



MARKLAND HILL C P SCHOOL
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Headteacher: Mrs L Close

Thursday 4th April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is my last newsletter this Spring term, how time flies!

New School Nurse

Our new school nurse is Rebecca Sharples who is available to help regarding any health needs or advice. Please contact her using the following details 01204 463563. Becky is hoping to offer us a termly drop in clinic shortly after Easter hols! Look out for dates.

Year 6 SAT meeting for Parents

Thank you to the parents who attended the SAT's Assessment meeting on Monday 18th March. It was an informative meeting and well received by the parents who attended. If you were unable to attend the presentation is available on the school web-site.

March To School in March

School Council want to thank everyone for your support with this initiative. The poster competition was fantastic and there were piles of entries.

The Governors had a hard job narrowing it down and the following pupil's posters will be used around school to remind everyone of the important safety messages.

Congratulations to Joseph L in Elm Class, Nabhya A in Willow Class, Rhys H in Maple Class and Mason C in Hawthorn Class for the winning entries in each phase in school.

Sports Days

We will be hosting a Reception Class, KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2 sports events, weather and surface permitting. Parents and carers are welcome to join us. The sports events take place on the grass and parents are welcome to bring a chair or rug to sit on to make the event more comfortable. The children will sit together on the grass facing the parents, who will assemble on the ball park side of the grass. Please see the dates and reserve dates for these events in the section below. If the weather is poor we endeavour to make a decision at 12 noon the day before the event so we can inform parents, this will be done by text message.

We have moved some of the sports days to the first half of the term, so please note the dates.

Class/ Key Stage	Time	Date	Reserve date
Reception	9.30am	Tuesday 11 th June	Thursday 20 th June
LKS2 – Beech, Maple & Rowan	1.30pm	Thursday 23 rd May	Wednesday 5 th June
UKS2 – Hawthorn, Linden & Sycamore	1.30pm	Tuesday 21 st May	Thursday 6 th June
KS1 – Oak, Pine & Willow	1.30pm	Wednesday 12 th June	Tuesday 18 th June

Red Nose Day – Friday 15th March

We really appreciate your support and hope you had fun helping our school lots of money for Comic Relief! We bought and sold 200 red noses and your generous donations raised £284.82. Thank you everyone who donated.

Summer School Uniform

Following our recent proposals from School council, we are pleased to share with you a new updated School Uniform List. [New items/options are highlighted in royal blue.](#)

Our approved School Outfitters/stockists are Smart Clothing (Blackhorse Street, Bolton) and Whittakers (Deansgate, Bolton).

September - Easter

Boy's Uniform	Girl's Uniform
Grey knitted V neck jumper or 'tank top' with logo Grey trousers or shorts White shirt - long or short sleeved School tie Grey socks Black shoes	Grey knitted V neck jumper/cardigan or 'Tank top' with logo Grey skirt/pinafore/trouser/culottes White shirt - long or short sleeved School tie Grey/black/white socks Grey/black tights Black shoes
PE KIT	
White T-shirt with logo Royal blue T-shirt with logo – ready to purchase from 'Whittakers' in April (only ready in the 'Back to School' time for September, 2019, from 'Smart Clothing') Black or navy shorts – indoors Black pumps Trainers as well as pumps for KS2 School Rucksacks are available from the School Office	
<u>Summer Term – Easter – July</u>	
To avoid additional expense, children are able to continue to wear either long or short sleeved white shirts with a tie. Girls can wear a 'Navy' blue checked dress from the uniform outfitters. – (Please ensure this is the correct navy colour) Boys and girls can wear a white polo shirt with a school logo with no tie	

We hope all children will be wearing our uniform in April 2019.

Ramadan and Fasting

At Markland Hill CP School we recognise that Ramadan is an important and special time for many families. Fasting for religious observance is a private matter between a person and his or her God. Whilst we recognise that fasting is not compulsory before the age of puberty in Islam, we are aware that children are sometimes encouraged to fast, or indeed wish to fast.

In 2013, Ramadan, exams and SAT's all fall within the same period. Primary school assessment periods and SAT's take place in May with KS2 SAT's between 14th and 16th May. The situation where Ramadan coincides with exams and tests is likely to continue until 2019-20. With this in mind I politely ask parents to consider their own child or children at this demanding time and follow the Ramadan and Fasting Statement of Practice available on the school web-site.

We recognise that this is only one aspect of observance during Ramadan and children can show their commitment in a variety of ways such as trying not to argue, discuss others in a negative way or to become angry with others. Parents may also consider encouraging a range of ways that children of this age could begin practising the observance of fasting; for example, by fasting for part of the day or during the week-end when activities are not so demanding.

It is important to understand that, as a school, we have a duty of care towards the children's wellbeing. We also have an obligation to make sure all children participate fully in the curriculum and progress with their learning throughout the year. We believe that if a child of primary school age is not drinking water, they are at risk of not being able to participate fully during a long summer day. This is a situation we face in the United Kingdom when Ramadan falls during the Summer Term. It is also important for parents to know that children sometimes feel pressurised by other children to fast and that, as they are very young, this can become competitive.

We do not encourage children at primary school age to fast; this is particularly the case for younger pupils. We will therefore only allow children in Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6) to fast. Parents of children who wish them to fast in these year groups must follow the procedures outlined in this Statement of Practice, available on the school web-site.

