

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



13th February 2026

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

Our value this term is Compassion

"And this commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother." 1 John 4:21

Dear all,

What a busy place Marcham Primary School has been yet again these past two weeks with all our curriculum learning plus a Tag Rugby Competition, Orchestra Day, Dance festival, musical workshops and a Science workshop! These additional activities enrich our curriculum offer and enable pupils to fulfil their potential across different areas of the curriculum.

On Monday 2nd February, twelve pupils from Years 5 & 6 took part in the **Music Flood Orchestra Day**. They had been practising hard to learn three pieces here at school before assembling for one day with 300 other pupils to perform the pieces. Sectional rehearsals took place before the Silk Hall in Radley was filled with pupils from primary and secondary schools performing together. The sound was outstanding but as the pupils said "very loud". Below are some comments from some of the instrumentalists:



"Twelve of us went and you could hear every instrument work hard and every note contributed to how mesmerising the whole thing was" - Zara

I loved it because it sounded very harmonious and very professional (though it was incredibly loud!) - Ally

"I thought it was amazing. The music was quite hard and it had lots of different dynamics. I loved it." - Heidi

"I thought it was loud and very fun." - Jamie



Some children also took part in **Tag Rugby Competition** (Thursday 5th February), developing teamwork skills, coordination and confidence. The sessions were full of energy and enthusiasm, with everyone enjoying the chance to get active and support one another. They worked well as a team and represented our school admirably. It was our first time at this type of competition so we had to learn as we went but the children thrived. Photos on the website:

<https://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/tag-rugby-competition/>

In addition, some children took part in a **Dance Festival** (Monday 9th February) where they explored movement and rhythm, learning routines and expressing themselves through dance. Their hard work and excitement were clear for all to see and on return, they spoke animatedly about the experience.



Thank you to all parents who helped with transportation of all pupils to these activities.

Pandas, Leopards and Kangaroos welcomed Tim Keasley, a music teacher from Radley College, who shared several action songs to be sung and enjoyed in the classroom. Do ask the children which song they liked best – Kangaroos managed a song with a parachute too!



Meerkats have also been to a **Science Workshop** at Abingdon School where they learnt about solids, liquids and gases, watching some amazing demonstrations investigate questions such as what happens when materials change from solid to liquid to gas. We are very lucky to be able to attend these workshops run for free by Abingdon School. More information and photos will be shared on the website soon.

“Living the Vision” certificates were awarded to:

Friday 6th February: Mira, Dawson, Ashleigh, Grayson, Wurry, Sienna and Maisie

Friday 13th February: Heidi P, Milly, Lucas P, Sylvia, Layla, Megan B, Harriett H



“Reach for Learning” certificates were awarded to:

Friday 6th February: Penelope, Bella, Melissa, Ollie, Annabelle, Chloe and Poppy

Friday 13th February: Seaari, James B, Finley, Leira, Thomas, Maisy, Joden

World Book Day – Friday 6th March:

World Book Day will be celebrated in school on Friday 6th March. Please send your child dressed as their favourite book character. There will be votes in class for best costumes (most effort, most effective and most fun).

Diary Dates:

Please do look at the end of the newsletter for some important dates for next half term including parents evening where you will find out more about the progress of your child and the improvements still to develop. We will update this with more events as they are booked so, please keep checking!



Open Morning – Wednesday 11th February

It was a delight to see so many parents come to Open Morning on Wednesday to celebrate their child/children's work – Thank you. The children were so proud to show how well they are doing as well as the areas for improvement. I hope you also got a chance to look around the classrooms at the displays which showcase learning and celebrate individual achievement and effort.

Work Experience:

This week we have welcomed four pupils from Year 10 at Larkmead School completing their work experience with us. They have worked in specific classes all week (Daniel – Pandas, Jack – Leopards, Boden – Kangaroos, Reece – Wolves/Giraffes). They have supported learning and found out how hard (and tiring) it is to work in a school! We wish them well as they return to their school to finish their studies.

Staffing Changes

It is with regret that I inform you that Ms Claire Oliver (TA mainly in Years 5 & 6) is leaving our school to take up another role with extended hours. She has worked at Marcham for four years, supporting the children in their learning across different classes having an impact on many. We wish her well in her new role.

