



Marshlands Primary School

Half Termly Newsletter

Autumn 1, 2026

Summer 2 Superstars

Hall: Eli M
Birch: Italia H
Beech: Natalia J
Couper: Hana D
Hazel: Elysia K
Humber: Jayden G
Percy: Thea N
Oak: Harvey B

Summer 2 House Winners

Ember

Dear Parents

Welcome back after the summer break!

Diary Dates

Attached are the diary dates we have already and we are trying to plan out as far as possible to give parents as much notice as possible to attend events.

Fund Raising

A huge thank you to all who attended our summer fayre. We raised an amazing £786!

This term we will have a non-uniform day for Jeans for Genes on Friday 18th September, donations for this will be collected in class on the day. Also, there will be a non-uniform day for Children in Need on Friday 13th November 2026, donations will be collected for this too.

Attendance

As you will be aware from social media and national campaigns, attendance remains high on the education agenda. I would like to remind parents that holidays in term time cannot be granted and that the guidance regarding fines, now limits the number of fines which can be given before court proceedings are given.

Attendance for all pupils is expected nationally to be 95%, with attendance now also falling under the safeguarding umbrella.

Staffing

We do have several staff members leaving us in December. This is due to budget constraints and staff leaving us under voluntary redundancy. These staff have been with us many years and will be a significant loss to school. Staff leaving us are: Mrs Clarkson, Mrs Ford, Mrs Howard, Mrs Phillipson, Mrs Ratten, Mrs Silvester and Mr Wilkinson.

As you will be aware, Mrs Sharp is the new deputy head teacher from September, following Mr Wrafter stepping down from this role. Miss Goddard and Mrs Wright join the SLT.

Miss Hayles is now Mrs Benson following her marriage in the summer break. I am sure you will join me in sending congratulations!

Allergens

All schools must now comply with Benedict's Law, which means all staff are trained in allergens, have an allergy policy and have epi pens for emergencies. This is something we were already complying with but will be speaking to pupils on the importance of not sharing food and hand washing, as people may have allergies, they are not aware of.

New Classrooms

We have been fortunate to gain a grant to transform unused classrooms in schools. We have now created a Pupil Hub, Nurture unit, Communication Hub and regulation space. Huge thanks need to go to the staff who worked over summer to ensure these rooms were ready. We also need to thank Howdens, who kindly donated the kitchen units and cupboards.

Governors

Mrs Yorke continues to be our chair of governors, whilst Mr Lewis recovers. We also have a new parent governor in Mrs Heather Coulson. Our safeguarding governor continues to be Miss Campey. Mrs Massey's governor role has now ended, after many years of dedicated service. I'm sure you will join me in thanking her. This means our current governors are: Mr Kay, Mr Walker, Mrs Clarkson (staff governor) and Mrs Laverack.

Behaviour Changes

Following the parental consultation for behaviour, we have reviewed and tweaked our behaviour policy and this is on the website for parents to read fully. We will however, send home a summary and reference guide to parents.

Swimming

Y4 pupils will start swimming lessons this term and further information will be sent out nearer the time.

PE

On class PE days, children need a change of clothes and shoes, especially as the weather gets bad. Following government guidelines, no jewellery including earrings is allowed to be worn for PE, if your child is unable to take their own earrings out, can you please remove these before school.

FSM

As advised in the letter sent in June, the Government has announced changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility in England. These changes will expand access to FSM for more children. From the 2026/27 academic year all children living in households receiving Universal Credit are entitled to Free School Meals, regardless of their level of earnings. We would urge you to apply as you may now be eligible.

From the start of the 2026/27 academic year, there will be two groups:

- **Targeted Free School Meals**
Children in households receiving Universal Credit with annual earned income of £7,400 or less
- **Expanded Free School Meals**
Children in households receiving Universal Credit with earnings above £7,400.

From September 2026, transitional protection will end. This means existing Free School Meal awards will no longer be automatically protected and households will need to meet the current eligibility criteria to continue receiving FSM. All claims will be reviewed to confirm eligibility under the new rules stated above.

You can apply for free school meals for the 2026/27 academic year at any time using the link [Free school meals](#) or go onto the ERYC website under school meals.

If your child already receives FSM you do not need to re-apply unless you know your circumstances have changed. More families receiving Universal Credit will become eligible under the expanded scheme.

Please note: ERYC have advised that the vouchers previously issued for FSM eligible during school holidays have now ended.

Mrs S Tang
Headteacher

Date	Event
Wednesday 7 th to Friday 11 th Sept	Open night – meet the teacher
Thursday 10 th September	F1 Stay and Play
Friday 11 th September	F1 Stay and Play
Monday 14 th September	F1 new starters
Friday 18 th September	Jeans for Genes - non-uniform day
Friday 25 th September	Y5 Making Bonfire lanterns
Thursday 1 st October	Boggledy Books, 1 day bookfair
Monday 5 th October	Y4 Swimming
Wednesday 7 th October	Y4 Swimming
Friday 9 th October	Y4 Swimming
Monday 12 th October	Y4 Swimming
Wednesday 14 th October	Y4 Swimming
Friday 16 th October	Y4 Swimming
Monday 19 th October	Y4 Swimming
Wednesday 21 st October	Y4 swimming
Thursday 22 nd October	Halloween Day
Half Term	
Monday 2 nd November	School returns
Tuesday 10 th November	School photos
Friday 13 th November	Children in need – non-uniform day
Tuesday 17 th November	Whole school Pantomime show
Wednesday 25 th November	Catch up flu vaccination
Wednesday 9 th December	Christmas Fayre
Thursday 10 th December	Cosy Christmas Day
Monday 14 th December	FSU Christmas Performance AM
	Y3/4 Christmas party pm
Tuesday 15 th December	Y5/6 Christmas Performance AM
	KS 1 & FSU Christmas Party pm
Wednesday 16 th December	Y3/4 Christmas Performance am
	Y5/6 Christmas party PM
Thursday 17 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance AM
Friday 18 th December	Christingle
	Break up
Monday 4 th January	Training Day
Tuesday 5 th January	Pupils return to school