



# Marchwood Junior School

Our Learning Family that Inspires you to Dream

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4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear ParentA

Our Year 6 children have had a great time enjoying their Activity Week this week, either at Tile Barn or in school. It has been wonderful watching the children supporting each other to be 'Brave' and give things a go. From jumping off high ropes courses to washing the dishes, from scrabbling through indoor caves to lighting fires, the children have always been there for one another so that they feel they can achieve whatever challenge has been set and be 'Aspirational'. They are a truly 'Caring' and "Respectful' group and great models to the rest of the school.

What's on next week?	
Tuesday	Y3 Marchwood Walk
	Y4 New Forest trip
Thurs + Fri	Applemore Open Morning – Please inform our reception team if you plan to attend either of these.

## Parent Questionnaire

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we would like to thank all the parents that completed a parent questionnaire at the recent parents' evening. Your feedback is always gratefully received.


Please find below a breakdown of the responses

	Strongly agree or agree	Strong agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My child is happy at this school	99%	72%	27%	1%	1%
My child feels safe at this school	100%	72%	28%	0%	0%
My child makes good progress at this school	98%	69%	29%	2%	0%
My child is well looked after at this school	99%	79%	21%	1%	0%
My child is taught well at this school	100%	74%	26%	0%	0%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	94%	65%	29%	6%	0%
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	100%	71%	39%	0%	0%
This school is well led and managed	100%	79%	21%	0%	0%



This school responds well to any concerns I raise	98%	71%	27%	2%	0%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	98%	73%	25%	2%	0%

Year 3 only	Strongly agree or agree	Strong agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My child received a well structured transition to MJS	100%	78%	22%	0%	0%


At the end of the newsletter you will find a sample of the areas of strengths as identified by parents. We have also responded to all of the queries and areas for development outlined by individual parents. Hopefully this will provide an understanding of some of the work that is going on behind the scenes and where we are looking to move forward.



## Are you feeling creative?



  



## Are you inspired by beautiful things around you?


### Firework Night

is coming soon, could you be inspired by the beauty of fireworks to create a piece of artwork?



It could be a painting, a drawing or even a model!  You could use paints, collage, pastels, clay, natural items – in fact anything you like as long as it is inspired by the beauty of fireworks!

Please bring in your masterpieces on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October – not before. We will display your artwork around the school. Have fun!



## **Parent Governor**

I thought I would take this opportunity to canvas all our parents and carers of the Marchwood Family children directly, to offer you an opportunity to join the MJS Governing Board. As a governor, you will be a volunteer who makes a vital contribution to the future of the school.

Marchwood Junior School has always aimed for a partnership with its community which undoubtedly brings great benefits to the children. One of the most significant ways you can help in promoting this aim is to volunteer to be a governor.

### **Why join us?**

- By becoming a governor, you can help influence the direction that the school is taking
- Not only will your efforts as a governor benefit your child and their school, but they can also benefit your own personal and professional development. Being a governor is a valuable addition to your CV
- Having your child's best interests at heart means that you'll also have the school's best interests at heart, which makes you committed to the school's continuous improvement for the benefit of your child

### **Who do we need?**

Currently our board is made up of parents and staff of MJS in addition to co-opted members. We currently have openings for parent governors and especially if you have experience or expertise in education or finance.

### **What does a Governing Board ACTUALLY do?**

In short, the governing body's main tasks are:

- To ensure that the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction
- To hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and it's pupils
- To oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

More information is available on the following Hampshire Council website:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/governors>

For those that may be a little cautious about applying, training and support will be available to help you develop into the role. This will include in-house mentoring and support as well as access to external governor training.

If you are keen to make a difference, email me directly at [chair@marchwoodjun.co.uk](mailto:chair@marchwoodjun.co.uk)  
Additionally, you are most welcome to meet with me for coffee for more informal introduction.

I look forward to hearing from individuals who have a desire for an active role in our school family, want to make a positive difference to the children at MJS and help maintain our outstanding status within the community.

Stephen Maguire  
Chair of the Governing Board

## Walktober 2024



We are taking part in Walktober 2024! As you will have already read in our email sent to all parents at the beginning of the week, we are asking all our families to take part. Walk, wheel, scoot or Ride and Stride to school as often as you can and take part in at least 6 activities suggested on the Walktober activities overview.

