



Newsletter – September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 5th September 2023 when I am sure 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. Welcome also to Mr Lovett who joins us as Meadow Class teacher at Long Lane for two days a week.

We will continue to send a newsletter each half term. Mrs Murby will update the calendar on the school websites so that you can use that to make sure you know what is happening.

Governor News

Welcome back to school, I hope you have all enjoyed the summer holidays and are ready for the exciting year ahead, a year when we will become part of DDAT.

Changes to the governing board

After completing 4 years of service in July, we said goodbye to our Vice Chair Jonathan Calow. Simon Dowdy is going to take on this role moving forwards. I have agreed to stay on the board for a further 4 years and will continue as Chair.

We welcome 2 new governors, Helen Foley and Paul Rymer and we have a position available for a Parent Governor. If you would like to chat through the role, please contact Mrs Bosley, myself or the clerk. Further information and application forms will be emailed to parents on 12th September 2023.

What do the governors do?

School governors work to plan the strategic direction of the school, oversee budgets, and support and challenge the headteacher. As part of the governing board, governors play a vital role in helping schools run efficiently and effectively to give children the best education possible. All governors at the Acorn Federation have allocated subjects and visit school to monitor these on a regular basis. You can find more details on the school website.

Governors attend monthly training courses. Not only to keep up to date with governing matters but also in subjects such as child protection, safeguarding, mental wellbeing, online safety.

Drop-in sessions!

Every 3 months we organise governor drop-in sessions. These are an opportunity to chat to us about any concerns, suggestions or just a chance to get to know us more. All parents are welcome to drop in to see us. We will share session dates with you soon. If you would like to contact us at any time please email ryemm@acornfed.derbyshire.sch.uk or the Clerk mlovett@acornfed.derbyshire.sch.uk

Rachel Yemm
Chair of Governors

Office Staff Hours

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.

Please email both Mrs Lovett and Mrs Murby with your queries and one of them will get back to you.

Mrs Murby – k.murby@acornfed.derbyshire.sch.uk

Mrs Lovett – mlovett@acornfed.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 Murby and Mrs Lovett with the dates / times you have booked so that they can ensure staff know the sessions have been booked and can inform staff.

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

Please remember that **places need to be booked a week 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.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be important. We will continue to closely monitor attendance and will support 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.

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 or Mrs Murby 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.

Arrival at and Collection from 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.

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.

Please remember medication may have been 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 receive information about homework from your class teachers. 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.**

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 Summer term.

Tuck Shop

Tuck Shop will be open on Friday 8th September at both MMPS and LLPS.

The children will be able to buy a cereal bar. Cereal bars will cost 25p 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 25p (**we will not be giving change**) on a Monday and Friday.



Secondary Open Evenings

Wednesday 27th September – John Port Spencer Academy for Y5/6

Wednesday 27th September – Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School for Y5/6

PE Kits

Children will continue to wear their PE kit to school on PE days. Towards the end of last year we had some children coming to school in clothing that was not PE kit, please ensure as we start the new academic year that children are in our Federation PE kit and not other sports clothing.

Events in Autumn 2023

Celebration Assembly (Friday mornings, 9am to 9:15am)

Parents are invited to join us to celebrate the work the children have completed during the week.

Phonics Open Morning (20/09/23, 9am to 9:45am)

During this morning parents in the Garden Class will be able to watch a phonics lesson and then class teachers will talk to parents about phonics and how you can help at home.

Closer to the time the children will take home an invite with a slip to complete.

Derby Open Centre (26/09/23)

All children in the Meadow Class will visit the Open Centre in Derby. Look out for a letter with further information.

MacMillan Coffee (29/09/23)

Families and friends are invited to join us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning.

At LLPS the coffee morning will begin after the Harvest Service at about 9:45am and will finish at 10:45am.

At MMPS the coffee 'morning' will be from 2:30pm to 3:30pm.

Please watch out for an invite to attend. Donations of cakes will be greatly appreciated.

Ploughing Match (04/10/23)

All children will go to the ploughing match this year. Please look out for a letter with more information.

Show and Share (8:45am to 9:05am)

Parents are invited into school today to look at their children's books.

Friday 20th October 2023

Friday 8th December 2023

Joint Day (26/10/23)

The children from both schools will spend the day at MMPS for a day of sports activities – zorbing and laser tag.

A letter with further details will be sent out closer to the time.

INSET Day (27/10/23)

School will be closed today for children.

Half Term Week (30/10/23 to 03/11/23)

School will be closed this week for half term. Children will return to school on Monday 6th November

Joint Day: Children in Need (17/11/23)

More information to follow.

Maths Open Moring (22/11/23, 9am to 10am)

During this morning parents will be able to take part in a maths lesson alongside their children.

Closer to the time the children will take home an invite with a slip to complete.

INSET Day (01/12/23)

School will be closed today for children.

Christmas Jumper Day (08/12/23)

Children (and staff) may wear their Christmas Jumpers to school today in return for a donation to Save the Children. If you haven't got a jumper you could add tinsel or baubles to your outfit, alternatively children can wear their own clothes.

Kind regards

Teresa Bosley
Head Teacher



Marston Montgomery Primary School

Marston Montgomery – Events in Autumn 2023

Harvest Service (15/09/22, 9:15am)

Families and friends are invited to join us in Church today to celebrate Harvest festival. Please can the children bring donations of non-perishable goods on the day. These will be donated to a local food bank, thank you.

Marston Tots

Marston Tots will take place on a Friday afternoon from 1:30pm until 3:15pm. Pre-school children and a parent / carer are welcome to join our Garden Class for the afternoon.

October – 6th

December – 8th

Parents' Evening

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

Wednesday 25th October 2023

Closer to the date we will send a letter for you to book your appointment.

Save the Date

Nativity – Wednesday 13th December at 6pm – the whole school will participate in this.

Christingle – Friday 22nd December at 2pm