



The Acorn Partnership

Marston Montgomery Primary School
Long Lane C of E Primary School

Newsletter – September 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you have all had time over the holiday to relax and spend quality time with family and friends. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Friday 5th September 2025 when I know we will hear about the fun things they have done over the summer, watch them catch up with their friends and settle back into the routine of school.

I would like to welcome our new children and their families to both our schools. We are all looking forward to getting to know you over the coming seven years.

We will continue to send a newsletter each half term. The calendar on both school websites will be updated so that you can use that to make sure you know what is happening.

Governor News

Welcome back to school and welcome to our new children and families. I hope you have all enjoyed the summer holidays and are ready for the year ahead! Before breaking up for the summer we started renovations at Marston Montgomery, and we look forward to a new fresh environment for both the children and staff.



Local Academy Committee						What we do
LAC Chair	Vice Chair / Parent Member (LL)	Staff Member	Parent Member (MM)	LAC Member	Foundation Member	❖ Provide strategic leadership and support to the school. ❖ Contribute to decision-making on matters such as curriculum, finance, and policies. ❖ Attend meetings and visit our schools.
						
Rachel Yemm	Claire Shardlow	Linda Norcross	Amanda Haymes	Joss Peers	Helen Foley	

The Local Academy Committee

Following my successful application to DDAT as Chair of the Local Academy Committee, I will continue to lead the committee. Claire Shardlow has taken over the role of Vice Chair following the end of term for Simon Dowdy. Linda Norcross will replace Kirsty Murby as Staff Committee Member. We also welcome Joss Peers to the committee, who brings with her vast knowledge and experience in education.

What do we do?

The Local Academy Committee work to plan the strategic direction of the school, oversee budgets, and support and challenge the headteacher. As part of the LAC, committee members play a vital role in helping schools run efficiently and effectively to give children the best education possible. All members at the Acorn Partnership have allocated subjects and visit school to monitor these on a regular basis. You can find more details on the school website. Members attend monthly training courses. Not only to keep up to date with LAC matters but also in subjects such as child protection, safeguarding, mental wellbeing, and online safety.

All committee members are volunteers, any time spent within school is on a voluntary basis - we value everything they do for the Acorn Partnership.

Get to know us!

We organise drop-in sessions twice a year and are often attending social activities at school. This is an opportunity to chat to us about any concerns, suggestions or just a chance to get to know us more – we really appreciate hearing your thoughts as parents.

Rachel Yemm – I became a Governor for the Acorn Federation in 2019, just before Covid. Following Covid I became Chair, and since then I have been involved in 3 Ofsted visits, 1 SIAMS visit, and have been through the process of joining DDAT (a local academy trust). This has given me a vast understanding of the expectations and requirements of education in schools, and how as a committee we can support school improvements. In my role as Chair, I have recruited strong members to join the committee and put in place robust systems to ensure we fulfil our role as a LAC (Local Academy Committee). I am passionate about all children not only receiving the best education, but the skills they need to prepare them for the outside world.

When I am not volunteering as a Chair, I own a business, working as a Senior Event Manager on large global events, my core skills being operations, logistics and budget control. I have 3 boys aged 13, 28 and 31 which gives me experience of the challenges we often face as parents and can relate to the high standards we expect as parents to ensure our children become the best version of themselves.

I love to travel, spend time with family and friends, and if you cannot find me, I'll have escaped to my greenhouse (my little haven)!

Claire Shardlow – I live locally to Long Lane C of E school, and I have four children, three of whom have either attended or are currently at the school. I work part time as an accountant and part time with my husband running our family farm.

I became a parent governor at The Acorn Partnership in 2023 after seeing the fantastic experience my own children were having at Long Lane School and being involved with the PTA for several years. I wanted to support the Partnership in all the hard work they were doing and the changes that were being implemented to offer every child the chance to achieve their goals. I am delighted to have recently been appointed as Vice Chair of the Local Academy Committee. One of the areas that I am responsible for looking at as a committee member is Finance and my career in accountancy has given me the relevant experience for this role. I have enjoyed getting to know the schools from a different perspective over the last couple of years and I look forward to continuing in this role to help the schools and every pupil go from strength to strength.

