

Newsletter – Autumn 1 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

We had a great first week back at school last week. It was super watching the children catching up with their friends and settling back into the routine of school.

I would like to welcome our new children to both our schools and also our new members of staff who have joined us this year.

We will now be returning to a newsletter each half term. At the end of each week you will receive a diary list of the events for the following week.



Congratulations!

Miss Harris is now Mrs Booth. On behalf of our Acorn Federation family, I would like to wish Mr and Mrs Booth many years of love happiness together.

Office Staff Hours

Due to the current situation we are not allowing parents on site unless by prior appointment for a meeting with a member of staff. If you have a question for the office please contact them by telephone or email so that they can initially deal with your request in that way.

LLPS

Monday and Tuesday – Mrs Watts from 10am

Thursday and Friday – Mrs Murby between 9am and 3pm

MMPS

Mrs Lovett will be in the school office most days from 8:45am.

Dates for this academic year

We have planned our year as if all events can go ahead as normal. Each half term the letter will include information on the events for that term. Please look out for information on these, including changes depending on the situation and guidance we receive regarding COVID-19.

Updating Forms

Over the next few weeks, we will also be sending out forms for parents to ensure we have up-to-date information about you and your children. Please complete and return the forms as soon as you can. These will include medical forms, collection forms, permission forms and home-school agreements. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in completing these promptly.

Free School Meals

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

What does Free School Meals (FSM) mean?

While you remain entitled to receive FSM your child will receive a school meal for free. The funding also gives the pupils Pupil Premium funding. This is £1300 each year which is used by the school to support your child's learning, this can mean 1-to-1 or small group support for interventions, support to pay for school trips, help funding clubs (e.g. after school club).

What do I need to do?

If you think you may be eligible to receive FSM please let Mrs Lovett, Mrs Murby or Mrs Watts have your full name, date of birth and national insurance number. They can then submit the information to Derbyshire County Council. Any applications will be dealt with in confidence.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be important, particularly following the closure of schools last year. We will be closely monitoring attendance and supporting families where pupils have attendance below 90%.

Attending school regularly is key to your child doing well at school and will set them up with good routines for later life and the working world.

95% Attendance – This is the equivalent of having half a day off every other week.

90% Attendance – This is the equivalent of having half a day off every week.

80% Attendance – This is the equivalent of having a day off every week.

When children are unwell, they should not attend school. However, I would ask you to consider if they are too ill to attend school, or if they will perk up once they see their friends. Please remember and adhere to the 48-hour rule. Children must not be in school for 48 hours after their last incident of sickness or diarrhoea.

Any children displaying symptoms of Coronavirus should not attend school (a high temperature or a continuous cough or a loss of taste / smell).

As part of our policy on attendance, if your child's attendance falls below 90% we will inform you by letter.

Arrival at School

I appreciate that parents all have a time slot now for arrival at school. These slots have been organised so that all children should be in school by **8:55am**. The school day can then start at the normal time. As part of our work on attendance, we will continue to monitor prompt arrival at school. When all children arrive by **8:55am** it allows us to have a settled start to the day and ensures no learning is missed. Every year it is vital that we make the most of the learning time available to us. Thank you in advance for supporting us with this.

Absence Procedures

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please contact school by phone before 9.10am and inform us of the reason for their absence and when you expect them to return to school. Thank you.

Holidays

"Family Holidays and Other Absences

Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, which came into force on 1st September 2013. State that Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence for holidays during the term time unless there are exceptional circumstances; in these cases it is the Head teacher who determines the number of days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

Parents needing leave of absence for **exceptional circumstances** should speak to the headteacher as soon as possible and, when possible, at least two weeks before the anticipated start date.

Parents who take their children on holiday without permission will incur an unauthorised absence for their child. These remain on the child's record and will be monitored for further action by the Education Welfare Service."

Derbyshire County Council may issue a fine to parents who take their children out of school for an unauthorised holiday; this can be one day or two weeks.

Medical Conditions

Please inform school if your child has a medical condition and ensure the appropriate medication is in school (e.g. inhalers for asthma). If your child already has medication in school, please ensure it is in date. This information will also need recording on the medical form, which will be sent out over the coming weeks.

Please remember medication was taken home before the summer holiday and now needs to be returned to school.

School Policy Documents

Both school websites contain many of our policy documents for you to access. If you require a paper copy or cannot find the policy you are looking for please contact the school office.