Thank you for your consideration.

School Council Dates - Please drop School Councillors at the main office.

The School Council will be meeting in school at 8am on:

Wednesday 1 st May 2019	Wednesday 19 th June 2019
Wednesday 22 nd May 2019	Wednesday 3 rd July 2019
Wednesday 5 th June 2019	Wednesday 17 th July 2019

Absence from School

For your information in May of each year there are very important assessments and tests taking place in school. Some of these are statutory and some are school based. Every child across school from Reception children to Year 6 will be assessed. It is crucial that your child is in school in the run up to this time and during the months of May and June. The end of year report will contain the information from these assessments. Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Newsletter

The monthly newsletter will be up-loaded to the web-site and available for collection at the school office.

Thursday 2 nd May 2019	Thursday 4 th July 2019
Thursday 6 th June 2019	Thursday 18 th July 2019

Severe Nut Allergy

I would like to kindly request that all parents who provide packed lunches, snacks or birthday treats are aware that we have children in school with a severe allergy to nuts. These include pine nuts, peanut butter, even Nutella, as well as any types of nut. This is so severe that the staff have all received essential training in the use of Epipens/Jext Pens. This would provide lifesaving adrenalin should it be needed. I hope you will take this into consideration and help maintain school as a nut free zone.

I hope we can continue to work together to secure the very best outcomes for every child at Markland Hill School. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely
L. Close
Headteacher



Key Stage/Year/Class	Date	Time	Event
Whole School	Friday 5 th April 2019	3.30pm	Children break up for Easter holidays
Whole School	Tuesday 23 rd April 2019 Tuesday after Easter Monday	8.55am	Children back to school for Summer Term
Yr. 6	Monday 13 th May – Thursday 16 th May	8am	Yr 6 SAT's breakfast Club – free to all Year 6 pupils
UKS2	Tuesday 21 st May	1.30pm	UKS2 Sports Day Reserve date – Thursday 6 th June at 1.30pm
EYFS	Wednesday 22 nd May	3pm	EYFS Class Assembly for parents
LKS2	Thursday 23 rd May	1.30pm	LKS2 Sports Day Reserve date – Wednesday 5 th June at 1.30pm
EYFS	Tuesday 11 th June	9.30am	EYFS Sports Day Reserve date – Thursday 20 th June at 9.30am
KS1	Wednesday 12 th June	1.30pm	KS1 Sports Day Reserve date – Tuesday 18 th June at 1.30pm
Willow Class	Wednesday 19 th June	3pm	Willow Class Assembly for Parents
Pine Class	Wednesday 3 rd July	3pm	Pine Class Assembly for Parents
Whole School	Friday 5 th July	3.45pm – 6pm	School Summer Fair/Garden Party
Oak Class	Wednesday 10 th July	3pm	Oak Class assembly for Parents
Whole School	Thursday 11 th July	All day	Moving up Day – children have a day in their new classroom
Whole School	Monday 15 th July	3.30 – 5.45pm	Open Evening – an opportunity to see your child's new classroom and teacher

Year 6 Leavers	Wednesday 17 th July	1.45pm and 5pm	Leavers Performance for Parents (two seats at each performance per child will be offered to parents of Year 6 pupils.)
Whole School	Friday 19 th July	3.30pm	School Closes to pupils for summer holidays
Whole School	Wednesday 4 th September	8.55	Autumn Term begins School opens to pupils

Attendance facts for Parents and Carers

All pupils are expected to reach attendance levels of **97%** and above to be able to access and achieve their potential at school.

Pupils only attend school for 190 days per academic year which means that for the other 175 days they are at home with you.

Persistent absence from school will be investigated by the Early Intervention Team and fines could be implemented for each child to each parent.

The percentages below will help you understand our expectations of attendance:

97% and above Excellent attendance

95% - 97% Good attendance

90% - 95% be aware

80%-90% causing concern – very worrying – less chance of success

Less than 80% serious – referred to Early Intervention Team

What about absence?

Please contact school on the first day of absence before 9am to explain the reason for absence. Any absence for an unacceptable or unexplained reason will **not** be authorised and will appear on your child's report.

Why does coming to school every day matter?

If you don't come to school regularly:

- ✓ You might feel a bit left out
- ✓ You may not know how to do the work
- ✓ You may get left behind
- ✓ You may have to make friends again

Coming to school every day is important because it helps:

- ✓ To get the best out of education offered in our school
- ✓ To feel part of the school family
- ✓ To make and keep good friendships

This means

- Half day absent – 3 lessons missed
- 1 day absent- 5 lessons missed
- 3 days absent – 15 lessons missed
- 1 week – 25 lessons missed
- 2 weeks absent – 50 lessons missed

Term –time holiday

Headteachers may **not grant any leave of absence during term time** unless there are exceptional circumstances. Headteachers should also determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

In conclusion this means since September 2013 Head Teachers have not been allowed to authorise holidays in term time. If in exceptional circumstances a child requires time off school this must be discussed with the Headteacher **before** being taken.

Classes	Average % attendance for March 2019
Ash	95.4%
Elm	98.0%
Willow	97.0%
Pine	98.0%
Oak	97.0%
Rowan	96.3%
Beech	98.0%
Maple	98.0%
Linden	97.0%
Hawthorn	94.2%
Sycamore	98.0%
Average school attendance	97.0%