

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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12th December 2025

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

Our value this term is Respect

"So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 7 v 12

Dear all,

I can't quite believe that we are already drawing towards the end of my first term as Headteacher here at Marcham - it feels like only yesterday that it was September. The term has been an extremely busy one with opportunities, experiences and learning which pupils were proud to share during our open morning yesterday. Christmas jumper day was a great success too with a multitude of colourful jumpers sat in front of me in the hall for assembly!

It was a delight to watch the Pandas in their nativity performance this week – they spoke clearly, sang beautifully, danced gracefully and looked fantastic in their nativity costumes. Thank you to parents and grandparents who attended the performance, the children were delighted that you were able to come.



Continuing on this theme, I will remind you that **Leopards and Tigers Nativity** performance takes place **next Tuesday (16th December) at 2pm**. We hope that parents and carers will be able to attend. Please remember that we will be having a collection for Save the Children and the Dave Thorne Outdoor Experiences Bursary asking for any donation that you can make.



Key Stage 2 (Kangaroos, Meerkats, Wolves and Giraffes) will be leading our **carol service on Thursday 18th December at 9.30am in All Saints Church, Marcham**. With a collection of readings, art work and carols, it will be a festive event for all. Again, there will be an opportunity to donate anything you can to our charity bucket.

Children who are part of the school choir (Years 4, 5 & 6) took part in the Music Flood Festival of Carols at St Helen's Church, Abingdon on Thursday 4th December. The children sang and played beautifully and as one of the organisers said, *"Marcham is small but mighty!"*. Our instrumentalists, Heidi (double bass), Clara & Maddalena (violins), Romy (keyboard), Zara & Poppy (glockenspiels) and Naia (percussion) enjoyed the experience of being part of an orchestra.



Choir, with a selection of village groups, will also be performing at the **Carols by Candlelight Service on Sunday 14th December** starting at **6pm** in All Saints Church, Marcham.

"Living the Vision" certificates were awarded to:

Friday 5th December: Ria, Sophia P, Amadou, Isla H and Willow

Friday 12th December: Nushka, Rosie, Teddy, Becky, Rowan and Heidi

"Reach for Learning" certificates were awarded to:

Friday 5th December: James W, Ezra, Isaac, Laurie, Maddalena, Emmy, and Alfie S

Friday 12th December: Erin, Arlo, Phoebe, Maryam, Jenson and Naia



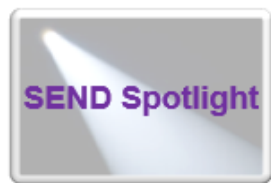
Recognition also goes to Chloe Lambale who recently received an athletics award from her coaches. The award was for perseverance, improvement and hard work and was awarded by Radley Athletics Club. Chloe said that she has been training for about a year and enjoys longer distance running rather than sprinting. Well done Chloe, keep up the great work.

Walk to school:

Thank you so much for your enthusiasm for the new walking to school initiative that we have signed up for. As a school we awarded **131 badges** for walking, cycling, scooting or park and striding at least once each week for the month of November. This scheme is going to continue all year with the aim of reducing the number of cars and emissions at the school gates at the beginning and end of the day. To park and stride we are looking for a 5–10-minute walk. Maybe there is a friend's house that you could park at so that the children can walk in together a couple of times a week.

Furthermore, the badges are different each month and all designed by children. The design competition launches in January and I will share more information with you in the new year.

Mr Clayton



Children can experience worries at any age, and it's helpful for families to know where to find support. Below are trusted resources offering simple strategies and guidance to help children understand and manage anxious feelings:

[Young Minds](#)

[Anxiety UK](#)

[Anna Freud](#)

[Childline](#)

We look towards the last week of this term with anticipation and excitement. Classrooms are looking festive with decorations being put up. Giraffes and Wolves have worked incredibly hard sewing their Christmas decorations with care (some had extremely intricate pieces which were attached beautifully). Leopards have a nativity display which the children have collaged together and even the office has its own little Christmas tree! We hope to see many of you at either our Nativity performance (KS1) or Carol Service (KS2) next week.

With best wishes,

L Priddle

Lindsay Priddle, Headteacher

Learning of the Week

This week, **Pandas** have been learning about the Christmas story and have started creating some Christmas themed crafts. We also did a fantastic job performing our Nativity for our families! The children sang loudly, remembered their actions and lines and made the Pandas' teachers very proud.

Leopards have been working hard on their nativity performance, learning the words, practising actions and positioning on the stage. In Forest School, we have moved the bug hotel into the corner where more minibeast might live. We've added new sticks, leaves and wood to encourage more.

Tigers have been busy practicing for their Nativity, and they are excited to perform to the school and to parents next week. In Maths, they have been learning about 3-D shapes and their properties. They also received their last update from the Ticket to Antarctica expedition, and they have been finishing their learning about the different animals in Europe and Australia.

In **Kangaroos** we have been finishing off our text The First Drawing, using the magic of drawing as inspiration for seeing the magic of playtime. We have also finished our unit on multiplication and division (by 2, 4 and 8). We're getting ready for Christmas by learning more about how light is used in celebrations and practicing our lines for the carol service.



This week **Meerkats** have worked together as a class to produce our own version of The Grinch. We've focused on an AABB rhyming structure to write stanzas describing Whoville and The Grinch. The children have added their own illustrations too. We're very impressed (as was Miss Priddle when she went for story time in Year 4!). We are also learning how to read time using 12 and 24 hours and analogue and digital clocks.

Wolves

These past few weeks we have been getting into the festive spirit. Last week, we created lots of Christmas decorations within our DT unit. We sewed lots of different parts together and they are currently decorating our classes. In Wolves Writing class we have almost finished the book 'Running Wild', we don't know if Will ever goes back home! In Maths, we have been multiplying numbers using the grid method and column multiplication. It has been quite tricky!

This week in **Giraffes** we have been completing our DT project which was to design and make a Christmas decoration. We have used felt for the design and stuffed them. We used our REACH learning behaviours to succeed, especially Ravi the resilient rhino when threading needles and Hetty the hardworking hedgehog to finish our designs and have them looking amazing. In Science we have learnt about refraction and how our eyes work

Diary Dates

Day	Date	Event	Time
Tuesday	16th December	KS1 (Leopards & Tigers) Nativity – parents welcome	2pm
Thursday	18th December	KS2 Carol Service – Church – parents welcome	9.30am
Thursday	18 th December	Christmas Lunch	12 – 1pm
Friday	19th December	End of Term	1.30pm
Monday	5 th January	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils	All day
Wednesday	14 th January	Open Morning for Prospective Pupils (Reception September 2026)	9.30 – 11am
Wednesday	14 th January	Swimming Competition – more details to follow	Afternoon
Thursday	15 th January	Wolves and Giraffes Evacuation Day (topic work linked to WWII)- more details to follow	All day
Thursday	15 th January	Deadline for applications for Reception places September 2026	-

Website

Wolves & Giraffes Class - Have shared their recent visit to the Living Rainforest and IMPS visitors to school.

School Sporting Events - Meerkats, Kangaroos and Tigers share their fun at the Tennis Workshop.

Wolves - Have shared their creative Christmas creations.

Attendance

Well done to

Morland house with 96.52 %
attendance

7th November to 10th December

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 96.21%	Denman 95.22%
Duffield 95.62%	Morland 96.52%