October 2026

Dear Parents,

We find ourselves at the end of another busy and rewarding half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for your continued support.

The children have worked incredibly hard and embraced every opportunity to learn, grow and achieve. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm in lessons, their kindness towards one another and the pride they take in being part of our school community.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half term break, with time to relax and be together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the second half of the autumn term.

Warmest regards

Mrs Bosley
Executive Headteacher

The Acorn Partnership

Marston Montgomery Primary School

Long Lane C of E Primary School

Attendance

Absence procedures

Remember to contact school by telephone or email before 9.00am if your child is too unwell to attend. Please inform us of the reason for their absence and when you expect them to return to school.

If emailing, include Mrs Day, Mrs Bosley and the class teacher.

If telephoning, please leave a message on the school absence line. Thank you.

Back to School – Health Checklist

Attached to the email is a useful document with handy tips and guidance for keeping our children (and adults) healthy and in school.

Know when to keep your child at home:

Children do not need to stay off school because of every cough or cold. However, some illnesses require children to stay at home to reduce the risk of transmission to others.

Keep your child at home if they:

- Have a high temperature or fever
- Are unwell and unable to participate in normal activities
- Have diarrhoea and/or vomiting (stay away for at least 48 hours after symptoms stop)

Why it matters:

Keeping children at home when they have some infectious illnesses helps prevent outbreaks and protects other pupils, staff and the wider community.

Useful Links:

For further information about childhood infectious illnesses and when to keep your child off school, please see links below:

- Is my child too ill for school? - NHS



Attendance

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 190 days of education	10 days of missed learning 180 days of education	19 days of missed learning 171 days of education	25.5 days of missed learning 164.5 days of education	29 days of missed learning 161 days of education	38+ days of missed learning 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

Online Safety

No matter how young our children are, most of us worry from time to time about the amount of time they spend on screens.

With this in mind, we have attached 2 guides that look at screen dependency and provides some practical ideas and suggestions to help families create a healthy balance between screen time and other activities.

Age appropriate content which covers gaming, social media, streaming and adverts.

Please take some time to look through both of these guides which are attached to the email as they are important tools to keep our children safe online

Autumn 1 2026

It has been a busy start to the school year. The next few slides share some of the highlights of the new year.

Marston's Garden Class have enjoyed their weekly KiddiActiv sessions. They have enjoyed the action songs and playing games which get them moving.



Long Lane Garden Class have enjoyed welcoming some Little Monkeys to the sessions this half term. They have enjoyed outdoor learning and playing alongside our Garden Class children inside.

Long Lane and Marston's Meadow Class have enjoyed their weekly swimming sessions. It is great to see the progress that they make over the course of ten weeks.

Marston Montgomery - Village Produce Show – 12/09/2026

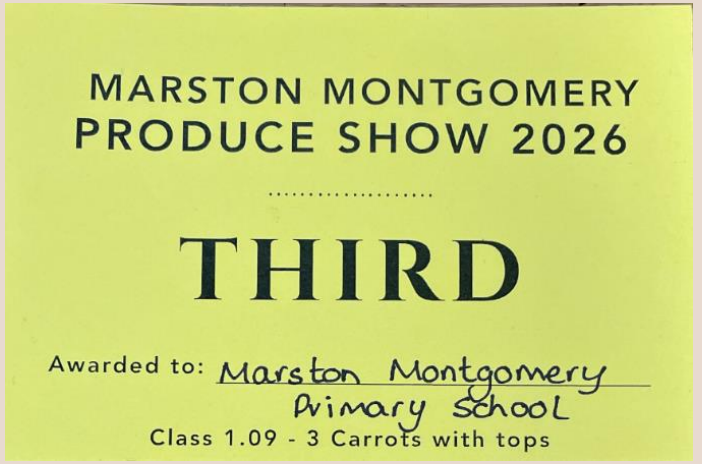


We were delighted to take part in the Village Produce Show and even prouder that the carrots we had grown won prizes!

We are looking forward to taking part next year.







Macmillan Coffee Events – 25/09/2026

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Well done to our Year Six pupils at both schools who organised our Macmillan Coffee events.







Thank you to everyone who attended the events and donated cakes. We all enjoyed ourselves.

Marston Montgomery raised an amazing £123.92!

Thank you to all our families and friends for their generosity.

Brailsford Ploughing Match – 07/10/2026



One damp morning, the children enjoyed a busy day at the ploughing match. Luckily the weather changed and dried up over the day so that we could enjoyed watching the ploughing and looking at tractors over time.



We were delighted to win certificates in the children's classes.









Huge thanks to the Brailsford Committee who contributed to the cost of our coach.

Harvest Service – 12/10/2026

At our harvest service, the children helped us reflect on the true meaning of Harvest: being thankful for the food we have, understanding where it comes from, and recognising the importance of sharing with and supporting others in our community.

They shared this message beautifully through their songs, poems, readings and prayers.



A huge thank you to everyone who donated food as part of our Harvest celebrations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and the donations will be put to good use by the YMCA, helping to support those who need it most.



FOMM: Halloween Disco – 15/10/2026

The children thoroughly enjoyed the Halloween Disco! In fact one child told me on Friday morning "The Halloween Disco was the best night ever!"



The children danced, played games and enjoyed a snack.



Huge thanks to FOMM for organising the event.

It raised an amazing £80 for FOMM funds.

Parents' Evening – 21 and 22/10/2026

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for Parents' Evening this week.

It was wonderful to see so many of you and to spend time talking about your children's experiences in their new class, year group or, for some, their new school.