Helen Foley – I'm Helen Foley and have lived in the local area most of my life, being born on a farm at Sudbury, attended Sudbury Primary School. then Hatton Comprehensive. I trained to be a nurse at the age of 18 at Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham and worked in the NHS all my working life specialising in district nursing working in the various Community settings in and around Derbyshire. Latterly I had a teaching, role supporting nurses in the community in Derby City Centre. I took a career break in 1978 for 4 years when I had my 2 son's Mark and Philip

and was involved in the family farm at Alkmonton. I retired from nursing in 2022 and enjoy spending time with my 3 granddaughters: Eva 11; Hollie 7; and Violet 5.

I live in Marston Montgomery, married to Mark Foley. We both attend St Giles Church, Marston Montgomery.

My Christian faith is important to me and fundamental to my being, as it was to my Mum, Mary my role model, who sadly departed when I just turned 19. Following Jesus daily learning and growing, my favourite saying, 'Every day is a school day!'

I volunteer as a Health Care Chaplain for Chaplaincy Derbyshire supporting patients referred through Derbyshire community Health Services, whom may be struggling with life and just need a listening ear.

Amanda Haymes – I live in Marston Montgomery with my partner and three children. My middle child attended Marston and my youngest is still attending the school. I am a full-time parent. I received a degree in psychology at the University of Derby focusing on an assortment of psychological areas including modules in child developmental, atypical speech and language in children, social psychology, evolution and debate to name a few. My degree has proved very useful in the governing role to give a deeper understanding of the mind and behaviour and how it can differ from person to person. In my free time I enjoy reading, fishing and playing video games with my children.

In November 2021 I joined the governors for The Acorn Partnership as a parent governor. My experience of being an autism mother for the past twenty years has been vital in recognising and understanding those with difficulties particularly with SEND and I feel my past experiences and how I dealt with them as well as all the paperwork and outside help I have had is valuable to the governing team.

During my time as a governor I have enjoyed working alongside the schools as they ensure that all the children in school receive the best education they can.

Joss Peers – Joss has worked as a Primary teacher in schools across England and Wales for 18 years, mostly in senior leadership roles, before moving to work with adults in a further education college for nearly 13 years. She mainly taught on the childcare qualifications and supported learners to develop the professional skills across a range of providers, including schools, as they moved towards employment or higher education. This interest was fuelled by a love of supporting children to make the best progress possible through building positive relationships and personalising their learning. Joss is now a Senior Lecturer in Primary Initial Teacher Education and lead both Stage 1/Year 1 of the undergraduate programmes and Admissions across all programmes, meaning that she has an eye for policy and procedures plus data analysis. Joss is a Level 3 Leader in Forest School, has an NPQ in Leading Teacher Development and is almost at the end of a Professional Doctorate in Education looking at teacher agency in designing a new curriculum in Wales. Joss continues to have the children at the centre of what she does, and she feels the opportunity to do that through a Local Academy Committee is an absolute privilege, especially in rural areas where the dynamics are very different to those in towns and cities.

If you would like to contact us at any time please email ryemm@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk or the Clerk mlovett@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk

Office Staff Hours

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Bettson who is joining Mrs Lovett in our office team. 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.

As neither Mrs Lovett or Mrs Bettson work full time, please send your email to them both and copy Mrs Bosley in, thank you.

Mrs Bettson – cbettson@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk

Mrs Lovett – mlovett@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk
Mrs Bosley – tbosley@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk

Breakfast and After School Clubs (BC & ASC)

Please make sure you have booked sessions for BC and ASC on the Parent Pay app. Please also email Mrs Bettson, Mrs Lovett and Mrs Bosley with the dates / times you have booked so that they can ensure staff know the sessions have been booked.

If you are having difficulty using Parent Pay please contact Mrs Bettson and Mrs Lovett and one of them will get back to you.

