



**7 November 2024**



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## Headteacher's insight

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a positive October half term break! We have had a fantastic start to this new half term with the children returning to school full of enthusiasm and energy. I have really enjoyed meeting many of you this week and I sincerely thank you for such a warm welcome! I feel "at home" already and am excited for our journey together.

Next Friday (15th), we have arranged for local children's author Keith Hatton to visit us and deliver an assembly and story reading sessions. He will be returning later in the year to lead workshops for each class which we know will be inspiring for the children. From 3pm Keith will be set up in the entrance with an opportunity to buy one of his books and get it signed. We know the children are going to be very excited about this! He can accept all methods of payment to suit you and the discounted prices range from £5 to £8.

We have installed a Foodbank collection point in the entrance foyer to allow us all to make donations to support our local Foodbank. If you are able to please do place your donations in the box which will be emptied regularly and donated to the FoodHub. Thank you for your support for this local initiative.

Next Friday is Children in Need and we are inviting children to attend school in non-uniform and encouraging your family to make a donation to this charity through our JustGiving page. You will find the link to the donation page at the end of this newsletter. For every donation the children will be entered in to a raffle to win a large Pudsey Bear.

We have introduced our school House system this week which is a very exciting development for us all. Children from Reception to Year 6 have been organised in to four House groups: . They will be led by House Captains from Year 6 and Vice House Captains from Year 5.

We are pleased to introduce to you our first ever House leadership team on our Facebook page. Please do visit our page and give them a 'like'. We are excited to celebrate our House team successes as the year progresses.

For more information on our House system please visit our school website where you will find a comprehensive explanation: <https://marleighprimary.org/parents/house-system/> . I'm looking forward to celebrating the house point successes as the term progresses.





## News from our classrooms

### Hercules



We're happy to be back in school this week after a restful half term break - the children were excited to share what they did during their time off. This half term we have lots in store in Upper Key Stage Two, including swimming during our P.E lessons.

Hercules Class were extremely excited to go swimming for the first time this week. The children made their way to Fen Ditton on foot before boarding the coach to Abbey Leisure Centre. They practised some skills and were placed in different groups based on their confidence and ability. Mr Parker was very impressed with the children's effort and we look forward to seeing how they progress as the weeks go by.







## Spitfires



We have had a 'sparkling' start to the new half term in the Spitfires Class, with children lots of children returning to nursery keen to share their experiences of fireworks. We watched a firework display on our screen and enjoyed talking what we could see and hear...whoosh, bang, wheee!

We then explored how a firework might move and had fun curling up small and then jumping up high with a loud bang. In our creative workshop area, we have worked together to create a huge collaborative piece of artwork.

We began by using our hands or brushes to paint fireworks expressively, then used the skill of 'printing' to add stars, before learning how to shake glitter onto the paint and blow off the excess. It has been lovely to see so many children getting involved and working together. Well done Spitfires!

## Vulcans



At the end of the first half term, the children in Vulcan Class completed their first art unit investigating the beauty of flowers. We thought about how we can use different colours to show emotions and looked at the artwork of many famous artists such as Claude Monet, Vincent Van Gogh, Marc Quinn and finally, Georgia O'Keeffe.

We were inspired by the simple shapes that O'Keeffe used to make our own flowers. We drew sketches of different flowers, just like O'Keeffe did as a child, before turning our sketches into fabric flowers. We dyed our own fabric using a dip-dyeing technique which was lots of (messy!) fun.

Then, we cut out the flowers and joined them by sewing a button on. We shared our flowers with the class and we were all impressed by everyone's hard work. Nathan said, "I liked doing the dip dyeing because it was fun." Yagmur said, "I liked making the flowers with the different colours." Aun said, "My favourite painter was Monet. I liked the long painting of the waterlilies and the lesson when we did sewing." Evie said, "I liked sewing the buttons on."



## What You Need to Know About Encouraging Respect

11th - 15th November is Anti-Bullying Week, and this year's theme is "Choose Respect". Respect is also one of the values at Marleigh Primary Academy, so is something we regularly talk about and try to model to our pupils throughout the year.

Remaining respectful during conflicts or disagreement can be especially tricky for children to master and is commonly when bullying/name-calling arise as emotions take over. The Anti-Bullying Alliance and The National College provide this expert advice on how you can encourage your child/ren to choose respect, even during conflict.



## Staff Spotlight



**Name:** Miss James

**Role:** Executive Deputy Headteacher

**What do you love about your job?** I love that I get to work with all of the children and families across the schools.

### Favourites

**Subject:** Geography

**Food:** Lasagne

**Animal:** Giraffe

**Children's book:** Tiddler  
by Julia Donaldson



## Upcoming events and reminders

Class	PE days
Comets (Reception)	Thursday and Friday
Hurricanes (Year 1)	Monday and Wednesday
Vulcans (Year 2)	Monday and Wednesday
Blackbirds (Year 3 and 4)	Tuesday and Friday
Hercules (Year 5 and 6)	Tuesday (bring swimming kits) and Thursday

### Key upcoming dates:

#### November

8th - Individual and sibling school photos Week beginning  
11th - Anti bullying week 11th Remembrance Day  
15th - Children in Need - Non uniform day  
15th - Author Keith Hatton visiting to lead a KS2 assembly and KS1 story telling. Signed book sale from 3pm open to all.  
28th - 9am Year 3/4 class assembly

#### December

4th and 5th - Parents Evening appointments 4-6.30pm  
11th - Santa STEM day (parents welcome 3-3.30pm)  
12th - Winter jumper day  
17th - Nativity performances 9.30 and 2.30  
18th - Panto trip, Christmas celebration performance and Festive Fayre event  
19th - Christmas lunch  
20th - Last day of term



**BBC**  
**Children In**  
**Need**



**15th November**

To support this great cause please donate through our JustGiving page. Every £1 donated buys a ticket to our raffle. Raffle will be drawn on Monday 18th November.  
Link to JustGiving page:  
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/-1729841339562>