Staff greatly enjoyed sharing how well the children have settled, celebrating the progress they have already made and discussing the ways we can continue to work together to support them at home and in school.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. It is always appreciated and makes a real difference to your child's learning and wellbeing.

Joint Day – 23/10/2026





The children have enjoyed spending the day together at Marston. One of the sessions they participated in taught them how to ring an ambulance, do CPR and use a defibrillator.









Friends of Marston Montgomery

Following on from the success of FOMM last year we have kicked off with our first event our Halloween Disco and what a spooky success this was!





Activities planned for the rest of the Autumn term…

Thursday 26th November will be a Christmas Film Night (More details to follow). We will not be charging for this but instead asking for a donation towards our Christmas Raffle.

We are also planning to have a Christmas Raffle and will be selling mince pies and drinks at the children's Nativity performance.



Details of further events throughout the Spring and Summer Terms to follow…

What have we been learning in the Garden Class?









What a great first time we have had in Garden Class. Here is an overview…

Reception - In Reception the theme has been 'All About Me' which is a perfect topic to get to learn all about and welcome our new children into the school.

Here is an overview of our learning in KS1.

English - We have looked at the losing tale of 'Knuffle Bunny' and wrote our own versions of this. We have also looked at persuasive writing by creating an advert for a toy.

Maths - This half term we have been looking at place value and addition and subtraction focussing on numbers to 20.

Art - We have looked at the artist Jean Miro. This has been a great unit as the children have looked at surrealist Art and created this through drawing, printing and sculpture using clay.

What have we been learning in the Garden Class?









Music - We have leant the song 'Tony Chestnut' and looked at singing with diction, composing a call-and-response song and how to recognise and play echoing phrases by ear.

Science - We have looked at 'Our Senses'. The children enjoyed this unit particularly the lesson around the taste when they sampled and described different foods.

Geography - We looked at the UK. Children are now confident at naming the four countries of the UK and finding these on a map. Well done Garden Class!

PSHE - Our key themes this half term have been - classroom rules, getting help, feelings/ self-regulation, being a good friend and bullying and teasing.

RE - In Re, we have looked at and explored the question – who is a Muslim and how do they live?

What have we been learning in the Meadow Class?

English

We have looked at Oliver Twist, and the children made their own rags to riches story. We then focused on Biography's and tied in year 5 and 6s learning in science and wrote about Charles Darwin

RE

In RE we have looked at how Christians use the example of Noah to show faith.

Geography

In Geography we have looked at the UK and 4 counties. How they are the same and how they are different

Computing

We have had fun looking at how networks work and how technology has evolved over time.





Science

Year 3 and 4 have been looking at different types of rocks and how to identify them and year 5 and 6 have been looking at adaptations and how animals adapt to their surroundings.

Art

In art we have been looking at birds. The focus has been on details and feathers. We have also looked at printing. The children have really enjoyed trying different types of art.

Term Dates

The Acorn Partnership
Marston Montgomery Primary School
Long Lane C of E Primary School

2026-2027

School Calendar September 2025 to July 2026

Denotes school holiday dates

Denotes INSET days

September '26

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October '26

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November '26

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December '26

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January '27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February '27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March '27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April '27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May '27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June '27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July '27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August '27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Date	Time	Event /Information
26 to 30/10/26		Half Term
02/11/2026	All day	INSET Day – School closed to children
03/11/2026		School reopens to children
09/11/2026	1:15pm to 3:30pm	Open Day for prospective parents
10/11/2026	7pm	Marston Montgomery Well Dressing – initial interest meeting
13/11/2026	All day	Children in Need – Children wear non-uniform in return for donations to Children in Need
17/11/2026	9am to 9:45am	English Morning – Parents are invited to join the children for an English lesson, look out for an invite closer to the time
26/11/2026	3:30pm	FOMM Film Night
02/12/2026	9am to 12pm	Open Day for prospective parents
09/12/2026	6pm	Nativity in Church – families and friends are welcome to join us
14 & 15/12/2026	All day	Joint DT days at Marston
16/12/2026		Christmas dinner and party day – children may wear non-uniform
17/12/2026		Pantomime (Snow White) Trip
18/12/2026	2:45pm	Christingle Service in Church – families and friends are welcome to join us
21/12/26 to 01/01/27		Christmas Holiday
04/01/2026	8:55am	School reopens to children

Date / Time	Event /Information
05/11/2026 12/11/2026 19/11/2026 26/11/2026 03/12/2026 10/12/2026	KiddiActiv – pre-school children and a parent / carer are warmly invited to join us and Primary Stars for a fun-filled session in Marston Montgomery Village Hall.
06/11/2026 13/11/2026 20/11/2026 27/11/2026 04/12/2026 11/12/2026	Little Monkeys – pre-school children and a parent / carer are warmly invited to join us for a fun-filled session with the Garden Class. The session runs between 2:30pm and 3:30pm.
03/11/2026 10/11/2026 17/11/2026 24/11/2026 01/12/2026	Meadow Class Swimming.

Please help us spread the word about our free Little Monkey and KiddiActiv sessions for pre-school children. Flyers for both sessions are attached to this email. We would be grateful if you could share them with friends and family, post them on your social media channels, and display them wherever possible within your local community. Thank you for your support.



Wishing you all a fabulous half term.

We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 3rd November 2026.

Warmest regards

Team Acorn

The Acorn Partnership

Marston Montgomery Primary School

Long Lane C of E Primary School