If you did not receive your activity card, your child can get one from Mrs Seydel in 5S. These cards are your ticket to the Walktober competition – with many great prizes to win.

Full details of the Walktober event and competition can be found at:

<https://myjourneyhampshire.com/walktober>

## Lunchtime Enrichment

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Chalking
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Bee Handprints
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Just Dance
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Origami
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Drawing

## New Forest Cross Country Relay

This Wednesday 28 MJS athletes went to Gang Warily to compete in the New Forest Cross Country Relay. All the children represented the school superbly, demonstrating all of our MJS CRAB values. Despite many running for the school for the first time and having only two Y6 children, they managed to have two teams in the top 10 (which they also did in both races) and all the teams finished in the top half. A great whole school effort.

**THE CROSSINGS COOKIES WEEK**

just **£1** each

**7th - 12th October 24**

*...for charity*

- Why not buy for your friends, family, or colleagues too?
- Just turn up or phone in advance to place your order.

When you buy a £1 Crossings cookie, Manna House will kindly donate the proceeds to support us, your local housing and homelessness charity. Find out more at: [thecrossings.org.uk](http://thecrossings.org.uk)

*Thank you!*

THE MANNA HOUSE bakery  
9 Marchwood Village Centre,  
Marchwood, Southampton, SO40 4SF.  
tel. 023 8087 0427

Help against homelessness **wfh** World Homeless Day

[www.elingexperience.co.uk/events](http://www.elingexperience.co.uk/events)

Eling Tide Mill Experience invites you to design a pumpkin to be showcased in Eling's first

**PUMPKIN TRAIL**

Please see website or scan QR code for more details

**Bigger Pickles MARKETS**

Buy and sell great quality children's clothes & equipment. From toys to books, school uniform to furniture. Book a table now to sell your nearly new items.

Markets for 3 Years Plus!

Your Next Event  
**Sunday 6th October**  
**Health & Leisure Centre, TOTTON**  
**2.00 - 3.30pm**

The hall will be packed with thousands of items for children aged 3 Years to Teenage!

COMING SOON  
Sellers spaces and buyers tickets on sale now: [www.littlepicklesmarkets.co.uk/Hampshire](http://www.littlepicklesmarkets.co.uk/Hampshire)

Adults - £1.50  
Bigger Pickles FREE!

For further details visit:  
[www.biggerpicklesmarkets.co.uk](http://www.biggerpicklesmarkets.co.uk)  
[vickym@littlepicklesmarkets.co.uk](mailto:vickym@littlepicklesmarkets.co.uk)

Best wishes.

Mr Hoskins  
Headteacher

## Dates for the Diary

Year/Whole School	Date	Event
Year 4	Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Y4 New Forest Trip
Year 3	Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Y3 Marchwood Walk
Whole School	Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parent Forum: Reports (2.00pm)
Year 6	Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Y6 ACE (2:15pm)
Year 5	Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Y5 ACE (2:15pm)
Year 3	Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Y3 ACE (2:15pm)
	Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct - Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	October: Half term
Whole School	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Y2 parent open morning
Whole School	Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	PTFA Fireworks evening
Whole School	Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Odd Socks Day
Whole School	Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Children in Need
Whole School	Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Cuppa and Chat morning
Whole School	Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Donation Day
Whole School	Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	PTFA Disco
Whole School	Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	INSET Day
Year 3&4	Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> & Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Performance
Year 5&6	Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> & Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Performance
Whole School	Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	PTFA Film Club
Whole School	Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Love of Christmas
Year 3&4	Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Dinner
Whole School	Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	PTFA Christmas Shop
Year 5&6	Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Dinner
Whole School	Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	PTFA Santa Dash
Whole School	Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last day of term

