

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



16th January 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,

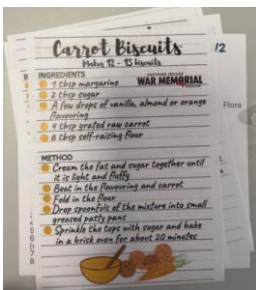
What a fantastic first couple of weeks of this term we have had – exciting learning is happening at Marcham!

As you know, last week our writing was centred around a book and some of our classes have continued to think about frozen landscapes this week. Pandas have excitedly shared pieces of fantastic writing with me, using sound mats to support their phonic knowledge to write sentences about penguins. They've even had an area where the children could build their own igloos out of sugar cubes! Meerkats have also continued this theme learning having an experience session immersing themselves in polar exploration through the eyes of Sir Ernest Shackleton (pictures are on the website).



In addition to this, Meerkats also held a fashion show to share, with parents and carers, the fabulous Roman sandals that they made last term. Sharing the process of design, testing and product creation through the work in their books and the finished products. Each child 'walked the catwalk' wearing their amazing footwear – Well done to Meerkats.

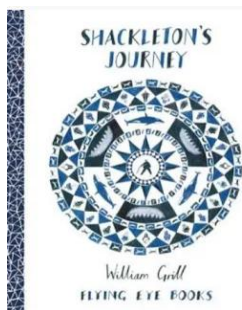
Tigers welcomed Tim Keasley, a music teacher from Radley College, who shared several action songs to be sung and enjoyed in the classroom. We are hoping to further spread the joy of singing across the school with more workshops by Tim to share singing games with everyone. Do ask the children which song they liked best – I particularly enjoyed the Squirrel Song!



Furthermore, Wolves and Giraffes spent the day as evacuees yesterday. All arrived at school in amazing attire (including Miss Knowles, Miss Oliver and Mr Clayton) and spent the day immersed in childhood life during World War Two. They experienced what school might have been like and even completed some WWII cookery with some unusual ingredients – Banana sandwiches made from parsnip and banana essence for one! From the expressions and descriptions I heard, I don't think this would be a popular choice for school dinners!

Thank you to all the staff for making learning at Marcham so inspiring and engaging.

Some super diary extracts written by Year 4 imagining they are Sir Ernest Shackleton setting sail from South Georgia:



5th December 1914: I looked down, slightly seasick. My bones felt jittery from the cold. When I gazed into the body of the cobalt ocean it was beautiful but the majestic ocean spat at me. I stepped back to rejoin the others, the pale brown plank creaking more after every step. The salt in the air mixed with my last meal making me feel like I was a part of the salty water. I went into my room where I carved a breath-taking sculpture of myself looking down at the turquoise endless sea. I was a carpenter, next to the engine was my room, the rumbling engine weirdly soothed me. I saw my fingers, splintered and red. I took a glance out of the window just as the crowd faded into the cyan mist.

Laurie

Dear Diary,

As we left the lighthouse blinded me. The salty tang of the sea filled my nose as I gripped onto the cold rail feeling seasick but excited. As I looked at the water I was splashed, I tasted the salty ocean. As I grabbed the pole, I observed my family as they waved me goodbye. My adventure awaits.

5th December 1914:

Catalina

“Living the Vision” certificates were awarded to:

Friday 19th December: James W, Luisa, Ivo, Emily, Maisy and Willow

Friday 9th January: Felix, Tigers Class, Joseph, Oscar, Robbie and Alfie W

Friday 16th January: Amalia, Riley, Alex, Dexter and Jamie

“Reach for Learning” certificates were awarded to:

Friday 19th December: Leopards Class, Arthur, Darcie, Aaliyah, Clara and Maisy

Friday 9th January: Nolan, Jessy, Phoebe J, Sam, Megan B and Mamadou

Friday 16th January: Hugo, Joshua, Ianis, Efa, Paige and Willow



Prospective Parent Open Mornings:

Since September we have had two open mornings for prospective parents for children starting school in September 2026. Our Year 6 pupils have done a tremendous job showing people around the school, answering their questions and sharing what life at Marcham is like. Many visitors said how polite, informative and communicative our pupils were which was a delight to hear. Thank you, Year 6, for being such advocates for school.

School Uniform:

Our school uniform is part of our culture; it enables all pupils to feel part of the community of Marcham. We expect our children, unless otherwise agreed, to be wearing school uniform and this includes **black** school shoes. We also request that earrings are removed for PE session to ensure the safety of all our pupils.

Diary Dates:

Please do look at the end of the newsletter for some important dates this term. We will update this with more events as they are booked so, please keep checking!



With best wishes,

L Priddle

Lindsay Priddle, Headteacher

Learning of the Week

Pandas:

This week in Pandas, we have been learning about penguins. We have written facts about penguins using our phonic knowledge to help sound out new words. We also had Giraffes come and read stories to us in small groups which was lovely.

Leopards:

Leopards have had a busy week learning about winter and the events that happen at this time of the year. During English our book has been 'The Rainbow Crow' and the children have written super descriptive sentences. In maths we have started to learn the tens and ones needed to make numbers up to 20.

Tigers:

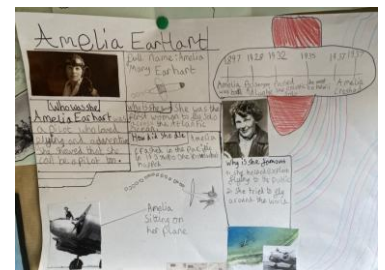
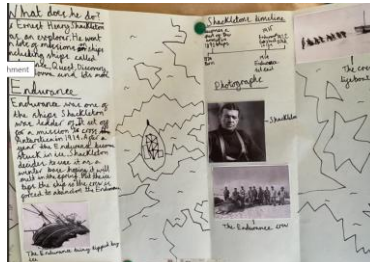
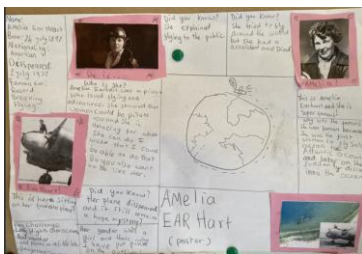
In Tigers, we have been learning about poems and what features some poems use to engage a reader. We have been learning about ocean animals and the names of the different oceans. We have been learning about lines of symmetry in Maths and we learnt about special objects in RE.