Homework

You will have received information about homework from your class teachers. We have adjusted our expectations for homework at Marston and in the Garden Class at Long Lane. This year class teachers will provide more formal homework to help the children catch-up on their learning. Please make sure you have the homework book at home so that it can be completed and handed in on time. **Any children not completing their homework on time will need to do this during break or lunch time.**

Swimming

This academic year, children in the Meadow Class will be swimming at Ashbourne Pool during the Summer term.

Tuck Shop

Tuck Shop will be open on Friday 17th September at both MMPS and LLPS.

The children will be able to buy a cereal bar. Cereal bars will cost 20p each. The Tuck Shop will be run by older children in the Meadow Class. If the children would like to buy a bar they will need to bring a small purse containing 20p (**we will not be giving change**) on a Monday and Friday.



Secondary Open Evenings

Wednesday 22nd September – John Port Spencer Academy
Wednesday 29th September – Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School

PE Kits

Following feedback from parents at both schools we have made the decision that the children will come to school wearing their kit on PE days. Please ensure that they are in PE kit and not other sports clothing. I am aware that there are difficulties purchasing the kit from our supplier. If you are waiting for kit please send your child in plain blue or white t-shirt, plain shorts and joggers and their school jumper, thank you. The children will be doing PE on the following days, -

LLPS: Garden Class – Tuesday and Friday

LLPS: Meadow Class – Friday

MMPS: Garden Class – Tuesday and Thursday

MMPS: Meadow Class – Thursday

Events in autumn 1 2021 (September and October)

Music Lessons

During the Autumn and Spring term, the children in the Meadow Class at both our schools will be learning the flute through Derbyshire's Wider Opportunities Program. These lessons will take place on a Tuesday afternoon.

Phonics Open Morning (22/09/21)

Children in the Garden Class have taken home an invite to attend this. Please remember to return your slips by Wednesday 15th September 2021.

MacMillan Coffee (24/09/20)

We are hoping to be able to invite families to join us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning at LLPS and Coffee Afternoon at MMPS. Please watch out for an invite to attend.

Joint day (21/10/21)

Our first joint day is planned for Thursday 21st October. Staff will still work together to plan the learning that will take place. The theme for this day is Celebrating Diversity.

INSET Day (22/10/20)

School will be closed today for children.

Half Term Week (25/10/20 to 29/10/20)

School will be closed this week for half term. Children will return to school on Monday 1st November.

Open Morning – Writing (24/11/21)

Please look for information about this nearer the time.

Show and Share – 03/12/21

Please look for information about this nearer the time.

Mrs Bosley's Plan

This is the plan for this half term. Please remember that if you would like to speak to me when I am at the other school, you can contact a member of staff to see if they are able to help or ask staff to contact me so that I can contact you.

w/b	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
06/09/20	LLPS / MMPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS
13/09/20	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	Work from home
20/09/20	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS / MMPS
27/09/20	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	
04/10/20	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	
11/10/20	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	
18/10/20	LLPS	MMPS	LLPS	MMPS	INSET

Kind regards

Teresa Bosley
Head Teacher



Marston Montgomery Primary School

Welcome

The staff and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new children and their families to our school. We are all looking forward to getting to know you. We are also happy to welcome Mrs McManus and Mrs White who have joined our Marston Montgomery Team.

Breakfast and After School Clubs (BC & ASC)

Booking forms for BC and ASC were sent out before the summer holidays, if you require a new one please ask a member of staff. Please remember that places need to be booked a week in advance, so that we can ensure we have staff for each session. Thank you.

Marston Montgomery – Events in September and October

Outdoor Learning

We will be offering a session of outdoor learning each week. The Meadow Class will have their Outdoor learning sessions on a Friday afternoon during the Autumn 1 term. When the children are taking part in outdoor learning sessions they will need to bring suitable clothing, e.g. wellington boots, raincoats, gloves, hats etc. They will take part in outdoor learning whatever the weather so **MUST** be appropriately dressed! Please take clothing home after each session. After October half term, the Garden Class will have their outdoor learning sessions.

Session dates

September – 10th, 17th, 24th

October – 1st, 8th, 15th

Parents' Evening

This year parents' evening at MMPS will take place on the following dates, -

Garden Class – Tuesday 19th October

Meadow Class - Tuesday 19th October and Wednesday 20th October

At the moment, we are planning to offer either face to face appointments or Teams appointments. Closer to the date we will send a letter explaining how this will work so that we can keep everyone safe.

Village Hall Christmas Fair

Save the date – Saturday 4th December 10am to 12pm

Save the Date

Nativity – Thursday 16th December at 6pm

Christingle – Wednesday 22nd December at 2pm