally, this week has been music flood week. We have enjoyed listening to older children share and play their instruments, learnt some new songs in Japanese and have had a brilliant Taiko drumming workshop.

Diary Dates

Day	Date	Event	Time
Mon - Thurs	21 st – 24 th Sept	Music Flood Week	
Thursday	1 st October	Individual & Sibling Photographs	8.45am
Thursday	8 th October	Harvest Celebrations – parents invited	2pm in school
Thursday	15 th October	Open Morning – all classes	8.35am – 9.05am
Wednesday	21 st October	Lego Workshop & Assembly – KS2	All day
Friday	23 rd October	INSET Day – School closed to pupils	
Mon – Fri	26 th – 30 th Oct	Half Term	
Monday	2 nd November	Autumn Term 2 starts for all pupils	
Tuesday	3 rd November	Open Morning for Prospective Reception Pupils – September 2027	
Mon – Fri	9 th – 13 th Nov	Y6 Residential to Kilvrough – more details to follow	
Monday	23 rd November	Parents Evening – 3.30 – 6pm	
Thursday	26 th November	Parents Evening – 4 – 6.30pm	

Term 1 Sept 2026 Thurs 3rd Sept to Thu 22nd Oct INSET days 1st & 2nd Sept, 23rd Oct	Term 2 Mon 2nd Nov to Fri 18th Dec 26
Term 3 Jan 2027 Tues 5th Jan to Fri 12th Feb 27 INSET Day Mon 4th Jan 27	Term 4 Mon 22nd Feb to Thurs 25th Mar 27 Bank Holiday: Fri 26th Mar 27
Term 5 Mon 12th Apr to Fri 28th May 27 Bank Holiday: Mon 3rd May	Term 6 Tues 8 th Jun to Wed 21 st Jul 27 INSET Day Mon 7 th Jun

Well done to Morland house with the best attendance for the 3rd to 25th September 2026.

Anson 96.6%	Denman 93.5%
Duffield 94.1%	Morland 97.6%