



**The Acorn Partnership**

Marston Montgomery Primary School  
Lung Lane C of E Primary School

## Newsletter – September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024 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. 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 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 to update both schools and we look forward to a new fresh environment for both the children and staff.

### **Changes to the governing board**

Now that we are part of a trust (DDAT) we will be known as a Local Academy Committee (LAC). The Chair of Governors is recruited via the trust and the other committee members are recruited by the committee.

### **What do 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 Partnership 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 and online safety.

All governors are volunteers, any time spent within school is on a voluntary basis and we value everything our governors 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.

If you would like to contact us at any time please email [ryemm@acornfed.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:ryemm@acornfed.derbyshire.sch.uk) or the Clerk [mlovet@acornfed.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:mlovet@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.

As neither Mrs Lovett or Mrs Murby work full time, please send your email to them both, thank 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 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.

### **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 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 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. 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.

In the May 2024 newsletter we gave prior warning that from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 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. These 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!**



<b>Very Good and Good Attendance</b> The best chance of success in learning and with friendships.		<b>Concerning Attendance</b> Less chance of success. A reduced chance of making academic progress and maintaining friendships.		<b>Seriously Concerning Attendance</b> 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
<b>100%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>80%</b>

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.

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

### **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 Autumn term. Letters will be sent to parents on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September with more information.

### **Secondary Open Evenings**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September – John Port Spencer Academy for Y5/6

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School for Y4/5/6

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 so that staff can be flexible 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.

Kind regards

Teresa Bosley  
Executive Head Teacher



# Marston Montgomery Primary School

## Marston Montgomery – Events in Autumn 2024

Date	Event	Time	Where
17/09/24 24/09/24 01/10/24 08/10/24 15/10/24 05/11/24 12/11/24 19/11/24 26/11/24 03/12/24	Swimming	1:25pm – 3:30pm	All children in Meadow Class will go swimming. A letter with further information will be sent home.
26/09/24	Marston Tots – Forest School theme	1:30pm – 3:15pm	Pre-school children are invited to join our Garden Class for a Forest School themed session.
27/09/24	Macmillan Coffee Afternoon	2:30pm – 3:30pm	Families and friends are invited to join us for our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon. Please watch out for an invite to attend. Donations of cakes will be greatly appreciated.
01/10/24	Primary Stars - Football	9:30am – 11:30am	The Garden Class will go to Ashbourne Recreation Ground to participate in this event. A letter will be sent home.
02/10/24	Brailsford Ploughing Match		All our children will go to the Brailsford Ploughing Match. A letter will be sent home with more details.
03/10/24	Phonics Workshop	9:00am – 9:45am	Parents are invited to join us for our phonics workshop. Come along, take part in a lesson and hear all about phonics (with a cup of tea and a biscuit).
09/10/24	Bike Ability	1:15pm to 3:30pm	Children in Year Six will take part in Bike Ability Level 1. This takes place at Marston. The Children will need to have a bike in school for this event.
10/10/24	Flu Immunisation		
12/10/24	Lots for Tots Show	10:00am – 2:30pm	We will be at the Lots for Tots Show!
14/10/24 18/10/24	DT Day 1 and 2	All day	Children will work across the partnership to complete their DT learning.
15/10/24	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.
16/10/24	RDSSP – Cross-Country	1:30pm – 3:00pm	Children in Year 5 and 6 will compete in the Cross-Country. A letter will be sent home.
24/10/24	Celebration Assembly	9:00am – 9:30am	Join us to celebrate the children's hard work during this half term.
25/10/24	Joint Day – Diwali Focus	All day	The children from both schools will work together to learn about the festival of Diwali.
<b>Half Term – 28/10/24 to 01/11/24 – School closed</b>			
04/11/24	INSET Day	All day	School is closed to children
05/11/24	School reopens to children	8:55am	
15/11/24	Children in Need	All day	The children will organise some fundraising events. Look out for more information.
19/11/24	Primary Stars – X-Country	9:30am – 11:30am	The Garden Class will go to Ashbourne Recreation Ground to participate in this event. A letter will be sent home.

22/11/24	RDSSP – Dodgeball	9:00am – 11:00am	The Children in Years 3 and 4 will go to Ashbourne Leisure Centre to participate in this event. A letter will be sent home.
10/12/23	Nativity	6:00pm	Family and friends are invited to join us for our Nativity in Church.
12/12/24	Marston Tots – Christmas Theme	1:30pm – 3:15pm	Pre-school children are invited to join our Garden Class for a Forest School themed session.
16/12/24 17/12/24	DT Day 1 and 2	All day	Children will work across the partnership to complete thier DT learning.
18/12/24	RDSSP – KS1 Christmas Festival North	1:00pm – 3:00pm	The Garden Class will go to ARC Leisure Centre (Matlock) to participate in this event. A letter will be sent home.
19/12/24	Celebration Assembly	9:00am – 9:30am	Join us to celebrate the children’s hard work during this half term.
19/12/24	Christmas Crafts and Calendars Christmas Dinner Christmas Party	All day	A fun day of Christmas activities. The children may wear non-uniform today.
20/12/24	Christingle Service	2:30pm – 3:30pm	Family and friends are invited to join us for our Christingle Service in Church
<b>Christmas Holiday – 23/12/24 to 03/01/25 – School Closed</b>			
06/01/25	School reopens to children	8:55am	