# MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Marcham CE Primary School
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22nd October 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,

With the end of this half term upon us, I am pleased to share some of the wonderful activities that the children have been part of. This week alone, we have had Ride on Time Road Safety awareness for pupils in Pandas, sharing of old toys with Leopards and Lego Workshops for Kangaroos, Meerkats, Giraffes and Wolves. The classes have spent time building and coding movements for Lego structures. Everyone had a great session over the past two days. In addition, the children also arrived in brightly coloured clothing raising money for Sobell House Hospice. The school council will share the total they have raised soon.

Ride on Time Road safety awareness was completed by all children in Pandas, using ride-on cars to simulate road situations and using traffic signals and crossings to simulate safe pedestrian road use. This is vitally important with the clocks going back and the darker nights drawing in.

Jill Rowe, our Children and Families Minister from the church, is retiring from her role, so this morning we shared our memories of the special times in school we've had with her. From singing to prayer space, assembly props to worship council, Jill has been supporting the school for over 30 years. The children acknowledged her amazing work, positivity and smile. The children had worked hard to produce books of memories and cards of thanks. We will miss Jill but know that Karen will be continuing this wonderful work after half term.

Thank you to all parents who donated food at our Harvest Festival for the Abingdon Foodbank, we have received a special certificate from them thanking us and sharing that we managed to donate 241kg of food. This was gratefully received by Abingdon Foodbank and will be shared to support those in need in our local area.

Following the previous letter updating you on staffing, please be aware that Mrs Callahan will be starting her maternity leave on Monday 9th November and therefore her last day with us will be on Friday 6th November. I look forward to being able to update you when Mrs Callahan's baby is born.
As previously mentioned, Mrs Lisa May will be taking on the position of SENCO and will work for two and a half days each week (Mon – Wed).

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 16th October: Joseph R, Bella-Rose, Caitlin, and Amelie
Friday 22nd October: Lottie, Hugo, Lucas P, Ollie, Isla H, Megan B



"Reach for Learning" certificates were awarded to:
Friday 16th October: Jacob G, Finley D, Fern, Hugo, Hadley, Alba, Emily and Layla
Friday 22nd October: Oakley, Penelope, Luisa, Clayton, Thomas W and Megan F

Can I remind parents that if you need to speak to your child's class teacher, please make either drop in after school or make an appointment. Mornings are an important part of our routine and teachers need to be supervising and settling children as well as starting learning sessions.

**PTFA AGM:**
Attached with this newsletter is the Chair's report from the PTFA's AGM, held on Monday 19th October. Thank you to all who attended and for the committee who continue to plan events to raise funds for projects, trips and experiences in school. Their commitment, dedication and enthusiasm is a delight to see and as a school, we are very grateful for all the funds that they raise. Last year, they helped finance school trips across the school, workshop experiences in KS1 and purchase of resources including musical instruments which all pupils have used.
Please also see the next page for information about Movie Night and a Christmas event.

If you have any spare Lego base boards at home that you would be happy to donate to our Nurture group, we would be very grateful. Please drop any donations into the school office. Thank you for your support!




Changes to familiar routines can be challenging for children with SEND during school holidays. Here are some simple ways to help:

- **Keep routines consistent:** Maintain familiar meal and bedtime routines where possible.
- **Prepare for changes:** Use visual timetables or 'Now and Next' boards.
- **Give advance warnings:** Let children know when activities or plans are changing.
- **Build in downtime:** Allow time for rest and familiar activities.
- **Offer choices:** Small choices can help children feel more in control.
- **Prepare for school:** Gently reintroduce school routines towards the end of half term.

