

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



30th January 2026

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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,

Another couple of weeks have passed with lots of exciting learning happening again. One day this week, when I was on playground duty, a small group of Year 3s enthusiastically asked what would I like to take on a climbing trip to Everest (not the usual playground question!). Following my reply of "a cuddly toy", they went into a long and in-depth explanation of the equipment (including oxygen tank) that I would need and politely stated that there might be more important things than a cuddly toy! Enthusiasm and interest in learning is a delight to see. Please do ask your children about their learning, there is a lot going on as you can see on our Work of the Week page.

We are very keen to share the learning that the children have been doing at school. We have booked in an open morning for **Wednesday 11th February (8.35 - 9.05am)** where you will be able to enter the classrooms and see the children's work within their books and displayed on the walls.

We have also booked in dates for class sharing assemblies where we invite you to come and join our celebration of your children's work and share this special time with us. Please do add these to your diaries now so that you can attend. Please note all assemblies will start at 2.30pm in the school hall.

Year group/class	Date for sharing assembly
Year 5&6 - Wolves	6th March
Year 4 – Meerkats	20th March
Year 5&6 - Giraffes	24th April
Year 3 - Kangaroos	8th May
Year 2 – Tigers	22nd May
Year 1 – Leopards	12th June
Reception - Pandas	Wednesday 1st July

Twelve of our Year 5 and 6 pupils will be attending an orchestra day with approximately 300 primary and secondary pupils at Radley College on Monday. They have worked hard to learn their pieces, practicing fingers and difficult rhymes enabling them to take part in the massed orchestra. A short performance of the pieces to parents and carers will take place on Monday afternoon. I look forward to sharing their experiences next time.



“Living the Vision” certificates were awarded to:

Friday 23rd January: Isla N, Maisie, Nancy, Laurie, Ada and Sienna.

Friday 30th January: Toby, Finley P, Isaac, Alba, Lena and Joden.



“Reach for Learning” certificates were awarded to:

Friday 23rd January: Finley D, Joey, Daisy, Scarlett, Saral and Zara.

Friday 30th January: Erin, Phoebe H, George, Tom, Meerkats class, Arlo N and Lewy.

Reminder: No Dogs on School Grounds

We'd like to remind families that dogs, no matter what the breed, size or temperament, are not permitted on school grounds at any time, including before and after school hours. This policy helps ensure the safety, comfort, and well-being of all students and staff, including those with allergies or fears of animals. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us keep our school environment safe for everyone. Please inform all persons that may drop off or pick up your children of this rule.



Walk to School Badge design competition

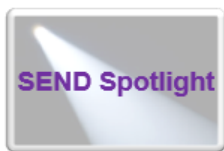
The annual competition to design badges for walking to school is now live! Our children all have the opportunity to enter. The badges need to focus on the senses and what your child experiences on their walk to school. There will be a prize for each class and we can enter 3 entries into the national competition. The winner will see their design printed on over 300,000 badges!

Some classes have completed their entries in class whereas others have sent them home. Please hand them in to the class teacher before Friday 6th February so that we choose our 3 entries from school.

Kind regards

Mr Clayton

Developing emotional regulation skills is an important part of every child's growth and wellbeing. Learning to recognise, understand and manage a wide range of emotions helps children build resilience, form positive relationships and engage successfully in their learning.



In school, we explicitly teach and model strategies to support emotional regulation, and these approaches are beneficial for all children, including those with SEND.

Home-Start UK has produced a helpful guide for parents and carers on supporting children with their emotional regulation. Please [click here](#) to access the Home-Start UK guidance and find out more about how you can support your child's emotional development at home.

With best wishes,

L Priddle

Lindsay Priddle, Headteacher

Learning of the Week

Pandas:

This week in Pandas, we have continued our learning about animals. The children have really enjoyed finding out lots of interesting animal facts and have written their own animal fact book. We have loved exploring animals through play and creativity. The children made up their own stories using the small world rainforest area, created their own zoos and designed animal collages. It has been wonderful to see their imagination, language skills and enthusiasm for learning shine throughout the week.

Leopards:

Leopards have continued to explore the Polar Regions in English, Topic, Art and Science. I am so proud of how hard the children work in all areas of learning and they have very much enjoyed using the stories Jonty Gentoo and Penguin Small to inspire and enthuse their writing, create artwork and learn about the environment of the North and South Poles.

Tigers:

This week, Tigers have been working on writing similes and expanded noun phrases in Writing for their poems about the ocean. In Maths, they have finished learning about shape and in Science, they learnt about what plants need to stay healthy and grow.

Kangaroos:

In Year 3 we have started a new unit on measurement in Maths, and a new text (Everest) in English. We particularly enjoyed investigating some mountaineering equipment! We have also been practicing making pop up cards in DT and learning more about Snowdon in a case study in Geography.