Please remember that **places need to be booked seven days in advance**, so that we can ensure we have staff for each session, for example if you need a session on Monday 14th it needs to be booked on Monday 7th. Thank you.

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 £1455 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, support to buy school uniform, 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 have your full name, date of birth and national insurance number. She can then submit the information to Derbyshire County Council. Any applications will be dealt with in confidence.

Arrival at School

Please ensure children arrive promptly for the start of the school day, the gate is open from 8:45am until 8:55am. It is important that children arrive at school by 8:55am because it allows us to have a settled start to the day and ensures no learning is missed.

As part of our work on attendance, we will continue to monitor prompt arrival at school. 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.

Medical Conditions

If your child has a medical condition an 'Individual Health Care Plan' will need to be completed and the appropriate medication will need to be in school (e.g. inhalers for asthma). If your child already has medication in school, please ensure it is in date.

If your child already has an 'Individual Health Care Plan' these will be reviewed annually. If there are any changes to your child's medical needs please inform us so we can meet with you to review the plan.

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.

Absence Procedures

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please contact school by telephone or email before 9.00am and inform us of the reason for their absence and when you expect them to return to school. If emailing, please include Mrs Lovett, Mrs Bettson, Mrs Bosley and the class teacher. If telephoning, please leave a message on the school absence line. Thank you.

Holidays

New guidance is in place regarding holidays taken in term time. Holidays are in no circumstances authorised by this school. Unauthorised absence due to holidays will result in a fine being issued.

I'll go on holiday and pay the fine – Education Penalty Notices have now been capped nationally at **two fines** within any three-year period. After this, other action like a parenting order or prosecution has to be considered and this could mean a fine of up to £2500.

What is an unauthorised absence – A child being kept off school unnecessarily or without good reason. Term time holiday is not a justified reason to take your child out of school.

Any unauthorised holidays (for 1 day or longer) will be passed on to Derbyshire County Council and a fine may be issued.

Please complete a holiday form if you have a holiday booked. **Holiday forms must be completed at least two weeks before the holiday.** 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.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school helps children to achieve the best they can.

Please see below for more information.



Every Day Counts

School and future success starts with good attendance!



Very Good and Good Attendance The best chance of success in learning and with friendships.		Concerning Attendance Less chance of success. A reduced chance of making academic progress and maintaining friendships.		Seriously Concerning Attendance Your child will find learning more difficult, academic progress will be minimal and friendships are more difficult	
No Absences	10 days of missed learning	19 days of missed learning	25.5 days of missed learning	29 days of missed learning	38+ days of missed learning
190 days of education	180 days of education	171 days of education	164.5 days of education	161 days of education	152 days of education
100%	95%	90%	87%	85%	80%
There are 365 days in a year. A school year is 190 days. This leaves 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping and appointments.					
Daily lateness equates to...		<u>5 minutes per day</u> 3 days of lost learning over the year	<u>10 minutes per day</u> 6 days of lost learning over the year	<u>15 minutes per day</u> 10 days of lost learning over the year	

Emailing School

In order to help everyone's work-life balance I have introduced a new policy for responding to emails. If you email a member of staff they will reply to your email within three working days between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm. If your query is urgent please speak to a member of staff. Thank you

Pencil Cases

The children **do not** need pencil cases when they return to school in September. We will provide all the equipment they need.

Swimming

This academic year, children in the Meadow Class will be swimming at Ashbourne Pool during the Autumn term. Letters will be sent to parents during the week beginning Monday 8th September with more information.

The first swimming session is on Tuesday 16th September.

Secondary Open Evenings

Thursday 18th September – John Port Spencer Academy for Y5/6, 4:30pm to 7pm

Thursday 18th September – Murray Park for Y5/6, 6pm to 8pm

Wednesday 24th September – Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School for Y4/5/6 at 6pm

More information can be found on each school's website.

PE Kits

The children will need to bring their PE kit into school in a drawstring bag. The bag needs to stay in school to allow staff flexibility as to when they teach PE.

Please ensure as we start the new academic year that children are in our Partnership PE kit and not other sports clothing.

Events

A list of events for the Autumn term is at the end of this newsletter. Please note some dates may change or be added.

Warm regards

Teresa Bosley
Executive Head Teacher



Marston Montgomery Primary School

Marston Montgomery – Events in Autumn 2025

Date	Event	Time	Where
04/09/25	INSET Day	All day	School closed to children for staff training
05/09/25	School reopens	8:55am	
17/09/25	Garden Class: Phonics Workshop	9am – 9:45am	Parents with children in the Garden Class are invited to come along and find out how phonics is taught in school and how you can support at home.
26/09/25	Open Morning	9am – 11am	Prospective parents are warmly invited to visit our school
	Macmillan Coffee Morning	9am to 10am	Families, friends and the local community are invited to support us raising money for this worthwhile cause
08/10/25	Bike Ability – L1 to 3	1pm to 3pm	Our Year 6 children will be joined by our Long Lane Year 6 children to complete their Bike Ability. They will need their bikes in school for this.
10/10/25	Harvest Service	9:15am	Families, friends and the local community are invited to join us for our harvest celebration.
15/10/25	Flu Immunisation		More information and consent information will be shared nearer the time.
16/10/25	Open Afternoon	1:30pm - 3:30pm	Prospective parents are warmly invited to visit our school
21/10/25	Parents' Evening	3:30pm – 6:00pm	Parents and carers are invited to come to school to discuss their child's progress, both academic and social.
24/10/25	Joint Day: Sports Focus	All day	The children will all work at Marston for this day with a sports focus
27/10/25 to 31/10/25		Half term	
03/11/25	School reopens	8:55am	
14/11/25	Children in Need	All day	Children wear non-uniform in return for a donation
17/11/25	Open Morning	9am – 11am	Prospective parents are warmly invited to visit our school
18/11/25	Garden Class: Cross Country Event	9am - 11:30am	More information to follow
28/11/25	INSET Day	All day	School closed to children for staff training
09/12/25	Nativity	6pm	Family and friends are invited to join us for our Nativity in Church.
17/12/25	Pantomime	10am	The children will watch the panto at Derby Arena
18/12/25	Christmas Dinner & Party	12:15pm – 3:30pm	The children may wear non-uniform today
19/12/25	Christingle Service	9:15am	Family and friends are invited to join us for our Christingle Service in Church
22/12/25 to 02/01/26		Christmas Holiday	
05/01/26	School reopens	8:55am	

Marston Montgomery – Events in Autumn 2025: Regular Events

Date	Event	Time	Where
11/09/25 18/09/25 25/09/25 02/10/25 09/10/25 16/10/25 23/10/25 06/11/25 13/11/25 20/11/25 27/11/25 04/12/25 11/12/25 18/12/25	KiddiActiv	9:15am - 10:15am	Pre-school children are invited to join our reception children in Marston's Village Hall for a PE session.
11/09/25 18/09/25 02/10/25 16/10/25 06/11/25 20/11/25 04/12/25	Marston Tots	1:30pm - 3:00pm	Pre-school children are invited to join our Garden Class for an afternoon of fun activities.
25/09/25 09/10/25 13/11/25 27/11/25 11/12/25	Marston Tots – Forest School	1:30pm - 3:00pm	During the Autumn term our Garden Class children will participate in a series of Forest School sessions. When the children are taking part in Forest School they will need to bring suitable clothing, e.g. wellington boots, raincoats, gloves, hats etc. Forest School sessions happen whatever the weather is like so children MUST be appropriately dressed! Please take clothing home after each session. Pre-school children are welcome to join the sessions.
16/09/24 23/09/24 30/09/25 07/10/25 14/10/25 04/11/25 11/11/25 18/11/25 25/11/25 02/12/25	Swimming	1:25pm – 3:30pm	All children in Meadow Class will go swimming. A letter with further information will be sent home.
20/10/25 23/10/25	DT Days	All day	Children will work across the partnership to complete thier DT learning.