**Remember:** A calm, predictable half term can be just as valuable as a busy one!

We wish you a very restful half term and look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 2nd November..
Best Wishes,

Priddle

Lindsay Priddle Headteacher

**Marcham PTFA Update**

As we head into the half-term break, we'd like to share some PTFA updates and a look ahead to the exciting events we have planned for the coming months.
Please find attached the Chair's Report from our AGM, held on **19 October 2026**, along with a summary of the Financial Report for **2025/26**.
Looking ahead, we have some exciting events planned for November and December:

🎬 **Movie Night**
On **Friday 13 November** at the **Marcham Centre**, we'll be hosting a movie night for **KS1 children and pre-schoolers**. We'll be showing **Stick Man**, and tickets are **£5 per child**, which includes a snack and drink.

🎄 **Christmas Fayre**
For the first time, we're delighted to be holding a **Christmas Fayre** at the **Marcham Centre**. This event has been made possible thanks to our community grant from MCG. The Fayre will feature children's activities, local craft stalls, a tombola, and the draw for our Christmas Raffle, so keep an eye out for raffle tickets coming soon!

If you're having a pre-Christmas clear out, we'd be very grateful for donations for the tombola. Donations can be placed in the usual PTFA donations box in the school reception. Similarly if your workplace or local business is able to provide or sponsor a raffle prize please get in touch with your PTFA rep (the one who sends all PTFA messages to the class WhatsApp group!) or email MarchamPTA@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. In the meantime, we wish all our children, families and staff a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break.
**The Marcham PTFA Committee**






**Diary Dates**

| Day | Date | Event | Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | 23rd October | INSET Day – School closed to pupils | |
| Mon – Fri | 26th – 30th Oct | Half Term | |
| Monday | 2nd November | Autumn Term 2 starts for all pupils | |
| Tuesday | 3rd November | Open Morning for Prospective Reception Pupils – September 2027 | |
| Tuesday | 3rd November | River Thames & Abingdon Museum visit – Giraffes | All day |
| Wednesday | 4th November | River Thames & Abingdon Museum visit – Wolves | All day |
| Mon – Fri | 9th – 13th Nov | Y6 Residential to Kilvrough –collection time to follow | |
| Monday | 23rd November | Parents Evening – 3.30 – 6pm | |
| Thursday | 26th November | Parents Evening – 4 – 6.30pm | |
| Thursday | 3rd December | Open Morning for Prospective Reception Pupils – September 2027 | |
| Thursday | 3rd December | Music Flood Carol Service – choir to attend, plus Y6 instrumentalists | 1.30pm St Helen's Church, Abingdon |
| Saturday | 12th December | PTFA Christmas Craft Event – Community Centre | 2-4pm |

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

Well done to Anson house with the best attendance for the 28th September – 8th October 2026.

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| **Anson** 96.6% | **Denman** 93.3% |
| **Duffield** 94.1% | **Morland** 96.1% |

OXFORDSHIRE PARENT CARERS FORUM
A Voice for Parent Carers in Oxfordshire

NHS Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# OxPCF & NDC CAMHS
## Parent Carer Webinar Series

Information | Support | Practical strategies | A chance to ask questions

A series of online webinars for parent carers in Oxfordshire, offering expert information, practical strategies and the opportunity to ask questions.

**All sessions take place from 12:00pm – 1:30pm (online via Teams)**

Online via Microsoft Teams

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| Wed 30 Sep 2026 | What to expect from the CAMHS NDC Service |
| Fri 23 Oct 2026 | Parent carer burnout and looking after yourself |
| Wed 18 Nov 2026 | Parenting neurodivergent young people as a neurodivergent parent |
| Wed 09 Dec 2026 | Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) |
| Wed 20 Jan 2027 | Making sense of distress |
| Wed 24 Feb 2027 | Understanding masking |
| Wed 17 Mar 2027 | Supporting neurodivergent young people to stay safe online |
| Wed 21 Apr 2027 | Understanding eating difficulties in neurodivergent young people |



*Join us online from the comfort of home*

*Everyone welcome!*

Register for your free space via **www.oxpcf.org.uk/events**

**All sessions are recorded and a summary will be shared on our website.**
You can watch the recordings, slides, Q&As and other useful resources on our website under the Resources section.