Kangaroos:

This week, Kangaroos have started to read a new book called A Rock is Lively. We will be using this to write a persuasive piece of text. We continue to learn about multiplication and division facts and have started our new topic of Mountains, Earthquakes and Volcanoes.

Meerkats:

We've had a very busy week in Meerkats: DT fashion show, winter mission exploring what life would be like for Shackleton's crew aboard the Endurance and finding out about key historical figures relating to the history of transport. Here are some of our fact-files about Sir Ernest Shackleton and Amelia Earhart.



Wolves:

This week we have had an evacuee/Victorian day on Thursday. We had to come to school dressed up. We cooked and tried different food and looked at some artefacts from World War 1 loaned from a museum. - Maisy

Giraffes:

This week in Giraffes we have started reading a new book in writing lessons called Skellig by David Almond. In Science we have been learning about evolution and looking at the similarity and differences between animals that are extinct and some that are extant. Yesterday we had a history experience day. We dressed up as people from either the Victorian era or from the early 20th century as our topic is childhood through time from 1750-1945. We had lessons that resembled lessons for children who were evacuated. In the afternoon we cooked some biscuits using rations and even tried a faux banana sandwich (It was boiled parsnip and banana essence).



At any given time, up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (this rises to 80% with a SEND diagnosis) have difficulties with their sleep.

The Sleep Charity's National Sleep Helpline is run by specialist trained sleep advisors. They support young people directly or they can liaise with their parents. They can also support adults with their sleep issues.

To find out more, [click here](#).

Stargazing 2026 at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

Free family event - 2026 Stargazing at RAL, which will have plenty of activities for the whole family, whatever the weather!

Tickets for the in-person event will be released on Friday 9 January 2026, at 07:00, 12:00 and 19:00.

There'll be meteorites, rocket building, comet making, a series of fascinating talks, robots and of course (weather permitting!) stargazing with the Newbury Astronomical Society. We'll have some experts on hand to explain how they use the Diamond Light Source to find out more about meteorites and comets, and you'll be able to visit the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source and Central Laser Facility to learn how we use particle accelerators and lasers to learn more about space. And much more.

Please see the following link for further information:

[Stargazing 2026 at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Tickets, Fri 23 Jan 2026 at 17:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Diary Dates

Day	Date	Event	Time
Thursday	22 nd February	Police visit to Year 1 and Year 3	Morning
Thursday	29 th January	Meerkats (Y4) visit to Williams F1 – more details to follow	All day
Monday	2 nd February	Music Flood Orchestra Day for musicians in Years 5 & 6 – more details to follow	9.30 – 2.30pm
Thursday	5 th February	Tag Rugby Competition – more details to follow	Afternoon
Wednesday	11 th February	Open Morning for parents to visit classrooms and view learning	8.35 – 9.05am
Mon – Friday	16 th -20 th February	Half term	
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

Have you taken a look recently ? All classes have updated their class letter for this term, you will also find a detailed curriculum web for each class, this explains in greater depth what you child will be learning this term.

Pandas Leopards Tigers Kangaroos Meerkats Wolves Giraffes

Look out too for Wolves topic on 'Light', A 'Winter Writing' mission in Meerkats, as well as fun at a recent 'Fashion Show. These are all viewable in the Class Page/Gallery.

Attendance

Well done to Anson and Morland
97.2% attendance

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

Anson 97.2%	Denman 93.8%
Duffield 95.9%	Morland 97.2%

HELPING YOUR CHILD'S SLEEP

Abingdon School in Partnership presents a special webinar with Dr Dimitri Gavriloff, exploring the science behind quality sleep in children and adolescents and offering practical advice on supporting your child with sleep difficulties.



Date

Wednesday 28th January



Time

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Speaker

Dr Dimitri Gavriloff

Dr Dimitri Gavriloff is a Clinical Psychologist and Sleep Medicine Specialist based in Oxford. He has extensive clinical experience, having previously led an NHS sleep medicine service, and also works in an academic capacity at the Sleep and Circadian Neuroscience Institute at the University of Oxford, where he is actively involved in teaching and research.

Open to parents/carers of children
in schools in the Abingdon area



REGISTER NOW

To sign up for this webinar, please complete this google form so that a webinar link can be emailed to you. Please note, this webinar will not be recorded.



FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!
MOST SUITABLE FOR 5-16 YRS

SCIENCE BAZAAR

Saturday 21 February 2026

9:30am - 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening
11:30am-4pm Open to all

Fun activities, hands-on workshops, experiments, talks, show, competitions and cafe



BOOK
TICKETS

**MORGAN
SINDALL**
CONSTRUCTION

www.brookes.ac.uk/sciencebazaar
sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk



@OxfordBrookesPublicEngagementResearch



@oburesearchpublicengagement

Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus, OX3 0BP

NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS

Rename file

School Aged
Immunisation Service

NHS
Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust

Does your child still need a Flu Vaccination?

We are still vaccinating!



Follow the QR code / link
to consent for your child and make a
community clinic appointment

If you've already filled in the consent form,
please book your appointment using the
reference number that was emailed to you from
school.immunisations@nhs.net when you consented

For more information visit
www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms