



## The Acorn Partnership

Marston Montgomery Primary School  
Lung Lane C of E Primary School

### Newsletter – December 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

As always it has been another busy term for both our schools. The children have worked hard in class and taken part in lots of Christmas themed activities.

As Christmas is fast approaching, on behalf of staff and Governors I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

#### **Attendance**

##### **Absence**

Attendance remains a high priority for all schools. Often, we give a percentage to children's attendance, which can be deceiving. For example, I would be delighted if I scored 92% in an exam. However, 92% attendance over the school year is equivalent to 15 days absent from school which is a lot of missed learning.

Days Absent	Percentage Attendance
0	100%
1	
2	
3	
4	98%
5	
6	
7	96%
8	
9	95%
10	
11	94%
12	
13	
14	
15	92%
16	
17	
18	
19	90%

##### **Prompt arrival at school**

Our school gates open at 8:45am and children should be in school, ready to learn by 8:55am. If they are late children miss learning time and this can quickly add up to days being missed over the academic year. Please make sure children arrive in school promptly for the start of the school day. Thank you

<b>Daily lateness equates to...</b>	<b>5 minutes per day</b> 3 days of lost learning over the year	<b>10 minutes per day</b> 6 days of lost learning over the year	<b>15 minutes per day</b> 10 days of lost learning over the year
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### **Reporting Absence**

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please contact school by phone or email before 9.10am 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 Murby, Mrs Bosley and the class teacher. If telephoning please leave a message if no-one answers as it is not always possible for someone to answer the phone. Thank you.

### **Safety at Christmas**

Attached to the email is a poster with suggestions for keeping safe at Christmas.

### **Breakfast and After School Clubs (BC & ASC)**

Please remember to book sessions for BC and ASC on the Parent Pay app. Please also email Mrs Murby and Mrs Lovett with the dates / times you have booked so that they can ensure staff know the sessions that have been booked. If you are having difficulty using Parent Pay please contact Mrs Murby and she 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 14<sup>th</sup> it needs to be booked on Monday 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

### **Lots for Tots Awards**

We are delighted that both Long Lane Church of England Primary School and Marston Montgomery Primary School have been nominated for the 2025 Lots for Tots Awards! Voting is now open, please vote for us and ask other family members and friends to vote for us as well.

Voting is available on the Lots for Tots website: [www.lotsfortots.co.uk/vote](http://www.lotsfortots.co.uk/vote)

You can vote more than once so you can vote for each school.

Voting will close on **17th January at 12pm**.

### **Information from Boots Pharmacy: NHS Pharmacy First Service**

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that they can help children feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service. Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

<b>Common condition</b>	<b>Patient eligibility</b>
Earache	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	1 year and over
Sore throats	5 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract	Women 16 to 64 years
Shingles	18 years and over

## **Staffing**

In January Mrs Blurton will be leaving us to take up a position at another school. I would like to thank Mrs Blurton for all her hard work during her time at both our schools and wish her luck for the future. Mrs Blurton's last day with us will be 10<sup>th</sup> January.

In January Miss Walters will support learning in the Garden Class at Long Lane. Mrs Coppen will support learning in both our Meadow Classes.

## **Partnership – Events in Autumn 2 2024**

### **Children in Need - 15/11/24**

We raised money for Children in Need this year. We had a fantastic day in non-uniform. Our activities included making spotty biscuits, bringing teddies from home, colouring and using our computer skills to create our own Pudsey bears. Across the partnership we raised an amazing £129.85 for this worthy cause.



### **DT Day 1 and 2: 16/12/24 and 17/12/24**

**EYFS:** The theme for our DT day in reception was the Julia Donaldson story – Stick Man. We started the first day listening to the story and then shared various challenges that were to be completed. Our challenges included, -

- Using a saw, sawing willow and making a stickman which was decorated with wool
- Exploring painting with sticks,
- Ordering the story by practising our use of scissors to cut out pictures
- Making a boat out of plasticine and testing if it would float - well done Hannah for building the only boat which floated on the first attempt.

**Year 1 and 2:** The children showed off some impressive skills with prepping, making and cooking a variety of food for their joint design and technology days. Years 1 and 2 had the challenge to safely peel, grate and chop food. They then used these skills to create their own sandwiches which they had designed. Mrs Sheen and Mrs Blurton were impressed with each and every child and their enthusiasm to the task. They all had a different sandwich design and were able to show their chopping, grating and cutting skills using bridge and claw grips as appropriate. Well done to all!



### **Year 3 and 4:**

Year 3/4 designed, cooked, and evaluated a vegetable curry, which, they cooked in the village hall at Marston in the brand-new kitchen. They learnt how to use the bridge and claw techniques for chopping and use a hob safely.



### **Year 5 and 6:**

Years 5 and 6 enjoyed two wonderful DT days, where they tasted, planned and made their own salsa and flatbreads! They tried out many different spices, flavours and ingredients, and planned their recipes based on what everyone liked the most! The results were brilliant and not a shred of flatbread was left at the end!

### **Joint Sports Day: 18/19/24**

Children had a great day partaking in laser tag activities. They also had great fun using Zorb balls bouncing around the hall.



Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year

Teresa Bosley  
Executive Head Teacher



# Marston Montgomery Primary School

## Marston Montgomery – Events in Autumn 2 2024

### Nativity - 10/12/23

The children put on a fantastic performance of their nativity 'Prickly Hay'. The show was filled with fantastic speakers, spectacular singers, dazzling dancers and of course some laughter. We were so proud of what the children achieved, and it was wonderful to see so many of their family and friends cheering them on.



### Christmas Activities Day - 19/12/24

The children enjoyed making cards and calendars this morning, at lunch time we ate a delicious Christmas dinner (thank you Mrs Charlesworth) and during the afternoon they enjoyed playing games together at the Christmas Party.

### Christingle Service - 20/12/24

Our Christingle Service is a wonderful way to end the term.



### Celebration Assembly - 20/12/24

It is always lovely to celebrate the children's achievements. There is so much hard work, effort and progress that goes on at Marston Montgomery every day. Well done to those who received a certificate this term! A big thank you to those family members who were able to attend the assembly.

**Marston Montgomery – Events in Autumn 2 2024**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Where</b>
<b>Half Term – 28/10/24 to 01/11/24 – School closed</b>			
<b>Christmas Holiday – 23/12/24 to 03/01/25 – School Closed</b>			
06/01/25	School reopens to children	8:55am	
04/02/25 11/02/25 18/02/25 25/02/25	Forest School	1:15pm – 3:30pm	Meadow Class
23/01/25	Maths Workshop	9:00am – 9:45am	Both classes Whole school
24/01/24	RDSSP - FUNdamentals	9:00am – 11:00am	Garden Class Ashbourne LC
06/02/25	Marston Tots – Chinese New Year Theme	1:30pm – 3:15pm	Garden Class
13/02/25 14/02/25	DT Day 1 DT Day 2	All day	Whole Partnership Both schools
21/02/25	Celebration Assembly	9:00am – 9:30am	Whole school Meadow Class
25/02/25	Parents’ Evening	3:30pm – 6:00pm	Whole school Both classrooms
27/02/25	World Book Day	9:00am – 1:00pm	Whole school Both classrooms
28/02/25	Joint Day – Sports Focus	All day	Whole Partnership Marston
<b>Half Term – 03/03/25 to 07/03/25</b>			
10/03/25	School reopens to children	8:55am	Whole school
25/03/25	Primary Stars – Team Challenge	9:30am – 11:30am	Garden Class Ashbourne Rec
28/03/25	Mother’s Day Service	3:00pm – 3:30pm	Whole school Church
02/04/25	Marston Tots – Easter Theme	1:30pm – 3:15pm	Garden Class Garden Class
04/04/25	Easter Service	2:30pm – 3:30pm	Whole school Church
<b>Easter – 07/04/25 to 21/04/25</b>			
22/04/25	School reopens to children	8:55am	Whole school