### INSET Days 2025

- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025



## Parent Questionnaire Comments and responses

### Strengths (only a sample)

- Pupils welfare and mental wellbeing seem to be a priority
- Child always feels safe and secure – really enjoys all the extra sports on offer
- Family atmosphere. Child so happy to come here. Thank you
- Good communication
- Good relationships between staff and pupils
- How inclusive you are and always making my child feel that they can do anything.
- Very supportive
- Absolute professionals with immense knowledge of field of practice. Provide a safe learning environment for growth and development.
- Caring staff and approachable. Any problems we've had have been sorted asap. Very responsive. Thank you
- Receptionists are always very helpful and lovely to speak to.
- Excellent passionate teachers
- Lunchtime enrichment.
- Communication is great and appreciate being flexible with trying new ideas to support needs.
- ELSA support has really helped.
- I believe that my child follows a broad and balanced curriculum while placing emphasis on pupil wellbeing and affording them an outstanding range of extra curricular provision.
- I like how the headteacher is always available at the gate.
- Making sure reasonable adjustments are in place to make sure my child is happy and comfortable coming into school. Good handover from one year to another.
- Kept well informed with weekly newsletters and beginning of term updates of what your child will be learning in that period
- Great programme of extra curricular activities that fosters well rounded individuals
- Behaviour
- Parent engagement via various mediums is a big success of the school
- Really appreciate having school dates in advance
- Good core values

### Areas for development

- School reports – in general are vague and not at all personal. Sometimes I wonder if the teacher knows my child. The information is not always accurate.
- More stats on performance between parents evenings.
- More communication on child's progress and ways to improve on a personal level. Maybe parent's evening is too early for new teachers to assess each child's learning status.

*The statutory requirement is for school to complete an annual report with various set requirements. At MJS we have made the decision to split this into two reports, a spring report and a summer report. We feel this provides the opportunity to deliver more timely feedback. The spring report provides information regarding coverage, progress and targets to work on so that there is time within the year to undertake these actions. The summer report, therefore, is a simpler report that provides information regarding attainment.*

*Parents' evenings are scheduled to complement reports. One is set at the beginning of the academic year so that a discussion can be held regarding how your child has settled into the*

*year and hopes for the year can be discussed. The second meeting is between the two reports so that the teacher and parents can review progress towards targets shared in the spring report.*

*In addition to this we have three ACE times. These are great opportunities for adults and children to look through books and discuss learning.*

*If you require further information, please feel free to contact class teachers. Their email addresses are on the half termly newsletter and our school website.*

*You may have noticed in our recent newsletters that we have a parent forum scheduled for 2 o'clock on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like to come into school on this date to discuss our report content in more detail, we would love to hear from you.*

- Maths homework. Understand doing lots of times tables building up to Y4 national tests but they have had same homework for 3 years. It is very repetitive. Surely some arithmetic or reasoning would be better?
- Homework: Too repetitive and 'boring'. More creative subjects please: drama, music, art.
- The homework could be more fun.
- Differentiated homework. It is too easy for my child. She does it all correct in barely any time.
- Homework is appropriate for age but not always stage.
- I think they can challenge more about giving more homework.
- Variety of homework
- Homework sometimes seems a bit simple.
- Homework for those that know their times tables

*Homework is always a difficult balance to strike. Some will feel we set too much and some not enough. Some parents support children whilst others expect children to demonstrate independence. We were keen to gauge parents' thoughts on this topic last year and ran a parent forum in February 2024. Unfortunately, no one attended this meeting or emailed their thoughts.*

*The only two compulsory pieces of homework are maths and reading. Maths is designed to be a retrieval of prior learning as this has been proven to have the greatest impact upon primary aged children during a meta-analysis of research into learning by John Hattie. Consequently, we do not set reasoning problems as this level of thinking is more likely to require adult support. However, we will take on board the feedback regarding the repetitive nature of the structure of maths tasks and look to improve this to provide a more engaging approach.*

*Reading should provide the children an opportunity to share a book with an adult or curl up in a corner and enjoy the text. When successful, it should be part of an evening routine and not feel like 'homework'. Both reading and maths are supported by online platforms that are set at their individual academic level: Reading Plus, Times Table Rockstars and EdShed (used for spelling and maths tasks). Children should be looking to complete 5 Reading Plus tasks per week. Time at home is required to achieve this figure.*

*In addition to this, children receive an optional learning enrichment activity linked to the topic they are learning about every half term. This should provide the opportunity to be creative and respond in a way they want to demonstrate their understanding. (This will start for Y3 in the Spring). Furthermore, children are encouraged to undertake MOLE award activities (found in*

*study logs) and engage with outside learning throughout the year. As well as this, children can engage in a range of additional activities such as our current Fireworks Art Exhibition task shared in last week's newsletter.*

Dealing with problems that arise could be handled better.