Walk to school badge design competition:

School Council and Mr Clayton have been judging the entries from the competition to design badges for walking to school. A winner from each year group was chosen by them and then Miss Priddle had the deciding vote for 3 entries to be sent forward from our school into the national competition. The school council were impressed by the entries and had a hard time choosing their favourites

The year group winners were:



Zara



Aurora



Florence



Leira



Ed



Harriet



Prayushi

And the three chosen to represent our school are.....

Zara, Aurora and Harriet.

Well done to you, we'll wait and see what happens next!

SEND Spotlight

Supporting Children with Literacy Difficulties

Every child learns at their own pace. If your child finds reading or writing tricky, small, consistent support at home can make a big difference. Here are some practical ways you can help:

- Make reading a part of everyday life - read for 5-10 minutes everyday
- Take turns reading a word/page/sentence
- Let your child follow the words with their finger
- Re-read favourite books - repetition builds confidence and fluency.
- Talk about the story: Who was your favourite character? What might happen next?
- Remember: it's okay if your child listens while you read. Listening to stories builds vocabulary and understanding.
- Strong speaking and listening skills support reading and writing.
- Talk about your day.
- Introduce and explain new words.
- Encourage your child to describe events in order.
- Play word games like "I Spy" or rhyming games.

Wishing you all a wonderful break at half term and look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 23rd February at 8.35am refreshed and eager for more learning at Marcham.

With best wishes,

L Priddle

Lindsay Priddle, Headteacher

Learning of the Week

Pandas: This week we have been learning all about dinosaurs! We discovered the work of Mary Anning and how fossils are formed and even made our own trace fossils.

The children enjoyed finding dinosaur facts using non-fiction books and sharing knowledge from our Panda experts. In small world, we created dinosaur stories and made our own version of We're Going on a Bear Hunt, called We're Going on a Dinosaur Hunt! 🦖

Leopards: This week we have been retelling the story of Little Red Riding Hood using a story map. We looked at the setting and the characters before retelling aloud the story (see photos below). In maths, we have been learning how to use our number bond knowledge to complete subtraction sums ($10-3=7$ and $20-3=17$) and practising how to carefully count back on the number line to subtraction sums within.



Tigers:

This week, Tigers finished writing their stories about the ocean and they have also been learning about using possessive apostrophes. In Science, they started an investigation to see how different seeds can grow and in RE they learnt about the synagogue.

Kangaroos:

In Kangaroos we have rounded off our unit on our text on Everest with a biographical piece on how Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay got to the top. In Maths we have learnt what perimeter is and started measuring shapes. We have also finished some pop up cards and will be finishing our pop up cards with some writing on the computers this afternoon.

Meerkats: This week, we have focused on setting descriptions for our class text 'Ocean Meets Sky' by using ambitious vocabulary and tried to vary our sentence structures to entertain the reader. In maths, we have continued our learning on identifying and comparing fractions. We have shared most of our diary homework projects too which are excellent and show great writing stamina! Today, we enjoyed exploring solids, liquids and gases in a Science workshop at Abingdon School.

Wolves: This last week in Wolves, we have been looking at plants in our surrounding areas in Science and making careful observations. Some children in Year 5/6 went to a tag rugby competition last week and a dance festival this week! We have almost finished our biographies on Queen Victoria in our Writing sessions and we are so close to finishing our current book 'Shrapnel Boys'. In Maths, we have been looking at fractions, decimals and percentages.

Giraffes: This week in Giraffes we have been learning about area, perimeter and volume. We have learnt how to find the area of any triangle ($\text{half} \times \text{height} \times \text{perpendicular base}$) as well as a parallelogram ($\text{base} \times \text{perpendicular height}$). We also learnt how to find the volume of a cuboid by multiplying the base by the width by the height.

In writing, we have been writing setting descriptions that create tension and suspense. These have been inspired from our reading of Skellig. The author, David Almond, created tension and suspense regularly in this book and we were always keen to continue reading.

In Art, we have finished our final self-portraits. We have practiced using paint, watercolour, pastels, pencil crayons and even collage and chose our favourite medium for our final pieces.