Meerkats:

Meerkats had a wonderful day at Williams F1 learning all about engineering, testing out the e-simulators, taking part in a STEM challenge to create a crumple zone and looking at how car technology has changed over the years. The children were incredibly polite, curious and inspired! Thank you to the parent helpers who supported us.

As Laurie said: "I wanted to be an engineer, but now I want to be one even more! I can't wait to see what else STEM can offer."



Wolves:

These past few weeks we have been writing diary entries from the perspective of a night during WW2. We immersed ourselves with the sounds, feelings and emotions and identified what it may have felt like. The children wrote some beautiful entries which are full of emotion and feeling. In Maths, we have been looking at fractions, decimals and percentages. We are now also in the middle of our Childhood through time topic and we are really enjoying the history behind it all.

Giraffes:

In Giraffes this week we have been learning about World War One in our History topic work. We have learnt about the causes of the war and some of the most significant battles. In Science we have classified animals based on different characteristics. We studied the differences between vertebrates and invertebrates and how to classify them further. In Writing we have been writing diary entries. These have been inspired by our book, Skellig, and written from Mina's point of view.

Diary Dates

Day	Date	Event	Time
Monday	2 nd February	Music Flood Orchestra Day for musicians in Years 5 & 6	9.00 - 3.00pm
Thursday	5 th February	Tag Rugby Competition – more details to follow	Afternoon
Tuesday	10 th February	Eye Tests for Pandas Class	Morning
Wednesday	11 th February	Open Morning for parents to visit classrooms and view learning	8.35 – 9.05am
Friday	13 th February	Y4 Science Workshop at Abingdon School	Tbc
Mon – Friday	16 th -20 th February	Half term	
Thursday	26 th February	Cricket Assembly – KS2	9.00 - 9.30am
Thursday	5 th March	World Book Day – more details to follow	All day
Friday	6 th March	Sharing Assembly – Wolves Years 5 & 6	2.30pm
Tuesday	17 th March	Parent Teacher Consultations	3.30 – 6pm
Thursday	19 th March	Parent Teacher Consultations	5.00 – 7.30pm
Friday	27 th March	Easter Assembly in Church – all welcome	9.30am

Website

Keep up to date with our school website, children in [Wolves](#) and [Giraffes](#) class were recently acting through the ages of Victorian, WW1 and WW2. Children dressed up as chimney sweeps, evacuees and workers during this time. Go and take a look.

Attendance

Well done to Morland with 96.5% attendance from 15th to 28th January 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 96.3%	Denman 94.3%
Duffield 95.5%	Morland 96.5%

Term 3: Primary School Health Nursing Newsletter January 2026

Please find the school health nurse latest newsletter via the link below.

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/JDvIcPqCqjFi3XJy?ref=email&loc=play>



The poster features the NHS Oxford Health and CAMHS logos at the top. The main title 'OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM' is in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, a purple box contains the text 'JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!' and a description of the forum's purpose. A list of participants is provided, followed by a description of the sessions. A star icon highlights special guest events. At the bottom, there is a line drawing of a cup of coffee with a heart-shaped steam, a QR code, and the registration link.

NHS Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust

CAMHS
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM

JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

We aim to walk with you on your Parent/Carer journey
A warm, parent session for anyone caring for a child or young adult (up to age 25) facing mental health challenges.

Connect • Share • Learn Join us online or in person for relaxed, insightful sessions led by:

- Parent Peer Support Workers
- Social Prescribers
- CAMHS Mental Health Professionals

Explore topics around mental health and neurodiversity in a safe, welcoming space.

★ Plus: Special Guest Events Hear from professionals and services across the field! and getting out in nature.

TO REGISTER FOLLOW THE LINK OR QR:



WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/INVOLVEMENT/OXON/HWT/

We are with you forum

We are With You is open to Parents and Carers of young People aged 5 – 25 years across Oxfordshire, you do not need an open referral or have ever been open to CAMHS to access the offer.

We have Parents webinars:

Thursday 26th February - Sleep & Mental Health. 5pm – 6pm, Online.

Friday 13th March 2026 – Unmet Needs or Emotional Avoidance? Understanding the Difference in School Non-Attendance. 1.30pm – 2.30pm. Online.

Date to follow for Supporting Children with limited food intake and sensory sensitivities

Family wellbeing walks (during the Easter Holidays at both Blenheim Palace and Harcourt Arboretum.

Date to follow for Parents only wellbeing walk at Harcourt Arboretum.

Online, drop-in coffee mornings, 2 Thursdays per month, dates can be accessed via the booking link.

Dates to follow for in-person coffee events.

Angie Shuck – Oxfordshire CAMHS Peer Support Worker