*We are sorry to hear that you feel that problems have not been handled as well as they could have been. Without knowing the details of your specific problem, it is difficult to know how we can look to better deal with this in future. We strive to make ourselves available at all times and deal with any issues that have arisen as quickly and thoroughly as possible. As I am sure you understand, within a school setting there are multiple factors that have to be considered and we are not always able to find solutions that all parties will be happy with; however, we endeavour to be as fair, consistent and as transparent as possible.*

Be more inclusive

*This is very disappointing to read. We have received many positive comments about our inclusivity and reasonable adjustments, but it is sad to think that we have a child within our MJS family that is not experiencing this. Unfortunately, from this comment, it is hard to ascertain as to where we are not being inclusive and can improve our provision. If you wrote this comment and are happy to discuss this further, we would love to hear from you so that we can better provide for your child.*

Separate changing rooms

*Regrettably we do not have the space or funding to provide separate changing rooms. Our timetable has been designed so that Y6 classes can change in separate classrooms for boys and girls to overcome this. If your child is not in Y6 and finds our current changing arrangements uncomfortable, please come and speak with us as we have a number of our children in our school that we already have adjustments in place for and I am sure we can also accommodate your child in some way that works for them.*

More clubs

Homework club would be amazing.

*Across the year we deliver a range of clubs: Lunchtime Enrichment (daily), Library (daily), Glades, Drawing, Choir, Cooking, Crafts, Drama, plus a wide range of sports. If you feel you could support the school with delivering a wider range of extra-curricular opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact us so that we can arrange this.*

*At present we run a homework club for Y3 and Y4 children. This is not the case for Y5 and Y6 children as we look for them to develop their independence in advance of secondary education. However, if children require additional support with homework, the library is open daily at lunchtimes with Y6 Peer mentors and Mrs Naylor, who are happy to help with any tasks children may be struggling with.*

More time for Y6 pupils to eat their lunch please. Healthy food takes longer to munch.

*Firstly, I can confirm that lots of children have extremely yummy lunchboxes full of healthy treats. However, no child has a time restraint on their eating time. Y6 enter the hall once space is available following the other year groups, usually between 12.30 and 12.35. The hall is then open until 1.05 for children to eat their lunch. On most days, everyone has eaten by 1.00. On the odd occasion that a child is still eating at 1.05 they are asked to move to the pods to finish*



*eating whilst we clean the hall for afternoon lessons; however, this provision has not been required for any child this year so far.*

*If your child is repeatedly coming home with uneaten food, please inform their class teacher and we will be mindful to monitor them more carefully during lunchtime.*

Handwriting issues were overlooked and not supported.

*Handwriting has been a growing concern over recent years with a number of children finding this more difficult. At a national level, there has been lots of suggestions as to why this might be the case in a modern world and research into this. At MJS we have tried various interventions to address this and although they have appeared successful within the group work, they have not transitioned to sustained writing tasks. During recent teacher meetings, we have continued to discuss this concern and have put additional support in place to try and improve the situation. We are hopeful that the additional adult support we have in place will have the impact we are searching for.*

Y3 parent: Specific expectations of parents to enable us to support with new homework expectations (fumbled my way around journal).

Y3 parent: Lots of information at the start somewhat overwhelming. Concerned about how I can support.

Y3 parent: First week issues e.g. how much was needed for snack shack.

Y3 parent: Previous school had a great app for classes to home to speak to teachers etc something of ease to speak to teachers with.

*Firstly, it is great to see that 100% of our Y3 parents felt that their child received a well-structured transition to MJS. We have loved having your children join our MJS family.*

*However, there are clearly snippets of information that we are not getting out to parents and for this we are sorry. During Y3 ACE time on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October, we plan to explain some of the ways in which parents can best support their child. In addition to this we will be asking for any additional information that you wish you had received earlier so that we can ensure we improve communications for future cohorts, such as the FAQs sent in August and the first Y3 newsletter.*