Diary Dates

Day	Date	Event	Time
Mon – Friday	16 th -20 th February	Half term	
Tuesday	24 th February	SEN Reviews - please book with Mrs Callahan	3.40 - 5pm
Thursday	26 th February	SEN Reviews - please book with Mrs Callahan	3.40 - 5pm
Thursday	26 th February	Cricket starts for Years 3-6 during PE slots	1 – 3pm
Tuesday	3 rd March	Netball Festival – more details to follow	Afternoon
Wednesday	4 th March	“Journey through the Old Testament” event	1.30 – 2.30pm
Friday	6 th March	World Book Day – come dressed as favourite character from a book	
Friday	6 th March	Wolves Sharing Assembly – parents welcome	2.30pm
Tuesday	17 th March	Parent Teacher Consultations	3.30 – 6pm
Thursday	19 th March	Parent Teacher Consultations	5.00 – 7.30pm
Friday	20 th March	Meerkats Sharing Assembly – parents welcome	2.30pm
Friday	27 th March	Easter Assembly in Church – all welcome	9.30am

Website

Take a look at our school website, Meerkats have been busy sharing their recent trip to [Williams F1](#) and also some amazing [Shackleton Diary](#) entries. We have also shared the recent [Tag Rugby](#) event a group of children attended at Tilsey park and a [Dance Festival](#).

Term 1 Sept 25 Wed 3rd Sept to Thu 23rd Oct INSET days 1 st & 2nd Sept, 24th Oct	Term 2 Mon 3rd Nov to Fri 19th 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 for
96.7% attendance
between 29th Jan - 12th Feb

Anson 96.4%	Denman 94.6%
Duffield 95.4%	Morland 96.7%

Year 5 secondary school open days

Aureus School - Open Mornings 2026

Aureus School will be hosting a number of open mornings in March, May and June. Any families interested in getting to know our school are welcome.

Come and explore what our school has to offer and learn about our educational approach. For further information and how to register for these events please head to our website:

www.aureusschool.org/3774/youre-invited-aureus-open-events



Are you or anyone you know looking for some extra work?

Vicky's Breakfast & After School Club are looking for a Playworker to join their team on a part time basis. (<https://vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk/join-the-team/>) If you have an interest in working with children and are able to provide a warm, caring approach then we would love to hear from you. The club is well established at the school and the existing team have great fun doing lots of different activities with the children in a free play environment. For more information: please contact Vicky at info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk or call on 0788 7711454

atom Festival of Science & Technology
14th - 25th March 2026

Inspiring workshops for kids
Tours: History of Science Museum + UKAEA + Harwell
Tue 17th March
“Predators”
Professor Tim Coulson
FameLab Academy
FREE Science Market interactive event for all the family
Sat 14th March

Sun 15th March
“Our Place in the Universe”
The Peagram Lecture
Professor Brian Cox CBE

atomfestival.org.uk

BOOK TICKETS ONLINE

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR
JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?
We'd love to hear from you!

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026

Show your heart some love this February



It's National Heart Health Month and we're here to help you and your family take gentle, everyday steps to look after your hearts together. Little changes to what you eat and how you move as a family can make a big difference. Here's some simple, fun tips to help everyone get involved.

Activity 1:

Move a little together, every day

Whether it's a mini dance off in the kitchen or a short family walk, small bursts of movement will keep everyone's hearts happy.



Activity 2:

Fill your plates with colourful foods

Boost meals with colourful fruit, veggies and wholegrains to grab kids attention.



Activity 3:

Get kids involved in the kitchen

Let them wash veggies, pick toppings or help stir. It makes healthy eating fun and helps them learn habits that stick.



Our free Beezee Families programme is here to help you feel healthier and happier as a family. Your heart works hard for you, so let's show it some love as a team!



Want more healthy lifestyle support?

Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.*

Scan here
or
Click the link



oxf.maximusuk.co.uk

*Our courses are designed for families with children aged 5 and up.

We run Beezee Families, a FREE healthy lifestyle programme that our nutritionists deliver across Oxfordshire. The 12-week programme supports families to build healthy habits around food, physical activity, and how to have fun while doing so!

Our current programmes are in full swing but you can secure your FREE spot now for April. Places fill up fast so make to book soon! If you can't wait to get started on your healthy lifestyle journey, you can learn at your own pace over on our Academy website. [Visit our website for more details](https://www.oxfordshiremaximusuk.co.uk)